



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** January 10, 2017
From: Orlando Acevedo, Assistant Director **Item No:** 6
Economic Development and Housing
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITY NEEDS FOR THE 2017-21
CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2017-18 FIRST YEAR ACTION PLAN

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Town Council approve the following list of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funding priorities, as established in the Strategic Plan, to be used as a guide by the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC) in their recommendations to the Town Council for the 2017-2018 First Year Action Plan.

SUMMARY:

The Town Council annually establishes a list of priorities to be used as a guideline for funding CDBG and HOME projects during the program year. The priorities include the goals identified in the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), which was submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in October 2016 and should be consistent with the priorities established in the Five-Year Strategic Plan.

In accordance with HUD's required Community Participation Process, three (3) community meetings and ten (10) stakeholder meetings were facilitated between November 17 and December 9, 2016, to solicit input from residents, nonprofits and service providers as to the housing and community development needs of the Town and the Consortium area (including the City of Victorville). In addition, public hearings were also conducted in both Victorville and the Town (on December 13, 2016). The Consolidated Plan Community Needs Survey was also made available between October 13 and December 14, 2016. The surveys were available online in an easily usable format as well as electronically and in hard copy. The outreach for the survey included electronic correspondence to local nonprofits, networking organizations and faith-based organizations requesting distribution to their clients and constituents and social media. Hard copies were made available at Civic Center locations.

During these meetings, service providers discussed the need to address more basic core needs rather than only focus on the apparent problems and their remedies, as well as multi-agency programs that provide complementary services, projects or programs in order to leverage greater funding opportunities.

Accordingly, the goals and priorities that were discussed most often and ranked highest during the Community Participation Process are highlighted below and are presented in a manner consistent with the goals and priorities identified in the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan and the AFH. These goals will guide the CDCAC in their recommendations to the Town Council for the 2017-18 First Year Action Plan.

Highest Ranked Priority Needs (Based on recent Community Participation Process)

- **Housing Programs**

Transitional shelters; affordable housing for multi-family, single family, veterans; rehabilitation - owner occupied and rental; down payment assistance; code enforcement activity to improve neighborhood esthetics and values; reduce overcrowding in occupied properties; establish rent control for affordability; encourage collaboration between public agencies, developers, investors and other stakeholders to develop inclusive housing development.

- **Homeless and At-Risk-of-Homelessness Services**

Support the development of “one stop” resource centers to assist homeless persons to acquire the necessary documentation and consultation (mental health, physical health and nutrition, job skills training, identification, social security and disability benefits, etc.) to achieve re-entry into employment and housing; food and nutrition services; utility assistance; support the Homeless Outreach Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) program; support public safety efforts; provide resource directories for available services; provide community resource directory for all available services; encourage collaboration between agencies, faith based organizations and other stakeholders to unify services; support efforts to increase volunteerism in public service programs.

- **Economic Development and Employment Opportunities**

Increase job opportunity through education and job training programs; encourage small business development through business practices and fundamentals education; collaborate with state, county and local agencies that offer trade skills training and basic job search techniques; encourage local education facilities to offer education and training that will lead to employment opportunities in the community; support job creation through business friendly policies and practices.

- **Human Services**

Support programs that encourage the development of responsible, motivated and educated youth; support the development of arts, music and culture in the community; encourage programs that promote a healthy lifestyle; develop public facility amenities that facilitate community involvement and recreation; disseminate fair housing information through literature, media, referrals and workshops; encourage programs

designed to unite youth, seniors, veterans and disabled persons in mentoring and caregiving.

- **Accessibility and Mobility**

Develop and support efforts to improve mobility in the community; identify and remove barriers that impede accessibility in the community; support transit systems, mass and specialized, that enable residents to access destinations for employment, education, recreation and other essential purposes; support collaborative efforts to improve community and regional transit.

Based upon the foregoing, staff recommends adoption of the form motion and of these identified priorities.

BACKGROUND:

Since the initial adoption of the first Town of Apple Valley Five-Year Consolidated Plan in 1997, the Town Council has established the practice of setting annual priorities to be used as a guideline for funding recommendations outlined in each year's Action Plan. Due to the formation of the HOME Consortium, the priorities established now also provide direction for both CDBG, as well as HOME funded activities.

Pursuant to CDBG regulations, all projects must meet one (1) of three (3) national objectives set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): (1) Benefit low and moderate income households, (2) Aid in the elimination/prevention of slum and blight, or (3) Meet an urgent need (catastrophic events). Pursuant to HOME regulations, HOME funds are specifically focused on affordable housing activities and may be used to develop and support affordable rental housing and homeownership opportunities. Recommended projects for funding should be consistent with addressing the needs identified and priority strategy developed, in each five-year Consolidated Plan.

The anticipated CDBG allocation for 2017-2018 is \$559,000.00, based upon last year's formula allocation. The estimated HOME Consortium allocation for 2017-2018 is \$538,000.00. Apple Valley and Victorville share in the HOME Consortium allocation and will receive an estimated \$218,000.00 and \$320,000.00, respectively. These funding estimates are based on 2016-2017 allocations and will be updated in the spring of 2017 when final HUD allocations are announced. Provision of funding estimates at this time is simply for perspective of anticipated funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None