

electronic mail. Eighty-three (83) applications were received, requesting a total of \$6.5 million. Applications were reviewed by Community Development staff and rated through a process that accounted for *Consolidated Plan* priorities, leveraged funds, community need, and other factors. ESG applications were also evaluated based on objectives established in the *Knoxville-Knox County Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*. The Community Development Division Director presented staff recommendations to the City Senior Directors and the Mayor. The recommendations were accepted, pending approval of the Plan by City Council.

Enhance Agency Coordination

In order to improve institutional structure and enhance inter-agency coordination, representatives from the City's Community Development Division participate in many of the coordinating bodies described in the institutional structure section of the *Consolidated Plan*. These include: Partnership for Neighborhood Improvement, East Tennessee Coalition for the Homeless, Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, Equality Coalition for Housing Opportunity, and East Tennessee Community Design Center. The City is the grantee and fiscal agent for the Empowerment Zone, and staff participates in task forces or committees as necessary to improve services and quality of life within the community.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.
2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.
3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.
4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

*Please note that Citizen Comments and Responses may be included as additional files within the CPMP Tool.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Citizen Participation response:

Citizen Participation Process

As stated under the previous question, public meeting was held on January 18, 2007 in the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's community room, located at 2247 Western Avenue. This is a centrally located facility that is accessible to persons with disabilities. Publicity for the meeting included issuance of a news release, publication in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, information on the City website, and mailing announcements to approximately 700 persons or agencies two weeks prior to the meeting.

At the meeting, City staff presented information about the Community Development Division, the annual plan and application process, upcoming mandatory technical assistance workshops, and Consolidated Plan priorities. Participants were asked to comment about perceived community development needs. A list of persons attending the meeting and comments received are included in Appendix B.

The draft Action Plan was released for public comment on April 5 and public comments were through May 4. A second public meeting to obtain citizen comments on the draft 2007 Action Plan was advertised for 5:30 pm on May 1st at the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's community room (2247 Western Avenue). This is a centrally located site that is accessible for persons with disabilities. Notification was made in compliance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan, and the draft Action Plan was made available at the Community Development office, Lawson McGhee Public Library, Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee, East Neighborhood Center, and South Neighborhood Center. In addition to the meeting notice, a newspaper article told of the upcoming meeting but incorrectly gave the time as 5:00 PM. To accommodate citizens who came early as a result of the article, the City held the meeting at 5:00 PM and repeated the process at 5:30 PM. A list of persons attending the meeting is included in Appendix B.

The draft plan is scheduled to go before Knoxville City Council for approval on May 22, 2007 and will be submitted to HUD by June 1, 2007.

The Director of the Community Development Division led the Public Input meeting. Several additional staff members were present. The Director explained the process for development of the Plan, the priorities and process for allocation funds. After a review of the proposed funding allocations, she opened the meeting up to comments and questions.

Summary of Citizen Comments

- COMMENT: A citizen expressed concern that there was nothing in the Plan about organizations led by indigenous leadership. He commented that he had spoken with the Director previously and she would know what he was talking about.

RESPONSE: Though the names of the CHDOs to be funded were not identified in the Plan, two of the CHDOs that would receive funding under the CHDO projects activity were led by African-American Directors, David Walker and Walter Ghosten.

- QUESTION: Who reviews the applications?

RESPONSE: Teams of 3 staff members each reviewed a set of applications and the Director read them all. They then met as a whole and went through a process of identifying different categories of priorities, and funding needed for City administered programs and CHDO activities. After coming up with the recommendations, the Director presented these to the City Senior Directors and the Mayor who were in agreement with the recommendations.

- COMMENT: A Board Member of the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness appreciates the focus on Housing First activities. She thinks it makes sense for the City to narrow its focus because it has more impact.

- QUESTION: What kind of comments have we received in the office?

RESPONSE: A few people called to find out why they were not being funded. Staff would be happy to meet with agency representatives who were not funded to go over their rating and explain why they were not funded.

- COMMENT: A representative for Southern Alliance for Clean Energy appreciates the energy efficiency in housing and encourages more of it.

COMMENT: The Executive Director of the Community Action Committee endorsed that comment and added that her agency is promoting energy efficiency in their non-profit construction and that anything they can do to make energy more affordable leaves more money to go to other needs.

RESPONSE: The City is also looking at ways to increase energy efficiency, and to meet Energy Star standards.

- COMMENT: A commenter is pleased to see the Department responding more to what people have asked for like sidewalks.

RESPONSE: Community Development's focus is on where we can make a difference.

- COMMENT: When people put in an application, they should get greater consideration if it is a green property.

RESPONSE: The City hopes to incorporate that into the rating process.

- COMMENT: A commenter thought CDBG did not pay for administration and operation and maintenance.

RESPONSE: City staff explained eligible categories for ESG and Operations and Maintenance is specifically eligible.

- COMMENT: Have we thought about encouraging new or rehab with an emphasis on visitability and accessibility.

RESPONSE: There will be extra credit in the City's new EZ housing program and we are working with the CHDOs to encourage this in their housing.

COMMENT: Agreement that this needs to be strongly looked at.

The following comment/question was received by email:

COMMENT: Other communities make low interest loans available to expanding small businesses, often using CDBG money. Will Knoxville be doing this any time soon? My understanding is that the HUD guidelines do not eliminate businesses, and attractive loans to businesses would fit within the City's goals to create more and better jobs and promote commercial growth in the Heart of Knoxville and/or redevelopment areas - depending on the project. All I see in the 2007 Plan are the facade grants (a great thing in and of itself) but I may be overlooking something. (I am having trouble searching the document).

Of course there are the EZ business loans but those are for relatively small amounts (tops out at \$50K I believe).

It seems the 2007 money is pretty much spoken for (?) so my question relates to the next round as well (2008). I am unclear on the application and decision-making process in general.

RESPONSE: We do not currently provide low interest loans to expanding small businesses with CDBG money. We do fund a small business loan program with EZ dollars that is managed by the Urban League, but as you mentioned 50K is the limit. Most of our job creation efforts currently are funded through EZ except for one job training program (commercial driving license) that is funded through CDBG this year but didn't make it through this year's review process.

Broaden Public Participation

Various efforts were made to broaden participation in the development of the plan to minorities, non-English speaking persons and persons with disabilities by having the Public Meetings and TA workshops in more than one location and time of day, all accessible to persons with disabilities; and through outreach to 850 persons and/or agencies on the City's mailing list. This list includes a variety of organizations that should result in very broad outreach.

Explanation of Comments Not Accepted

N/A

Institutional Structure

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Institutional Structure response:

Develop Institutional Structure

As stated above in Enhance Agency Coordination, in order to improve institutional structure and enhance inter-agency coordination, representatives from the City's Community Development Division participate in many of the coordinating bodies described in the institutional structure section of the *Consolidated Plan*. These include: Partnership for Neighborhood Improvement, East Tennessee Coalition for the Homeless, Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, Equality Coalition for Housing Opportunity, and East Tennessee Community Design Center. The City is the grantee and fiscal agent for the Empowerment Zone, and staff participates in task forces or committees as necessary to improve services and quality of life within the community.

Monitoring

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Monitoring response:

Monitoring

The Community Development Division Director oversees the planning and budgeting process to ensure that projects are developed consistent with grant requirements. This