

Annual Action Plan Public Comment

The City of Fresno received three (3) letters and four (4) verbal comments during the Annual Action Plan Public Hearing. These are summarized in the following categories. The written letters and transcription of the verbal comments are attached as Attachment 4.

Past Performance & Oversight

The Annual Action Plan serves as a budgeting and implementation tool of the five-year Consolidated Plan (ConPlan). The main tool to provide information to the public regarding past performance is the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). While the City's CAPER is available to the public on the City's website, the data and narrative does not provide sufficient detail to the reader.

In response to this concern, the Housing Division is committed to annually presenting the CAPER to the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) during the month of September. Additionally, staff has developed a program monitoring and reporting tool that will be provided to HCDC quarterly to ensure that programs are progressing. Programs that are underperforming will be identified and solutions put in place during the course of a program year rather than after. Mid-year revisions will be made based upon performance toward set benchmarks and program goals.

Geographic Priorities

Public comment on the ConPlan requested a broader distribution of federal funding and removal of the priority area for HOME projects. The redline version of the ConPlan removes this map and the priority preference from HOME funded projects.

The redline version of the Annual Action Plan also removes this map and the underlying preference for HOME projects in targeted areas. There will not be any priority given for geographic location of new applications.

Funding Requests

Several comments were received during the ConPlan and Annual Action Plan process regarding the following specific requests not recommended to be funded in the draft Annual Action Plan:

- Pinedale Water District expressed a desire to have funding to resolve a safety issue with the water system.
- Marjorie Mason Center expressed a desire to have funding available to local nonprofit agencies for the renovation of existing facilities.
- WestCare expressed a desire to have funding available to local nonprofit agencies for the renovation of existing facilities.

With limited resources, not all requests can be funded. The items budgeted in the Annual Action Plan are consistent with the Priorities established in the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan and reflect an emphasis on disinvested neighborhoods with the largest impact to low-moderate income households.

Recommended Changes to Activities

Certain comments recommended identifying other sources of funding for certain activities such as Code Enforcement (Neighborhood Revitalization), Graffiti Abatement, and Neighborhood Street Improvements to other funding sources such as landlord fees, General Fund, and grant programs such as the Active Transportation Program (ATP). While no specific programs or projects were identified to replace these, the speakers were primarily focused on access to and availability of affordable rental housing and decreasing cost burdening among low income households.

The City has actively reallocated and supplemented programs with non-HUD resources in recent years. Significant proportions of Code Enforcement costs have shifted to the General Fund. Graffiti Abatement is additionally supported by the General Fund. The ATP grant funding is formula driven by the State and coordinated through COG application process.

Outreach

One of the commenters did not agree that the public forums were community meetings.

The City exceeded the regulatory requirements for outreach including four community forums attended by over 100 residents, receipt of over 400 surveys, and significant input by community advocacy groups and community based agencies.

HCDC has requested that staff evaluate the distribution and concentration of languages other than English in Fresno. Staff has agreed to come back with a list of the top 3-5 largest language groups for consideration by HCDC to include in future outreach activities.