

Item Title: Public Hearing for Draft U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Plans

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners holds a public hearing to receive comments on the Draft 2025-2030 Consolidated Plan and the 2025 Annual Action Plan, which address affordable housing, homeless services and community development needs of Wake County.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Wake County to receive federal entitlement grant funds.

Background: The Wake County FY 2025-2030 Consolidated Plan outlines the five-year strategy focused on addressing affordable housing, homeless services and community development needs for low- and moderate-income families. The plan identifies community goals and informs public programs administered with federal entitlement grant funds from HUD. The plan is accompanied by the 2025 Annual Action Plan, which details programming and funding scheduled for the upcoming fiscal year from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Citizen participation is a significant aspect of this process. Staff have held 51 consultation meetings with community groups and partner agencies. Five public meetings have been held across the County and a survey was issued collecting 160 responses. A public hearing was held in October 2024 to inform the plans preparation.

This second public hearing is to receive input on the draft documents. Residents and stakeholders also provide feedback during the 30-day public comment period starting March 28, 2025 through April 26, 2025.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 1: create and preserve 2,500 affordable housing units by 2029; and Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 2: By 2029, make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by reducing the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by 10% from 2024 levels.

Fiscal Impact: This 2025-2030 Consolidated Plan is expected to appropriate approximately \$23,412,246 in federal funds to Wake County over the next five years. The 2025 Action Plan is expected to appropriate approximately \$4,976,931 for fiscal year 2026. Funds will be allocated through the annual budget process.

Additional Information:

The FY 2025-2030 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan are intended to satisfy federal regulatory requirements as required by HUD regarding federal entitlement housing funding. The plans will be implemented by the County's Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization (Housing) Department and community partners. County funds will be utilized to match and leverage federal funds.

The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan are not intended to be a comprehensive list of housing and homeless programs offered by the Housing Department; they describe programs funded through federal funding. The four HUD entitlement funding sources are described below.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – The purpose of the CDBG program is to improve communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income households. CDBG funds can be used for a wide range of affordable housing and community development activities such as acquisition for affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, homeownership, public facilities and infrastructure, and public services.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) – The purpose of the HOME program is to provide decent, affordable housing to low- and moderate-income households, expand the capacity of nonprofit housing providers, strengthen the ability of state and local governments to provide housing, and leverage private-sector participation. The HOME grant requires a 25% matching contribution from a non-federal source. HOME funds are primarily used to develop, rehabilitate or access affordable housing.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) – The purpose of the HOPWA program is to address the specific housing needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families by providing funds for short and long-term rental assistance, and a wide range of support services.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – The purpose of the ESG grant is to assist individuals and families to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. ESG can be used to provide street outreach, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, emergency shelter and operation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

In addition to a robust community feedback process, extensive market, service, and demographic data has been analyzed to inform the plans' strategies and priorities. The plans are consistent and aligned with other county plans, studies, and initiatives.

Key trends from the community feedback are grouped into the following areas:

- Insufficient Affordable Housing Supply
- Cost of Living Outpacing Stagnant Wages
- Obstacles to Housing Stability
- Improve Service Provider Coordination, Partnerships, and Capacity
- Improve Education and Housing Resource Navigation
- Financial Assistance including Rental Assistance and Security Deposits

- Increased Job Training and Economic Opportunity
- Financial Literacy and Life Skill Support
- Preservation and Rehabilitation of Existing Affordable Housing
- Develop more Permanent Supportive Housing
- Homeownership Assistance
- Concern with Rising Property Taxes
- Support for Seniors on Limited Incomes
- Specialized Housing for Persons with Assistive Needs, IDD, etc.
- Increase Housing Options for Justice-Involved and Persons on the Registry
- Pet Inclusive Housing
- Invest in Innovative Housing Solutions

The goals of the 2025-2030 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan are:

1. Increase and preserve affordable housing
2. Reduce obstacles to housing affordability
3. Support low-to-moderate income communities in need

The Consolidated Plan will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval in May 2025.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Public Comment & Public Hearing Notice
3. 2025-2030 Consolidated and Action Plan Draft