INTRODUCTION

The City of Aurora is committed to providing citizens and other interested parties with opportunities to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CDBG-CV), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Section 108 Programs, and any other U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding programs. The primary purpose of these programs is to create viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income people. The Aurora City Council takes final action regarding these HUD grant programs (including, but not limited to the Community Development Block Grant Program, Community Development Block Grant Program-CV, the HOME Investment Partnership Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Program, and the Section 108 Program), but it is the Community Development Division (CDD) that establishes and implements policies relating to the use of these funds and recommends action to City Council.

As the administrator of these funds for the City of Aurora, the CDD presents this Citizen Participation Plan to outline the process that will be followed. A complete copy of the regulatory citations can be found in Appendix Item 1.

The Citizen Participation Plan is designed especially to encourage participation by low and moderate income persons, particularly:

- Low and moderate income persons
- Residents of slums, blighted areas, and low and moderate income neighborhoods
- Non-English speaking persons
- Those living in areas where federal funds are proposed to be used
- Persons with disabilities and other special populations
- Residents of public and assisted housing developments
- Residents of targeted revitalization areas in which the developments are located

The following stakeholders, to the greatest extent feasible, will also be encouraged to participate:

- For-profit and non-profit developers and agencies
- Neighborhood associations
- Community development organizations
- City departments who manage flood control, public land, and water resources
- Housing Authorities
• Kane County Continuum of Care
• Fox Valley Park District
• Workforce and economic development agencies
• Chambers of Commerce
• Foundations
• Organizations engaged in narrowing the digital divide
• Emergency management agencies
• Agencies working to reduce lead based paint hazards
• Other agencies as deemed appropriate

**PROGRAM YEAR**
The City of Aurora’s program year begins January 1st and ends December 31st.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS AND REPORTS**
The City of Aurora encourages participation at all stages of the process. The City’s public participation process is structured according to HUD’s regulatory requirements. This includes citizen involvement to identify needs; set priorities among these needs; decide how much in funding should be allocated to each high-priority need; suggest the types of programs to meet high-priority needs; and oversee the way in which programs are carried out. The law particularly requires that this CPP both provide for and encourage public participation in the development of the following documents:

1. Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) and substantial amendments to the Con Plan
2. Annual Action Plan (AAP) and substantial amendments to the AAP

**PLAN AMENDMENTS**
In the course of administering federally-funded programs, the City may need to amend the Consolidated Plan or an Annual Action Plan. All minor and substantial amendments will be subject to the more stringent of the City’s or HUD’s program requirements, including, but not limited to, funding approval. When the amendment is considered substantial and meets the criteria set forth below, the change will be considered a substantial amendment and the City will undertake additional actions to ensure citizens have an opportunity to comment. Records of all amendments will be maintained by the City for public review and will be fully described in the annual performance report submitted to HUD.

**Criteria for Amendments**
Unless HUD grants waivers and alternative requirements to its program requirements, a substantial amendment will require a public hearing and a 30-day public comment period in the following circumstances below. In instances (e.g. federal, State, and/or local emergency declarations) where HUD waivers are granted to expedite the City’s disbursement of any current and/or new funds to existing and new program activities, the City will ensure that it meets the minimum public notice, hearing, and comment period as permitted by the respective HUD
waiver. Substantial amendments will still be reflected in Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), reported to HUD accordingly, and approved by City Council where required.

A **substantial** amendment will be undertaken in the following circumstances:
- A change in the City’s allocation priorities, including establishing new activities and/or funding allocation(s)
- A change in the use of federal funds from one eligible activity to another in excess of 25% of a single activity budget
- A new activity or program not previously described in the Annual Action Plan or Con Plan

A **minor** amendment that will not require a public hearing or public comment period will be undertaken in the following circumstances below. Minor amendments will still be reflected in IDIS, reported to HUD accordingly, and approved by City Council where required.

- A change in the method of distribution of funds
- Carrying out an approved activity using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan (including program income) not previously described in the Action Plan
- A change in the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an approved activity
- An increase, or decrease of funds for a previously approved activity that does not exceed 25% of the total budget of the project
- An increase or decrease of funding for an approved activity that is no more than 10% of the City’s total annual grant allocation (sum of CDBG, CDBG-CV, HOME, ESG, and other related HUD funding)
- A cancellation of a previously approved activity due to unforeseen circumstances that have caused significant delays or unreasonable cost burdens
- The reallocation of funds not expended after an activity is completed as approved to a previously approved activity
- A sub-allocation of funds to an agency(ies) under a generalized project that received prior approval via HUD’s citizen participation process (e.g. non-profit basic service activity to address federal/State/local emergency), but requires a separate call for applications. *Under this specific minor amendment criterion, it is understood that although HUD’s citizen participation process will not be required, the selected agency(ies) and their funding award will require City Council approval.*

### ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AND 5-YEAR CON PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

#### Public Notice and Publication

In the case of a proposed substantial amendment, the City will publish a public notice in the Beacon News describing the project and the amount to be spent; establishing a 30-day public comment period, unless alternative requirements are provided by HUD which allows a shorter public comment period; and the date, time, and location for public hearing. The public comment period will be scheduled to end any time before the plan is approved by City Council. The
public hearing will occur at least 10 days prior to the City Council meeting at which the plan is slated for adoption.

The public notice will list the locations where copies of the proposed amendment may be examined. These locations include all branches of the Aurora Public Library and the Community Development Division office. The amendment will be posted on the City’s website, www.aurora-il.org.

The City will publish each plan in a manner that affords citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents and submit comments.

Public Hearing

The City will hold at least one public hearing during the development of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to gather input from citizens and respond to proposals and questions.

In a year in which the Consolidated Plan is being developed, an additional public hearing will be held before the proposed Consolidated Plan is published for comment.

The hearing(s) will address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, and review of program performance. Unless there are public health safety concerns and virtual public hearings are required by the City and authorized by HUD, public hearings will be held at Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507 on the date, time and room location included on the particular public notice.

Upon request, the City will provide reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents. The City will also take whatever actions are appropriate to serve the needs of persons with disabilities.

Public Comments

The City of Aurora will provide a period of at least 30 days to receive comments from citizens and other stakeholders on each proposed plan, unless instruction is provided by HUD that allows a shorter public comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens and other stakeholders received in writing, by email, or orally at public hearings, in preparing the final adopted plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting the latter, shall be attached to the final adopted plan.

PERFORMANCE REPORT APPROVAL PROCESS

Each year the City of Aurora must submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD. The report is due 90 days after the close of the program year. To ensure public participation in the review of the CAPER, the City will issue public notices, hold a public hearing, and accept public comments. This report does not require City Council approval and may be presented as an informational item.
Public Notice and Publication

The City will publish a public notice in the Beacon News announcing the availability of the CAPER and establishing a 15-day public comment period. The public comment period will be scheduled to end any time before the plan is submitted to HUD. The public notice will include a date, time and location for a public hearing which shall be held before or during the 15-day public comment period. A summary of all comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, shall be attached to the final CAPER before submittal to HUD.

The public notice will list the locations where copies of the CAPER may be examined. These locations include all branches of the Aurora Public Library and the Community Development Division office. The CAPER will be posted on the City’s website, www.aurora-il.org.

Public Hearing

The City will hold a public hearing to gather input from citizens, answer questions, address housing and community development needs, and review program performance.

Unless there are public health safety concerns and virtual public hearings are required by the City and authorized by HUD. All public hearings will be held at the Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507 on the date, time, and room location stated on the particular public notice.

Upon request, the City will provide for translation services to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents. The City will also take whatever actions are appropriate to serve the needs of persons with disabilities.

Public Comments

The City will provide a period of at least 15 days to receive comments on the CAPER before the report is submitted to HUD. The City will consider any comments or views of citizens and other stakeholders received in writing, or orally at public hearings, if any, in preparing the CAPER. The City will attach a summary of these comments and the City’s response to the final CAPER.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RECORDS

Access to Records. In accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), all non-exempt records are subject to disclosure in response to a FOIA request. Any person wishing to view the records associated with the CDBG, CDBG-CV, HOME, or ESG programs may submit a FOIA request to the City requesting copies of such records.

In addition to providing opportunities for citizen participation in the development of plans and review of the performance report, the City must provide citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties with reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the
**Consolidated Plan** and the use of federal funds. The City will provide access to records for the current program year and preceding five program years. These records include, but are not limited to, the Citizen Participation Plan, the Consolidated Plan as adopted, annual action plans, performance reports, and substantial amendments. The City will make these records available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request. Records are maintained in the offices of the Community Development Division.

The City will also provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings held in regard to the Consolidated Plan and the activities undertaken as part of the Consolidated Plan.

**SPECIAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES**

The following are special methods used to obtain the views of citizens and organizations with a stake in the activities of the City.

**Consultations with Representative Groups**
The CDD encourages organizations involved in meeting housing and community development needs throughout the city limits to arrange for special consultation meetings with the CDD. The purpose of these meetings is to obtain information on specific issues.

**Special Public Participation in Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Plans**
For neighborhood based projects, the CDD encourages a comprehensive approach to responding to local concerns. Projects and programs in these areas can be given higher priority as long as the activity is eligible under HUD regulations and funding is available.

**Technical Assistance**
The City is required to provide technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low and moderate income levels that request such assistance to develop proposals for funding assistance under any of the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan, with the level and type of assistance determined by the City. The assistance need not include the provision of funds to the groups. To request assistance, contact the Community Development Division at 630-256-3320.

**RESPONSES TO COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS**

**Responses to Comments**
It is the policy of the CDD that all comments received during public hearings, designated comment periods, and consultations directed to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, or the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report shall be responded to in writing within the respective Plan, Report or Amendment. Comments will be summarized in the respective Plan, Report or Amendment followed by responses provided by the CDD within 15 days from the date the public comment was submitted.

All comments received during public hearings held for specific proposed activities shall be summarized in the respective Plan, Report, or Amendment and responses will be provided in writing by the CDD. Likewise, comments received during the Environmental Review Record
(ERR) process shall be summarized in the ERR and responses will be provided in writing by the CDD.

**Responses to Complaints**

All written complaints regarding the Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, CAPER, or individual activities undertaken by the City of Aurora’s CDBG, CDBG-CV, HOME, ESG, and Section 108 Programs shall be provided a written response. It is the policy of the CDD to provide a response within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint or prior to submission for approval, whichever is sooner if no further deliberation is required. If the complaint involves a policy issue that requires deliberation of one or more policy groups, the individual or organization submitting the complaint shall be notified of this fact within 15 days. The issue will be brought to the attention of the appropriate policy group at the next available meeting, and a response will be developed after their consideration.

**If There Are Any Comments or Questions**

To submit questions, comments, and complaints about the Citizen Participation Plan, or to request information about the City’s CDBG, CDBG-CV, HOME, ESG, or Section 108 programs, write to the City of Aurora – Attention: Community Development Division, City Hall, Fourth Floor, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507 or call (630) 256-3320. Email communication can be sent to dnr@aurora-il.org.

**DISPLACEMENT**

The City must set forth plans to minimize displacement of persons and to assist any person displaced, specifying the types and levels of assistance the City will make available (or require others to make available) to persons displaced, even if the City expects no displacements to occur. Displacement occurs when an individual, family, partnership, association, corporation, or organization moves from their home, business, or farm, or moves their personal property as a direct result of a federally-funded acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation. Generally, displacement does not include persons displaced temporarily from their dwelling for less than 12 months while it is being rehabilitated. Displaced persons and entities are eligible for relocation assistance under federal law. (Uniform Relocation Act of 1970)

As part of this plan, the City is required to describe its plans to minimize displacement of persons and to specify types and levels of assistance the City will make available to persons who are displaced. To minimize displacement, the City will not acquire or demolish occupied structures unless the structure is owner occupied and a voluntary acquisition takes place. When displacement is unavoidable, the City will offer the following types of assistance:

For residential displacements:
- Provide relocation advisory services to displaced tenants and owner occupants
- Provide a minimum of 90 days written notice to vacate prior to possession
- Provide reimbursement for moving expenses
- Provide payments for the added cost of renting or purchasing comparable replacement housing

For nonresidential displacements (businesses and nonprofit organizations):

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• Provide relocation advisory services
• Provide a minimum 90 days written notice to vacate prior to possession
• Provide reimbursement for moving and re-establishment expenses
• Provide payments for the added cost of renting or purchasing comparable commercial space

BLOCK GRANT WORKING COMMITTEE

The Block Grant Working Committee is an advisory body that was created to provide additional input from Aurora citizens regarding the use of federal funds.

The Block Grant Working Committee is comprised of one representative from each City ward and three members-at-large. The members serve two-year terms with no limit on the number of terms any member can serve. The starting date of each member’s term coincides with the term of his/her respective Alderman.

Appointment to the Block Grant Working Committee is by recommendation of each Alderman to the Mayor. The Mayor recommends an additional at-large member. All recommendations are approved by the City Council.

The Block Grant Working Committee meets monthly with staff of the Community Development Division and attends public hearings related to the City’s Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, Substantial Amendments, and the Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The City of Aurora’s Community Development Division is the point of contact for all questions, comments, complaints, and requests for technical assistance. Contact information is:

City of Aurora Community Development Division
City Hall
Fourth Floor
44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507
630-256-3320
dnr@aurora-il.org
local jurisdiction may use CDBG funds for eligible activities or other funds to implement remedies required under a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement.


§ 91.105 Citizen participation plan; local governments.

(a) Applicability and adoption of the citizen participation plan. (1) The jurisdiction is required to adopt a citizen participation plan that sets forth the jurisdiction’s policies and procedures for citizen participation. (Where a jurisdiction, before February 6, 1995, adopted a citizen participation plan that complies with section 104(a)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(a)(3)) but will need to amend the citizen participation plan to comply with provisions of this section, the citizen participation plan shall be amended by the first day of the jurisdiction’s program year that begins on or after 180 days following February 6, 1995.)

(2) Encouragement of citizen participation. (i) The citizen participation plan must provide for and encourage citizens to participate in the development of the consolidated plan, any substantial amendments to the consolidated plan, and the performance report.

(ii) These requirements are designed especially to encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in slum and blighted areas and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used, and by residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, as defined by the jurisdiction. A jurisdiction also is expected to take whatever actions are appropriate to encourage the participation of all its citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities. The jurisdiction shall encourage the participation of local and regional institutions and other organizations (including businesses, developers, and community and faith-based organizations) in the process of developing and implementing the consolidated plan. The jurisdiction should also explore alternative public involvement techniques and quantitative ways to measure efforts that encourage citizen participation in a shared vision for change in communities and neighborhoods, and the review of program performance, e.g., use of focus groups, and use of the Internet.

(iii) The jurisdiction shall encourage, in conjunction with consultation with public housing agencies, the participation of residents of public and assisted housing developments, in the process of developing and implementing the consolidated plan, along with other low-income residents of targeted revitalization areas in which the developments are located. The jurisdiction shall make an effort to provide information to the public housing agency about consolidated plan activities related to its developments and surrounding communities so that the public housing agency can make this information available at the annual public hearing required for the PHA Plan.

(3) Citizen comment on the citizen participation plan and amendments. The jurisdiction must provide citizens with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the original citizen participation plan and on substantial amendments to the citizen participation plan, and must make the citizen participation plan public. The citizen participation plan must be in a format accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request.

(b) Development of the consolidated plan. The citizen participation plan must include the following minimum requirements for the development of the consolidated plan.

(1) The citizen participation plan must require that, before the jurisdiction adopts a consolidated plan, the jurisdiction will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the jurisdiction expects to receive (including grant funds and program income) and the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low- and moderate-income. The citizen participation plan also must set forth the jurisdiction’s plans to minimize displacement of persons and to assist any persons displaced, specifying the types and levels of assistance the jurisdiction will make available (or require others
to make available) to persons displaced, even if the jurisdiction expects no displacement to occur. The citizen participation plan must state when and how the jurisdiction will make this information available.

(2) The citizen participation plan must require the jurisdiction to publish the proposed consolidated plan in a manner that affords citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents and to submit comments. The citizen participation plan must set forth how the jurisdiction will publish the proposed consolidated plan and give reasonable opportunity to examine the contents of the proposed consolidated plan. The requirement for publishing may be met by publishing a summary of the proposed consolidated plan in one or more newspapers of general circulation, and by making copies of the proposed consolidated plan available at libraries, government offices, and public places. The summary must describe the contents and purpose of the consolidated plan, and must include a list of the locations where copies of the entire proposed consolidated plan may be examined. In addition, the jurisdiction must provide a reasonable number of free copies of the plan to citizens and groups that request it.

(3) The citizen participation plan must provide for at least one public hearing during the development of the consolidated plan. See paragraph (e) of this section for public hearing requirements, generally.

(4) The citizen participation plan must provide a period, not less than 30 days, to receive comments from citizens on the consolidated plan.

(5) The citizen participation plan shall require the jurisdiction to consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally at the public hearings, in preparing the final consolidated plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefor, shall be attached to the final consolidated plan.

(c) Amendments—(1) Criteria for amendment to consolidated plan. The citizen participation plan must specify the criteria the jurisdiction will use for determining what changes in the jurisdiction's planned or actual activities constitute a substantial amendment to the consolidated plan. (See §91.505.) It must include among the criteria for a substantial amendment changes in the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another.

(2) The citizen participation plan must provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on substantial amendments. The citizen participation plan must state how reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment will be given. The citizen participation plan must provide a period, not less than 30 days, to receive comments on the substantial amendment before the amendment is implemented.

(3) The citizen participation plan shall require the jurisdiction to consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally at public hearings, if any, in preparing the substantial amendment of the consolidated plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefor, shall be attached to the substantial amendment of the consolidated plan.

(d) Performance reports. (1) The citizen participation plan must provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports. The citizen participation plan must state how reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment will be given. The citizen participation plan must provide a period, not less than 15 days, to receive comments on the performance report that is to be submitted to HUD before its submission.

(2) The citizen participation plan shall require the jurisdiction to consider any comments or views of citizens received in writing, or orally at public hearings in preparing the performance report. A summary of these comments or views shall be attached to the performance report.

(e) Public hearings. (1) The citizen participation plan must provide for at least two public hearings per year to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions, to be conducted at a minimum of two different stages of the program year. Together,
the hearings must address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, and review of program performance. To obtain the views of citizens on housing and community development needs, including priority nonhousing community development needs, the citizen participation plan must provide that at least one of these hearings is held before the proposed consolidated plan is published for comment.

(2) The citizen participation plan must state how and when adequate advance notice will be given to citizens of each hearing, with sufficient information published about the subject of the hearing to permit informed comment. (Publishing small print notices in the newspaper a few days before the hearing does not constitute adequate notice. Although HUD is not specifying the length of notice required, it would consider two weeks adequate.)

(3) The citizen participation plan must provide that hearings be held at times and locations convenient to potential and actual beneficiaries, and with accommodation for persons with disabilities. The citizen participation plan must specify how it will meet these requirements.

(4) The citizen participation plan must identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate.

(f) Meetings. The citizen participation plan must provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings.

(g) Availability to the public. The citizen participation plan must provide that the consolidated plan as adopted, substantial amendments, and the performance report will be available to the public, including the availability of materials in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request. The citizen participation plan must state how these documents will be available to the public.

(h) Access to records. The citizen participation plan must require the jurisdiction to provide citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties with reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the jurisdiction’s consolidated plan and the jurisdiction’s use of assistance under the programs covered by this part during the preceding five years.

(i) Technical assistance. The citizen participation plan must provide for technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low- and moderate-income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under any of the programs covered by the consolidated plan, with the level and type of assistance determined by the jurisdiction. The assistance need not include the provision of funds to the groups.

(j) Complaints. The citizen participation plan shall describe the jurisdiction’s appropriate and practicable procedures to handle complaints from citizens related to the consolidated plan, amendments, and performance report. At a minimum, the citizen participation plan shall require that the jurisdiction must provide a timely, substantive written response to every written citizen complaint, within an established period of time (within 15 working days, where practicable, if the jurisdiction is a CDBG grant recipient).

(k) Use of citizen participation plan. The jurisdiction must follow its citizen participation plan.

(l) Jurisdiction responsibility. The requirements for citizen participation do not restrict the responsibility or authority of the jurisdiction for the development and execution of its consolidated plan.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2506–0117)