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March 11, 2015

**Re: City of Allentown
FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for Community Development Block Grant Program
(CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant
Program (ESG) funds**

Dear Interested Citizens/Agencies:

The City of Allentown is in the process of preparing its Five-Year Consolidated Plan for submission to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan will serve as a blueprint for the expenditures of HUD funds in the City of Allentown from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020.

As part of this five-year planning process, the City is required to identify the affordable housing and community development needs for low-moderate income persons and households, as well as persons with special needs such as disabilities, substance abuse, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, the elderly, etc.

As part of the planning process, the City has prepared two online surveys to assist in identifying the specific community development needs of the City over the next five years. Please select and complete the appropriate survey appropriate by clicking on the below link. All surveys should be completed by April 1, 2015.

City of Allentown Community Development Survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5V8C66X>

City of Allentown Health and Human Services Survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/59PQGZL>

In addition, the City will hold three Focus Group Meetings and Public Hearings which you are invited and encouraged to attend.

Focus Group Meeting Schedule

I. Wednesday, March 25 at 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM - Special Needs Focus Group

Location: City Council Chambers
1st Floor, City Hall
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA

Special Needs of Non-Homeless Group and Homeless Needs Focus Group

1. Organizations that provide housing and support services to special needs populations, including:
 - a. Elderly persons
 - b. Persons with disabilities
 - c. Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families
 - d. Persons with alcohol or other drug addiction
 - e. Homeless persons
2. Organizations that serve persons leaving mental/physical health facilities
3. Organizations involved with emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent /supportive housing.

Topics for Discussion:

- What is the estimated number of non-homeless persons in need of supportive housing and their supportive housing needs?
- Describe the priority housing and supportive needs of persons who are not homeless but may or may not require supportive housing
- Describe the facilities and services that assist persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing and programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing?
- What is the nature and extent of homelessness, and is there a continuum of care concept?
- What services are needed for housing and supportive services in each stage of the process which includes preventing homelessness, outreach/ assessment, emergency shelters and services, transitional housing, and helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living?
- What services are in place for helping extremely low and low/moderate income individuals and families who are imminent risk of becoming homeless?
- What services are available for the chronic homeless including helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living?
- What services are in place to help prevent homelessness for individuals and families with children who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless

II. Thursday, March 26 at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM - Affordable Housing Focus Group

Location: City Council Chambers
1st Floor, City Hall
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA

Affordable Housing Focus Group

1. Public Housing Agencies
2. Affordable Housing Developers /Major Section 8 property owners

Topics for Discussion:

- What are the types of housing needs in the community for a 5 year period?
- Are the costs of housing or the incentives to develop, maintain, or improve affordable housing affected by public policies, particularly those of the City of Allentown?
- Are there any racial or ethnic groups that have a disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of a particular income category?
- What are some strategies to remove or ameliorate negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing?
- What priorities and specific objectives should the jurisdiction hopes to achieve?

III. Thursday, March 26 at 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM - Community Development Focus Group

Location: City Council Chambers
1st Floor, City Hall
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA

Community Development and Public Works (Non-Housing) Group

1. Non-housing Community Development needs (Parks & Recreation / Infrastructure)
2. Economic Development
3. Organizations that are responsible for lead paint issues, including State and County health and child welfare agencies

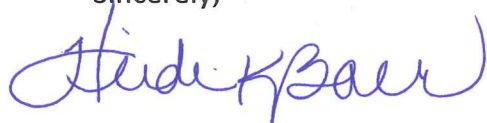
Topics for Discussion:

- What are the City's priority non-housing community development needs that are eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category– i.e., public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
- Identify your Department's priority project categories to be addressed over the next five years; i.e. street reconstruction, curbs and sidewalks, sewer and water line reconstruction, ADA related improvements, public services to the low income community, park development or improvement. The Plan requires a five year projection of costs per category. (Low income neighborhoods only)
- How will the City enhance coordination with private industry, businesses,

Your participation in this planning process will enable the City to develop an accurate strategy that addresses the priority needs of these groups and individuals. We look forward to meeting with you at the Focus Group meetings. If you have any questions regarding the Focus Group/Public Hearing schedule or the survey, please contact me at 610-437-7761 or by e-mail at Heidi.baer@allentownpa.gov.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi K. Baer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi K. Baer
HUD Grants Manager