

City of Springfield – CDBG Program

FY 2019/20 One Year Action Plan

This summary describes specific housing and community development actions and activities the City of Springfield proposes to undertake with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds during the program year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 (Fiscal Year 2019/20). It is one part of the Eugene-Springfield 2019/20 One-Year Action Plan.

Communities that are entitled to receive funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must complete a Consolidated Plan every five years as well as annual Action Plans. The Consolidated Plan provides an assessment of needs of low- and moderate-income persons and a strategic five-year plan for taking actions to address those needs using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds received by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield. The One-Year Action Plan describes specific actions to be undertaken in a particular year with federal funds. The content of the One-Year Action Plan is guided by HUD.

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield each receive an annual entitlement allocation of CDBG funds directly from HUD. The two Cities also receive HOME funds from HUD through the Eugene-Springfield HOME Consortium. The City of Eugene is the lead agency in the HOME Consortium.

A summary of planned uses by the Eugene-Springfield HOME Consortium for the use of HOME funds is available from the City of Eugene, as well as a summary of planned uses of Eugene CDBG funds. The following describes only the planned uses of CDBG funds received by the City of Springfield.

Coordination and Collaboration

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield collaborate in multiple ways to plan for and implement affordable housing and community development activities. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield jointly prepare the five-year Consolidated Plan and coordinate preparation of the One-Year Action Plans, and Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. There are multiple forms for communication and collaboration between the jurisdictions and other public agencies, affordable housing developers, social service providers, and other interested parties. The Lane County Human Services Commission (HSC) and Poverty & Homelessness Board (PHB) offer ongoing opportunities for collaboration and communication.

Citizen Participation

The City of Springfield encourages public participation in identifying specific needs and uses of CDBG funds in fiscal year (FY) 2019/20. The City of Springfield Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) is composed of community residents and was established by the City of Springfield to make recommendations concerning program policy and project selection to the City Council.

On March 8, 2019, Springfield released its DRAFT CDBG One-Year Action Plan on its website and at City Hall. A 30-day public comment period was open thru April 10, 2019. Additionally, a public hearing was held by the CDAC on April 10, 2019. No public comments were received, and no one spoke at the public hearing. At the meeting, the CDAC discussed the draft Action Plan, and made a recommendation to City Council on the uses of Springfield CDBG funds. Springfield's City Council considered the recommendation of the CDAC at the May 6, 2019 Regular Session meeting before approving the One-Year Action Plan. The approved allocation is included as Attachment A.

Affordable Housing Strategy

The City has developed an affordable housing strategy to address the low supply of housing and to foster housing choice and affordability in the short and long term. Springfield is focused on implementing a strategy that will make the most impact on addressing Springfield's affordable housing needs.

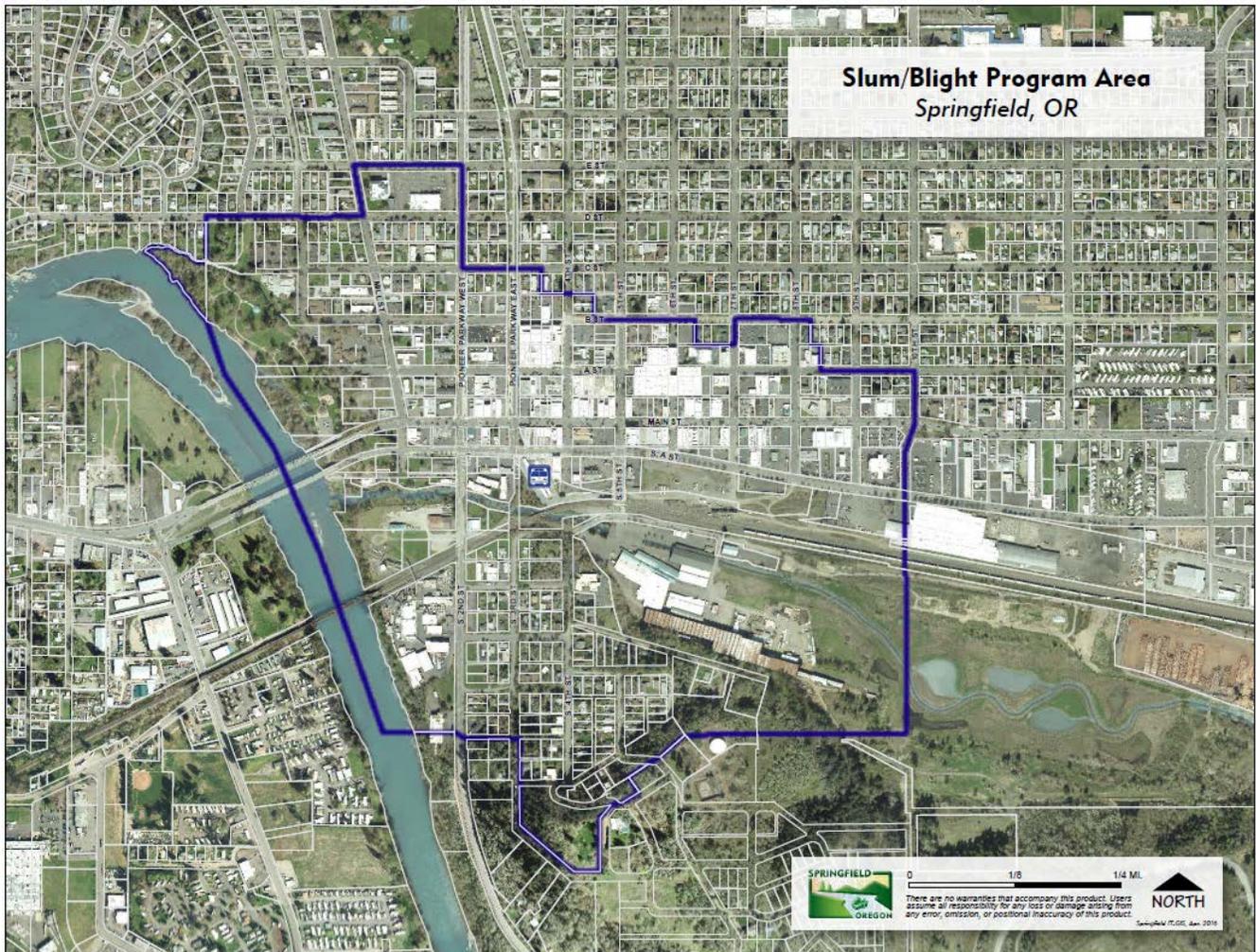
In previous years, Springfield has allocated some CDBG funds annually through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. In FY17/18 and FY18/19 CDBG One Year Action Plans, the City allocated funds toward the strategy to "Increase the supply of affordable housing". In FY18/19, the City issued a Request for Concepts to award funds that had been previously allocated. That award process is currently underway.

Activities Benefiting Low- and Moderate-Income Persons

Generally, Springfield's CDBG-funded programs and projects are provided to benefit low-income residents living within the city limits of Springfield. Individuals participating in a CDBG-funded program are required to meet HUD Income Guidelines. In order to meet the CDBG National Objective of Benefit to Low and Moderate-Income Persons, CDBG-funded projects must either serve a specific low-income area, or provide tangible benefit to low- and moderate-income clientele (services, economic opportunities, housing). Funded programs and projects undergo periodic staff monitoring to ensure compliance with CDBG regulations. All of the allocations proposed in Springfield's One Year Action Plan for FY 2019/20 would benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Activities for the Prevention or Elimination of Slum and Blighted Conditions

Another national objective of the CDBG program is the prevention or elimination of slums and blighted conditions in neighborhoods and communities, either by designating a specific area or by addressing conditions on a spot basis. In 2014, Springfield re-designated a Springfield Downtown Redevelopment Area, in compliance with CDBG regulations. The Downtown Redevelopment Area is pictured below. Springfield’s proposed One Year Action Plan for FY 2019/20 does not include an allocation toward the elimination of Slum and Blight.



Strategies to Address Priority Needs

The City of Springfield receives an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City of Springfield's FY2019/20 CDBG allocation is \$554,179, \$30,250 more than last year's allocation.

The adopted Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan emphasizes goals and strategies to meet priorities needs of low-income renters, low-income homeowners, people experiencing homelessness, and non-homeless special needs populations. Additional needs include increased employment opportunities for low income persons as well as low-income neighborhoods and areas that meet HUD's definition of slums and blight. The priority strategies described below are intended to address one or more priority needs. Attachment B includes the adopted table of strategies to address the priority needs along with specific metrics to track progress over the five year period.

The following narrative describes allocations of Springfield CDBG funds for FY2019/20 as it relates to each strategy identified in the Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan. Certain strategies in Springfield are met through the Eugene-Springfield HOME allocations, and are indicated below. More details can be found regarding the allocation of HOME funds in the Eugene 2019/20 One-Year Action Plan.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing goals are intended to address HUD program objectives to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing and address critical housing needs of low-income people in our community. A total of four affordable housing goals are included in the adopted Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan.

Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

- Housing Development – The City of Springfield recognizes that the housing supply is low, particularly affordable housing for low-income residents, and previous allocations have aimed to add a net increase of units to the housing supply. The City continues to seek projects to allocate prior year CDBG funds to “Increase the supply of affordable housing.” Additional funds allocated through the FY19/20 HOME Allocation will help to address this strategy in Springfield. (see FY19/20 HOME Allocation)
- CHDO Operating Support – (see FY 2018/19 HOME Allocation)

Rehabilitate Existing Housing Stock

- Springfield Home Repair - The City of Springfield will continue to provide assistance to qualified low-income homeowners through its Home Repair Program. This program is funded from the new CDBG entitlement grant, and is not projected to have funds

carried from prior year allocations. Springfield proposes to allocate \$116,377 in new CDBG funds for this program.

Provide Down Payment Assistance for Home Ownership

- Springfield Home Ownership Program - The City of Springfield continues to administer the Springfield Homeownership Program (SHOP). The SHOP provides down-payment assistance for low-and very low-income households. This program has additional funds carried over from previous allocation years. The City is not allocating additional CDBG funds this year to this program, anticipating that prior year funds would meet current, and even additional, demand for services.

Remove Barriers to Affordable and Supportive Housing

- There are currently no funds allocated to this strategy. However, Springfield has worked with interns from the University of Oregon to gather information and develop an outreach plan in the effort to eliminate discrimination and promote equal access in housing choice. Springfield is now focused on implementing pieces of the outreach plan, such as promoting information on the City website, and to our community partners. Springfield continues to seek opportunities to affirmatively further fair housing and inform others about fair housing.

Community Development

Community development goals are intended to satisfy HUD program objectives by providing human services; creating jobs; improving access to public facilities; and furthering neighborhood revitalization, planning, and community-building activities. A total of three community development goals were included in the adopted Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan.

Support a Human Services Delivery System

- Non-profit services through the Human Services Commission (HSC) – The City of Springfield collaborates with Lane County to fund human service providers. The Human Services Commission (HSC) is the intergovernmental board that guides the use of funds and oversees the activities of agencies receiving funds. Agencies to be funded are determined through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) administered by the HSC, as well as Catholic Community Service’s G Street OASIS program for homeless families with children. Springfield proposes to allocate 15% of new entitlement funds, plus eligible FY19 program income, toward this strategy. Altogether, a total of \$92,406 is proposed to be allocated toward non-profit services.

Promote Economic Development

- There are currently no FY 2018/19 funds allocated to this strategy.

Make Strategic Investments to Improve Neighborhoods

- Working with the Department of Development and Public Works and Springfield Safe Routes to Schools program, city staff identified a number of infrastructure safety improvements to address unsafe school crossings at seven locations in Springfield. The City proposes to allocate \$243,839 toward this strategy to fund improvements (including Rapid Flashing Beacons, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, and signage) at two to three sites in low-income neighborhoods.