

CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (HCD) PLAN

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021-2025



DRAFT

**Regional Consolidated Housing and Community
Development (HCD) Plan**



FFY 2021-2025 REGIONAL HCD PLAN



- Strategic planning tool to address housing and community development needs and priorities
- Required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain:
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds
- Guides anticipated investment of more than \$40M
 - \$27M Grand Rapids and \$14M Kent County
- Covers period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026



PUBLIC INPUT FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Facilitated by *Community Planning Insights*, the following approaches were used to obtain input on community needs and priorities for development of the draft plan.

Focus Groups:

- Nine (9) sessions held from September 15, 2020 through September 18, 2020
- Topics included equity and inclusion, affordable housing and fair housing needs and priorities, economic development needs and priorities, homeless and special needs housing priorities, and village and township needs and priorities

Public Forums:

- A series of online public forums hosted from October 7, 2020 through October 15, 2020
- Four (4) forums were targeted to Kent County residents (two in English and two in Spanish)
- Six (6) forums were targeted to Grand Rapids residents (three in English and three in Spanish)

Survey:

- Online survey (direct email, agency social media accounts, Facebook adverts, etc.)
- Available in English and Spanish from September 30, 2020 through November 13, 2020

NEEDS AND PRIORITIZATION

- Affordable Housing
 - construction of affordable rental and for-sale housing
 - construction of permanent supportive housing
- Housing Services
 - owner-occupied home repair
 - rental payment assistance
 - homebuyer down payment assistance
- Economic Development
 - job opportunities and training
 - small business loans or grants
 - small business technical assistance/services
- Public Infrastructure
 - improved internet access
 - street improvements
 - park improvement
- Public Service
 - Childcare
 - medical/mental health services
 - emergency payment assistance
 - activities for youth
 - crime prevention/education

OTHER PLANS AND DATA REFERENCED

- City of Grand Rapids Strategic Plan FY 2020 - 2023
- Bowen National Research Grand Rapids/Kent County 2020 Housing Needs Assessment
- Housing Next Housing Needs and Opportunities (2020)
- KConnect “Redefining the Path Home: System Building for Housing Stability in Kent County” (2020)
- *Housing NOW!* Data Compendium for Informed Housing Policy (2018)
- City of Grand Rapids *Great Housing Strategies* (2015)

5-YEAR INVESTMENT OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Prevent and resolve episodes of homelessness. Support efforts to maintain or retain housing stability for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Examples of activities:

- homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services

Outcome 2: Improve access to and stability of affordable housing. Increase household stability and equitable access to housing. Examples of activities:

- fair housing education and enforcement, housing-related legal assistance, down payment assistance, foreclosure intervention, and tenant-based rental assistance

Outcome 3: Increase the supply of affordable housing. Increase the number of newly constructed and rehabilitated affordable rental and homeownership units available to low- and moderate-income households. Examples of activities:

- infill new construction; conversion of vacant non-residential buildings to rental housing; rehabilitation and sale of single-family homes for first-time homebuyers; and development of permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities, the chronically homeless, or other underserved populations

Outcome 4: Improve the condition of existing housing. Support the maintenance, repair, and improvement of existing housing. Examples of activities:

- housing rehabilitation, emergency and minor repairs, access modifications, lead-based paint remediation, code enforcement, and weatherization and energy efficiency improvements

5-YEAR INVESTMENT OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

Outcome 5: Foster engaged, connected and resilient neighborhoods. Support actions that build relationships, lift resident voice, and enhance neighborhood stability. Examples of activities:

- community organizing, education and referral services, and promote equitable development

Outcome 6: Improve community safety. Support efforts that enhance resident safety and quality of life in neighborhoods. Examples of activities:

- crime prevention education and organizing, violence reduction strategies, and other services to ensure health and safety

Outcome 7: Improve economic opportunity. Support equitable economic prosperity with an emphasis on improving financial and social capital. Examples of activities:

- job readiness, skill development, training and technical assistance for existing and new microenterprises, and supporting dedicated facilities and services for small business and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Outcome 8: Enhance neighborhood infrastructure. Improve physical infrastructure and create a sense of place in neighborhoods and neighborhood business corridors. Examples of projects:

- parks and open space, streets and streetscapes, sidewalks, tree planting, and façade improvements

REGIONAL HCD PLAN TIMELINE

1/4/21	Draft HCD Plan available for public review and comment
1/26/21	City Commission public hearing
2/2/21	Public comment period for HCD Plan ends
2/9/21	City Commission anticipated approval of HCD Plan

See draft HCD Plan at: www.grcd.info

Submit written comments to: communitydev@grcity.us

For questions call: (616) 456-3677

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

- Annual Action Plan (AAP) required – Submitted to HUD in advance of each fiscal year
 - Serves as the application to receive annual award of CDBG, HOME and ESG program funds
 - Identifies planned projects and activities to be carried out July 1 – June 30 (annually)
- Process accomplished through the Neighborhood Investment Plan
 - Ties to regional HCD Plan – needs/priorities
 - 5-year investment outcomes

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PLAN PROCESS TIMELINE

	Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)
1/7/21	Notice published advertising opportunity
1/11/21	NOI released/available
1/14/21	NOI workshop #1 at 4 p.m.
1/15/21	NOI Workshop #2 at 1 p.m.
1/25/21	NOI responses due
	Request for Proposals
2/10/21	RFP application released to selected NOI applicants
2/28/21	Applications due
3/19/21	Investment (funding) recommendations released, 30-day public comment period begins
3/23/21	Funding recommendations presented at City Commission Committee of the Whole
4/13/21	City Commission public hearing
4/19/21	30-day public comment period ends
4/27/21	City Commission anticipated approval of Annual Action Plan/Neighborhood Investment Plan awards

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PLAN PROCESS (CONTINUED)

- For links to the Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) virtual workshops and NOI application, visit: www.grcd.info
- For questions about the NOI or the investment process, contact the Community Development Department at: communitydev@grcity.us or by calling (616) 456-3677

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Homelessness Work Group continues to support initiatives, including
 - HOT team efforts
 - Geographically Targeted Homeless Outreach project with Community Rebuilders
 - Expanded winter shelter operations
 - Consideration of COVID-19 relief funds, as available
- <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Meetings/City-Commission-Briefings/All/2020-12-28-Update-on-Emergency-Shelter-and-Addressing-Unsafe-Conditions-in-Heartside-Park>
- Housing Services
 - CDC Eviction Prevention Moratorium Extended through January 31, 2021
 - US Treasury funding available to Michigan – \$664 million anticipated
 - Grand Rapids and Kent County amounts TBD