

# Executive Summary

## ES-05 Executive Summary - 91.300(c), 91.320(b)

### 1. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the State of West Virginia to complete a five-year strategic plan known as the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies the State's housing and community development needs and outlines how HUD federal funding received by the State will be utilized to address these needs. HUD allocates funding to the State for the following programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
- Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

The West Virginia Community Advancement and Development (WVCAD), a division of the West Virginia Development Office (WVDO), administers the CDBG, ESG, and HOPWA programs. The West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) administers the HOME and HTF programs.

This document is West Virginia's Five-year Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024 beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 and its fiscal year 2020 Action Plan program year, beginning July 1, 2020, and continuing through June 30, 2021. Development of the plan included input and participation from the general public as well as key stakeholders such as community agencies, local government leaders, nonprofit service providers, and other interested parties.

The plan provides to the general public and program stakeholders the strategies, priorities, and methods of implementing the programs identified above. In addition, it identifies the needs that serve as the basis for implementing those programs.

### 2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

The federal statutes governing the programs identified above identify three basic goals by which HUD evaluates performance under the plan:

- Provide decent affordable housing
- Create suitable living environments
- Create economic opportunities

Following these three basic goals, activities and projects funded by the programs included in this plan focus on the following objectives:

- Increase multifamily rental housing for extremely low to moderate income persons.
- Support housing stability efforts by providers in the Continuum of Cares to assure special needs persons can access services and housing.
- Support the development of viable infrastructure systems (such as water, sewer, storm water, and broadband) to improve living conditions and bolster economic development.
- Improve quality of life by enhancing public facilities and eliminating factors that affect environmental quality or public health.
- Improve quality of life by enhancing public facilities and eliminating factors that affect environmental quality or public health through activities such as mitigating blighted and abandoned properties, supporting the remediation of brownfield sites, and enhancing parks and recreational facilities.
- Develop local strategies through community planning to support improved living environments and strengthen economic and community development.
- Promote fair housing to educate low to moderate income citizens about their rights to available and accessible housing.

Outcomes include increasing the affordability, accessibility, and availability of the services and activities listed above to low- and moderate-income residents of the state, as well as improving the ability of communities to sustain necessary functions and become more resilient in the face of natural and economic disturbances and shocks.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

The WVDO and WVHDF and their respective U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs have made significant progress towards meeting housing, community development, and homelessness needs in West Virginia over the past five years. Both organizations will continue to

address these ongoing needs over the next five years through meeting the objectives noted earlier in the Executive Summary.

Over the last five years, the demand for funding far exceeded the amount of funds available in all programs. As a result, each program was extremely competitive. Projects were selected and implemented to assist in the development of viable communities in low- to moderate-income areas throughout the State. Each investment of program funding helped to develop decent affordable housing, create a suitable living environment, and/or promote expanded economic opportunities.

During the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the WVDO and WVHDF achieved the following accomplishments:

**HOME/HTF:**

The WVHDF's HOME and HTF programs successfully constructed 18 affordable rental units, rehabbed 58 affordable rental units, and added 48 units of homeowner housing.

**ESG:**

Through the WVDO's ESG program, 13,565 individuals received assistance from Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter, 1,753 households received Rapid Re-housing assistance, and 264 households received Homelessness Prevention assistance.

**HOPWA:**

Through the WVDO's HOPWA program, 229 households received Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), 410 households benefited from Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, Utility Assistance Program (STRMU), and 1,137 individuals received Supportive Services.

**CDBG:**

During the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the WVDO completed 30 water projects which benefited approximately 24,758 individuals. Additionally, 13 sewer projects were completed and benefited 13,076 individuals. Collectively, 37,834 West Virginians now have access to reliable and healthy water and/or sewer systems.

Please note, the accomplishment data above does not include PY2019 as the program year is still active and has not been reported at the time of this submission.

**4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

The working group developing the Consolidated Plan included WVDO and WVHDF program managers and staff members representing the CDBG, ESG, HOPWA, HOME, and HTF programs. The State followed

its Citizen Participation Plan. An online survey was directly sent to over 3,000 stakeholders and advertised in 5 newspapers. WVDO requested that the survey be shared with other interested persons. The survey was available on the WVCAD/WVHDF websites and social media accounts from October 1, 2019 to March 23, 2020. Paper copies were made available upon request and at Public Hearings during the needs assessment phase. There were 5 Public Hearings held during the development of the Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan at 5:30 p.m. in Wheeling on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, Keyser on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 Beckley on Monday, November 18, 2019, Glenville on Tuesday, November 19 and at 3:30 p.m. in Charleston, November 20, 2019. A copy of the public notice was directly emailed to the WV NAACP, WV Human Rights commission, Public Housing Authorities (PHA), Regional Planning and Development Councils (RPDC), Community Action Agencies (CAA) and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR). WVDHHR was requested to send a copy of the public notice to local field offices/program affiliates with instructions to post at service entrances. An additional request was made for PHAs and CAA to post the public notice and CoC members to distribute. An email/ mailing were sent over 3,000 stakeholders notifying them of the public hearings in November 2019. A reminder was sent 2 weeks prior to the first public hearing and requesting to share the information. Public Hearing notices were placed on the WVDO and WVHDF websites and social media. A public notice advertising the Public Hearings ran in five newspapers of regional/local circulation at least 14 days before the public hearings on Sunday, October 13, 2019. 4 Public Hearings will be held during the draft phase of the Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan via webinar. A copy of the public notice was directly emailed/mailed to stakeholders list previously mentioned. A reminder will be sent 2 weeks prior to the first public hearing also requesting to share the information. Public Hearing notices will be placed on the WVDO and WVHDF websites. A public notice advertising ran in five newspapers of regional and local circulation at least 14 days before the public hearings on Sunday, March 29, 2020. A draft copy was available for a 30-day review and comment period at least 90 days from April 1 to May 4, 2020 prior to the start of the program year (July 1) on the WVDO website. An executive summary of the draft plan will be sent to the State's 11 Regional Planning and Development Councils (RPDC) requesting they circulate to the mayors and county commissions in each region. A complete copy of the draft Consolidated Plan will be placed at <http://WVCAD.org/resources> and sent to RPDCs offices. Individual consultations with agencies and organizations that assist low-income persons and areas, including state and federal agencies, local governments, regional councils of government, Continuum(s)of Care, businesses, community/faith based groups, CHDOs, housing developers, broadband service providers, organizations engaged in narrowing the digital divide, agencies whose primary responsibilities include the management of flood prone areas, public land/water resources, and emergency management agencies.

## **5. Summary of public comments**

To summarize the Fall 2019 Public Hearings, there was interest and emphasis on affordable housing, rental housing, cost burden, water and sewer, zoning, code enforcement, demolition, broadband, lack of mental health facilities, fair housing, PHA wait list and vouchers, and CHDOs

All comments submitted to the WVDO and WVHDF working group were accepted and used in the analysis and prioritization of public comments. All written comments submitted during the 30 day formal response are attached for review. A complete review of the Citizen Participation process is provided in section PR-15. Attachment provides the survey results and summary of comments received during the online survey.

## **6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

All comments were considered in the development of the plan.

## **7. Summary**

The State of West Virginia followed its Citizen Participation to gather public input and comments through newspaper ads, public hearings, web-based survey, focus groups and direct consultations. Additional efforts included expanding the stakeholder list, direct notification of the survey and public hearings, addition of focus groups, increasing direct consultations and social media. Information from the public, market analysis, WVHDF housing needs assessment, CEDs Plans, HUD CHAS data, HIC data, PIC data and CDBG-DR Action Plan was utilized to identify the needs, goals and activities of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.