

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC HEARING
February 19, 2020
City of Bristol
Community Development Block Grant Program
Consolidated Five Year Plan Proposals 2020-2025
5:00 P.M. BRISTOL CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDEES: Howard Schmelder, Tom Hick, Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller
Mayor Zoppo-Sassu

STAFF: Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator
Justin Malley, Executive Director-ECD
Christine Cooper, Administrative Assistant

GUEST: Patrick Gallagher, Milone & MacBroom

The Hearing was called to order by ECD Policy Committee Chairperson Howard Schmelder at 5:01 p.m.

ECD board members and staff were introduced.

Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Schmelder:

Welcome to the first Public Hearing to discuss Bristol's Five-Year Consolidated Plan for CDBG that begins later this year and runs to 2025. With us tonight is Patrick Gallagher, a Planner from Milone & MacBroom, the consulting firm that has been hired to assist the ECD with the Consolidated Plan.

The City is in the process of updating its Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. The plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the regulations and requirements contained in the Code of Federal Regulations 24CFR Part 91.

To start, the City conducted a survey that was intended to gather information and opinions about the City's housing and community development needs. With this information, the Policy Committee of the ECD will make recommendations to the full Board for strategies to guide the Five-Year period from 2020-2025. Information received from these surveys will be combined with comments from Public Hearings, community workshops and other sources to update the City's Consolidated Plan.

Without further ado, I'm going to hand this over to Patrick to make a short presentation about past and future Consolidated Five Year plans in Bristol, and preliminary results from the community needs survey.

Patrick Gallagher provided background of what is a consolidated plan (see attached). This is required by HUD and the community must complete this every 5 years in order to receive HUD funding. It is intended to describe the City's housing and community development needs which will then be used as a guide to help the city set goals and priorities and disburse funds over the next 5 years.

This begins with needs analysis and community outreach to identify needs and issues in the community. Then they can begin to look at goals and strategies for the next 5 years.

- Data has been gathered in surveys and via public hearings
- He provided a recap of the surveys
 - Agency survey – recap (this survey was for service providers) – see attached detail
 - General public – reviewed – see attached detail

He then explained the purpose of the goals and reviewed goals from the previous plan. He pointed out that it is important that the goals are broad enough to allow for adaptation to rapidly changing conditions. Draft goals based on the surveys and aligned with the previous goals but providing more discretion on how the funds are allocated were reviewed. See detail attached. Summarized as follows:

- Continue to support safe and affordable housing.
- Housing support for homeless, at risk and special needs population.
- Support public service programs
- Support for health and wellness initiatives
- Infrastructure, facility improvements and initiatives that support housing and community revitalization.
- Support economic development initiatives.

So tonight is an opportunity to be sure they have not overlooked any needs that should be in the plan before it is drafted as well as if there are any comments tonight on the draft goals as they have been presented.

Commissioner Schmelder asked if there were any comments on the community needs from the public in attendance tonight.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu spoke about housing issues:

- Some issues are dealt with through blight/code enforcement.
- Bristol has older housing stock with many multi-family buildings that have issues due to age, lead paint, etc.
- She spoke about density issues.
- She discussed the issue of inattentive landlords:
 - Reduction in deteriorated housing and density is part of the plan – this extends to numerous other issues in the community and puts stress on services. This reduction of deteriorated housing and reduction in density is a goal they are putting forward within the next 2 or 3 years within the 10 year capital improvement plan and she would like to see this goal mirrored in the community action plan.
- She discussed the overlap of these housing issues with local health issues, primarily the opioid crisis, and the stress it places on services.
- Many of the issues in the community begin with housing and she would like to increase the availability of good housing and decrease the availability of poor housing.

Commissioner Hick inquired about Item #4 in the “Goals from Previous Plan” regarding assisting businesses and asked will this be in the new goals of is this included in another goal? Commissioner Schmelder replied that he believes this is implied. Mr. Gallagher replied that the intent was to role this into goal #6 of the Draft Goals for the new plan with the comments about physical improvements.

Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller, who is in the real estate business, commented that he supports the Mayor’s views.

Justin commented to this point that something could be added to #1 about the elimination of housing that is not decent, safe, and affordable.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu spoke again about the housing needs for families.

Draft goals 1-6 are not presented in priority order.

No other comments were forthcoming from the Public.
The Public Hearing was closed at 5:50 p.m.

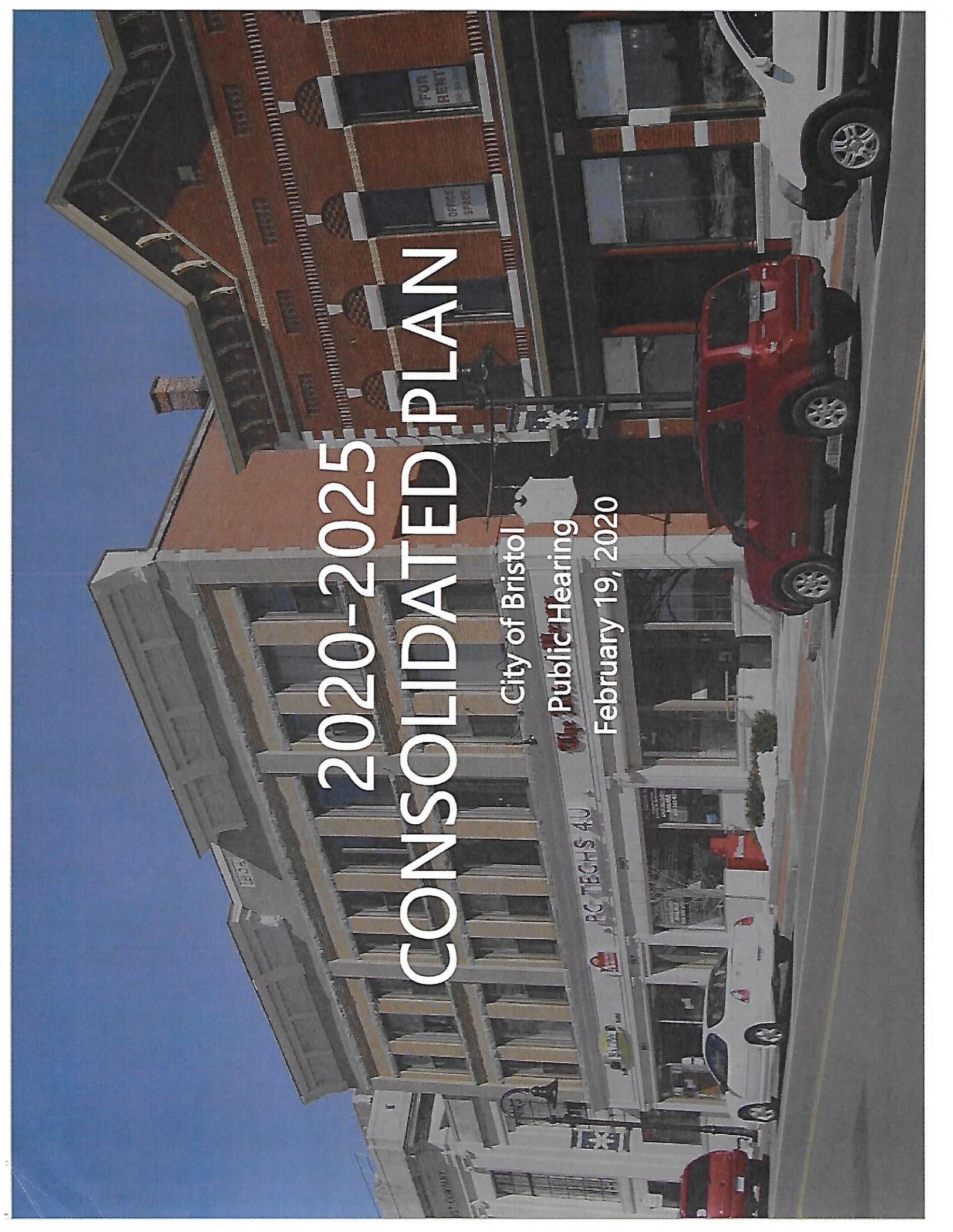
Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper, Recording Secretary

2020-2025 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

City of Bristol

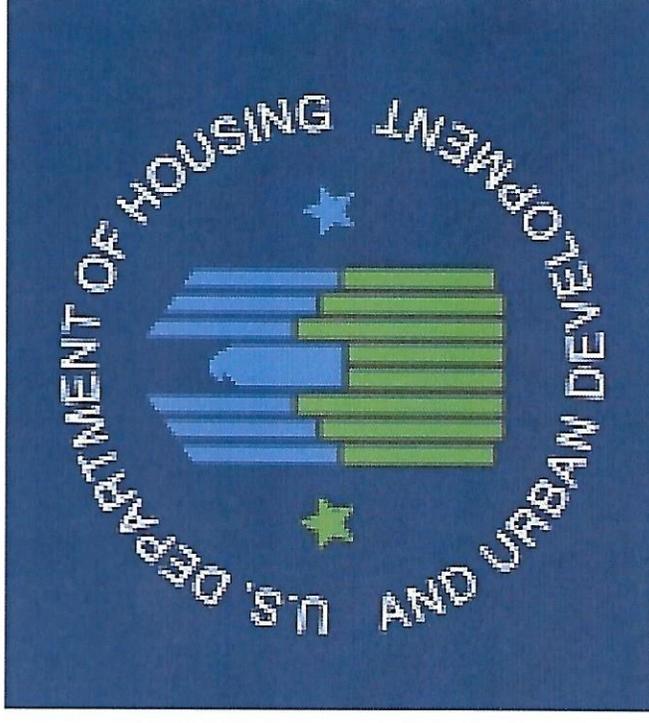
Public Hearing

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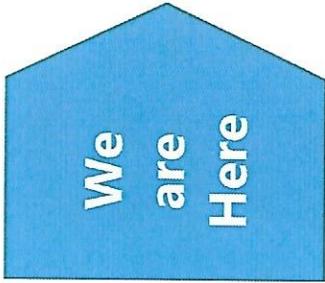


WHAT IS A CONSOLIDATED PLAN?

- Required every 5 years by HUD to receive funding
- Describes City's housing and community development needs and how grant funds will be spent – must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents
- Funds from HUD include:
 - Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
 - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
 - HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
 - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)



2020-25 PLAN UPDATE PROCESS



- **Needs Analysis** – review data and identify needs and issues
- **Community Outreach** – supplements the data-driven needs analysis:
 - Which goals from the previous Plan are still relevant?
 - What new needs or issues have arisen since the previous Plan?
- **Strategy Development** – will be used to determine funding eligibility/priorities over the five-year period

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

- Two surveys developed and ran between December 1, 2019 and February 19, 2020
- **Agency Survey** – for service providers
 - 37 responses
 - 22 unique agencies
- **Public Survey** – for residents
 - 59 responses
 - 88% of respondents were City residents

Agency Survey Participants:

- City of Bristol Assessor
- Boys & Girls Club of Bristol Family Center
- Bristol Early Childhood Center
- Bristol Fire Department
- Bristol Health
- Bristol Historical Society
- Bristol Public Library
- Corporation Counsel
- Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services
- Emergency Management Department
- Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.
- Mountain View Elementary School
- Santander Bank
- Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.
- South Side School
- St. Joseph School
- St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol, Inc
- The Agape House
- Treasurer's Office
- United Way of West Central Connecticut
- Veterans Strong Community Center
- YWCA New Britain Sexual Assault Crisis Service

AGENCY SURVEY: WHAT WE HEARD



Community Needs:

- Transitional housing
- Affordable housing
- Youth and early childhood services
- Family development programs
- Homeless housing/services
- Mental health services
- Addiction services and prevention
- Workforce development programs
- Beautification/historic preservation
- Improve city infrastructure



Agency Needs:

- Funding/financial resources
- Staffing
- Maintenance costs
- Community awareness



High Need Neighborhoods:

- West End
- Downtown

PUBLIC SURVEY: WHAT WE HEARD



Housing Needs:

- Energy efficiency improvements
- Residential rehabilitation
- Affordable rental housing



Community Facility Needs:

- Youth and child care centers
- Fire station & equipment



Special Needs Service Needs:

- Neglected/abused children
- Domestic violence victims
- Substance abuse services



Economic Development Needs:

- Job creation & retention
- Employment training
- Start-up business assistance



Infrastructure Needs:

- Street improvements
- Sidewalk improvements



Neighborhood Service Needs:

- Cleanup of abandoned properties
- Trash/debris removal
- Code enforcement



Community Service Needs:

- Mental health services
- Youth activities
- Anti-crime programs

GOALS FROM PREVIOUS PLAN (2015-20)

1. To continue providing the Housing Rehabilitation program to the Bristol community, and advocate for additional Permanent Supportive Housing beds through the Balance of State Continuum of Care.
2. To continue providing support to as many Public Service programs as the allocations allow.
3. To evaluate urgent needs of public housing facilities that are not supported by Federal Capital Improvement funds; to support organizations in the community as funding allows.
4. To assist businesses with façade improvements, or other projects as funding allows.

DRAFT GOALS FOR 2020-25 PLAN

1. Continue to support the provision of and access to decent, safe, and affordable housing
2. Advocate for and provide housing and support for the homeless, at risk, and special needs populations
3. Continue to support public service programs that address community needs with a focus on youth, the elderly, and special needs populations
4. Provide support for health and wellness initiatives including health services, food insecurity, addiction services, mental health, and physical improvements to parks
5. Provide infrastructure, facility improvements, and initiatives that support housing and community revitalization activities
6. Continue to support economic development initiatives that provide economic advancement to residents and the local economy including job training, workforce development, education, and physical improvements in support of job creation

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- From your perspective, what are the biggest housing or community development needs in Bristol?
 - Have you noticed any changes in these needs over the last five years?
- Do you have any comments on the Draft Goals for the 2020-25 Plan?

Today's discussion is not about the Annual Action Plan or any particular funding allocations