

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The 2021-22 Annual Action Plan (Program Year 47) is the fourth year installment of the Five Year 2018-22 Consolidated Plan (Con Plan), directing federal grant dollars to investments that provide affordable and decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents of Los Angeles. The Con Plan is the City of Los Angeles' (City) strategic plan for leveraging the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual entitlement allocations of four federal grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

The Con Plan, while a relatively small portion of the City's overall strategy in raising low-income Angelenos to a better future, is nonetheless an important part of the City's efforts in building affordable housing, reducing homelessness, and increasing the livability of the city, in ways that are sustainable, compassionate, fiscally sound and equitable. The City has proven that the proper way to deal with issues is not to ignore the situation or entrench itself further in policies that do not work, but to meet challenges head-on and listen to stakeholders for their invaluable perspectives.

An Unconscionable Plague and a New Start

In the United States, Los Angeles is home to the busiest port, the second-busiest airport, as well as a host of international businesses and tourism. Los Angeles welcomes tens of millions of travelers a year, and as such, it has become a heavily-burdened center for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Year 2020 was a challenging time, with poor foresight and misinformation regarding the pandemic, and a massive movement to alleviate racial inequities that have gone unaddressed for far too long. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, the pathogen behind the COVID-19 Pandemic, laid bare the great valley between the haves and the have-nots, now with an even greater number of people finding themselves in the latter camp.

The COVID-19 pandemic was and is not merely a deadly virus that has claimed over half a million Americans – over 22,000 of them Angelenos – but a host of maladies, including skyrocketing unemployment, a devastated economy, a burdened social system, and a strained healthcare system. The pandemic closed countless businesses, destroyed livelihoods, drained savings, and saddled people with mountains of debt.

Through the eviction moratorium, people are still housed for now; however, once the moratorium ends, many people who don't have the money to pay back their owed rent face an uncertain future. Other

people, despite the moratorium, still fell into homelessness. And a large group of people already struggling before the pandemic have inched ever closer to homelessness.

In Los Angeles, food deserts were already a problem, with fresh foods few and far between in many areas. However, rather than healthiness, hunger itself became a major concern for millions living in the United States. In numbers not seen since the Great Depression, millions of Americans reluctantly turned to food bank lines to feed themselves and their families. And untold more would rather go hungry than accept help.

Although the burden and duties of adults are harsh, the suffering of minors cannot be ignored either. Teachers and parents have been doing the best they can with limited resources, but virtual learning is still a hollow experience for many children that cannot replicate the growth and socialization of a real classroom. Children have already missed an entire formative year and only time will tell how much this pandemic will affect them.

Still, the internet has again proven itself more of an essential utility than a useful luxury. Millions of people started to work from home, and children started to attend virtual classrooms. However, this once again highlighted the stark difference between people who could afford this service and people who could not. Without a decent internet connection, telecommuting was impossible and children were even more disadvantaged than their connected peers.

However, despite the multitude of challenges, the City of Los Angeles has done its best to help Angelenos and ensure stability with extremely limited resources. To alleviate food insecurity, grocery cards were bought in bulk, using private funds, and distributed to low-income residents through the FamilySource Centers. Low-income housing and supportive housing continued to be built with minimal disruption. Many City employees were activated as Disaster Service Workers to assist with various relief projects, including Project Roomkey, a project to rent out entire hotels and motels to allow vulnerable, unhoused persons a safe and healthy place to shelter during the pandemic.

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and granted the City over \$250,000,000 in CDBG, ESG and HOPWA funds to use in fighting the pandemic and its effects. In March 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan which awarded the City nearly \$100,000,000 to address the housing needs of those affected.

A Growing Problem

Prior to COVID-19, housing affordability has eluded renters and homeowners alike, and the past year has only made the situation worse. Cost-burdened residents struggle to meet basic obligations, including paying for housing, transportation, education and health care—integral components of healthy living. Especially worrying is that nearly two-thirds, 64%, of cost-burdened renters have reported cutting down on food to be able to meet rent. The majority of city residents are renters, and 73% of households pay more than 30% of their gross monthly income for housing costs, with 48% being severely rent-burdened, paying over 50% of their income for housing alone. The longstanding mismatch of incomes and housing costs continues, as rents and home prices rise. In Los Angeles, since 2000, median wages have only risen

by 8%, while median rents have gone up 37%. Similarly, in Los Angeles, the Case-Shiller Price Index, which tracks single-family home prices, has tripled since 2000.

With the cost of housing far outpacing wages, the fight to stay housed is an unequal one. Even more families are at risk of being displaced and losing their homes as a disproportionate amount of their income is devoted to housing, which leaves them very vulnerable to unforeseen circumstances like illness, injury, job loss, or some other form of disaster. In support of preventing displacement as a result of being severely rent-burdened, in 2019 California Governor Newsom signed a bill that limited rises in rent to 5% plus current inflation per year.

Over the last several years, Los Angeles and the entirety of California have had to acknowledge homelessness as the growing and already massive problem it has become. While the exact causes of homelessness are numerous and diverse, the common issue is that housing is unaffordable for vast swaths of Los Angeles. City leaders have recognized that there is no cut-rate, instant-fix to solve the homelessness crisis and approved record levels of funding to address the issue. Though the work is difficult, it continues toward achieving ambitious goals. The Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, a countywide multi-sector effort to prevent and reduce homelessness, was established in 2016, and is largely funded by Measure H. The city is already seeing proof of its efforts to help Angelenos experiencing homelessness get into housing and a better future. As of September 2020, nearly 59,000 people have been permanently housed, and nearly 76,000 people were sheltered in interim housing funded by Measure H. Additionally, almost 17,000 people were prevented from falling into homelessness.

Building Housing

The construction of additional affordable housing and preservation of existing affordable housing is necessary to both prevent and reduce homelessness. Programs currently underway include Measure HHH, a local measure to fund supportive housing, and State legislation to fund affordable housing, housing programs for veterans, and supportive housing for Californians with mental illnesses. Since Measure HHH was passed in late 2016, the City has completed nearly 7200 units of housing, and helped as many individuals and families find housing.

Los Angeles is the first city in California to take advantage of a State law enacted in October 2017 that allows cities to expedite ground-up construction of new shelter housing on publicly owned property. City leaders established the \$20 million Crisis and Bridge Housing Fund. Known as the A Bridge Home (ABH) initiative, this fund has supported construction of interim housing on City-owned land; up to 30 sites are planned with up to 1,500 beds. Using public-owned land for homeless and affordable housing is a component of the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy. By providing beds, storage space and supportive services, ABH will get people off the streets, indoors, and on the road to stable housing. The first completed site of bridge housing with 60 beds is in the parking lot of El Pueblo, the celebrated birthplace of Los Angeles. Twenty-three (23) ABH facilities have been completed, with five more in design or construction, and one additional site in the pipeline, located in 14 of the City's 15 district.

Near El Pueblo, crime and the number of sidewalk encampments has fallen 60%. The City hopes that this reduction can be mirrored and exceeded in all other locations.

Additional local legislation recently enacted includes the Interim Motel Conversion ordinance, allowing motels to be used as transitional and supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness. There are over 300 eligible motels, with thousands of potential units available. Also, the City is allowing more single-family homeowners to build accessory dwelling units (ADU), also known as granny flats or in-law units. From 2016 to September 2018, there was an increase of over 1500% in the number of applications received by the Dept. of City Planning for construction of ADUs. Since 2018, Los Angeles has consistently received between 1,200 to 1,400 permit applications for ADUs per quarter, and 2020 was no exception. The pandemic had little impact on the number of applications. On January 1, 2020, California legislators passed five bills to streamline and expedite ADU constructions, which is expected to support the trend and increase the number of affordable ADU units.

Providing Services

While supportive and affordable housing is being planned and under construction, people without a place to live need assistance now. With the highest number of unsheltered homeless individuals in the nation, the City has taken steps to lessen the suffering of Angelenos experiencing homelessness with various programs. These efforts have been bolstered by an influx of funding from local Measure H and State funding. In 2020, providing services became even more important to the residents of Los Angeles.

The City is also helping people to stay housed. The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program was originally funded with \$100M provided by the CARES Act in 2020, which helped 50,000 families with rent payments. The program continues with funding from American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was enacted on March 11, 2021, provided through the State of California, to pay rent for residents with income below 50% of the Area Median Income, ensuring that the City targets the most vulnerable populations with this limited resource.

With their savings depleted and back rent owed as a result of the COVID-19 recession, many tenants will need legal assistance to contest evictions and avoid homelessness. The City is dedicating some CARES Act funding to providing legal counsel to tenants threatened with eviction. Oftentimes, although there are many legitimate reasons for eviction, there is a large legal-power imbalance between property-owner and tenants. The Eviction Defense Program (EDP) will ensure that tenants have adequate legal representation and their rights are not ignored during complicated eviction proceedings.

Together, the ERA and the EDP form a two-pronged effort to keep people housed. The first by ensuring tenants don't fall too far behind on rent, and the other to ensure they have legal aid should the need arise.

Income Source Discrimination

In order to remove the barrier of having property owners not accepting housing vouchers, a new local law took effect January 1, 2020, providing protections against income-source discrimination, to help

prevent housing discrimination based upon an individual's source of income. The local legislation also sets up additional resources to make acceptance of Section 8 vouchers easier for everyone involved, including property owners.

Other anti-poverty efforts supported by CDBG will continue, including supporting self-sufficiency through employment, educational achievement, and making neighborhoods where people with low-income reside more livable, safe, vibrant and healthy.

Increasing Employment & Job Readiness

With the nation debating the feasibility of a \$15 minimum wage, Los Angeles and California already has it. A living wage job is one of the most lasting ways to prevent and end homelessness. City leaders voted in 2015 to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour incrementally from 2016 to 2021.

In January 2021, the Los Angeles metro area had a 12.6% unemployment rate. Although the City, County, and State fully expect the unemployment rate to drop significantly as numbers of vaccinations rise and the economy starts to heal, the high unemployment rate is concerning. The City has planned actions to both assist people to return to the workforce and help young adults train for and find decent jobs.

Every year the City's YouthSource Centers put hundreds of opportunity youth back into school to get high school diplomas, and into job skills training and other supportive services to promote economic stability.

Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA RISE) was launched in partnership with the City and County of Los Angeles in 2015 to benefit people with high employment barriers such as a history of homelessness, incarceration, and other challenges. Participants are placed in entry-level jobs with potential for growth, such as food service, janitorial, street maintenance, and office work. Participants also receive personal specialized support to stabilize their lives to help them maintain employment, such as financial literacy training and healthcare, along with career training services. Successes to date include over 800 individuals in transitional employment and more than 200 individuals in competitive employment.

The City encouraged entrepreneurship by recently approving an ordinance that develops a well-regulated program to enliven the City's streetscape with sidewalk vending. The Sidewalk Vending Ordinance regulates the sale of food and merchandise in the public right-of-way and parks to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. Sidewalk vendors will be required to acquire licenses and permits to vend on sidewalks and parks that will benefit the health and safety of the public. The ordinance will help to enfranchise micro-entrepreneurs and promote economic stability. The City hopes to see this program flourish once the pandemic gets under control. Funding is proposed in 2021-22 to financially support these micro-enterprises to obtain the appropriate licenses.

A major part of the City's commitment to entrepreneurship and local business is its ongoing support for the various business incubators and assistance programs around the city; from the Cleantech Incubator,

which focuses on green technology and sustainability-focused businesses, to the Healthy Neighborhood Markets program, which assists local stores in securing supplies of fresh foods, to encourage healthy-eating and reduce the presence of “food deserts”.

Supporting Education

The City of Los Angeles also recognizes the importance of educating high school students to prepare them for the workforce. As Los Angeles is a central hub of entertainment and creativity, it is imperative that the creative future workforce be developed in an equitable way. To this end, the City will fund the Building the City’s Creative Workforce program, which will provide low-income youth with basic creative skills, including visual arts, animation, videography, clay-making, music, etc.

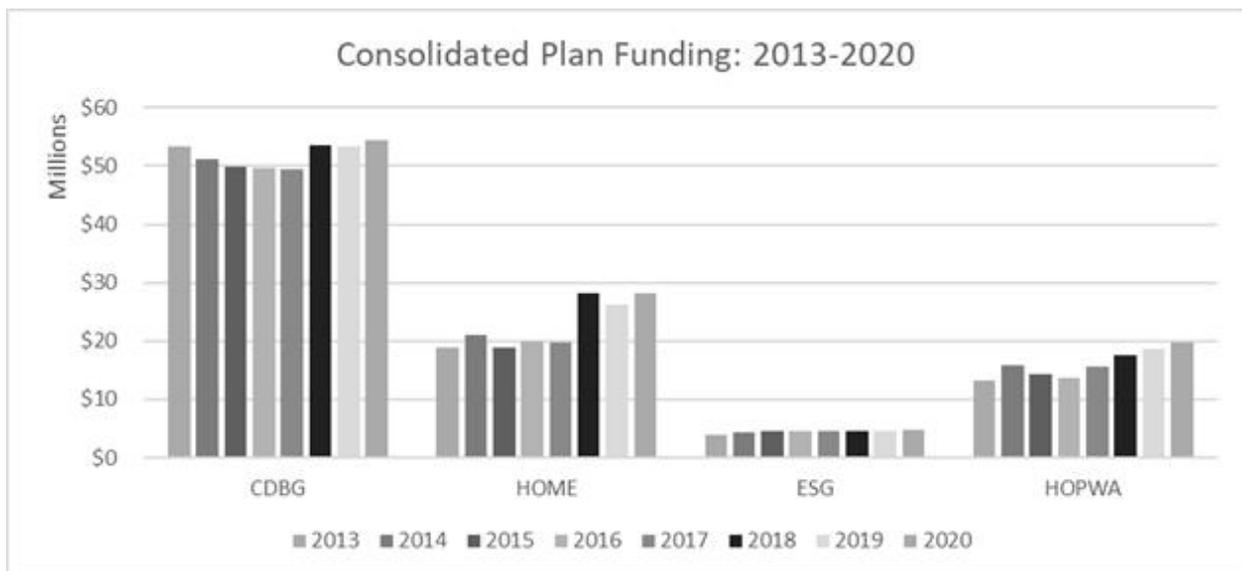
Improving Neighborhoods

The City is committed to providing vibrant spaces to play, learn and thrive for its residents with lower incomes. With upgrades planned to preschools, senior centers, community centers, sidewalks, street lights, parks, and theaters, residents will be able to enjoy arts, culture, fun, exercise, and improved access to a variety of supportive services, to support their well-being.

Grant Amounts

The chart below shows the federal entitlement allocations from 2013 to 2020. ESG funding amounts have not changed much during this period, while the HOME and HOPWA programs have significantly increased, and CDBG saw some fluctuations.

The City will address the housing, economic and other community needs by leveraging the Con Plan grants with a number of other resources, which is discussed in detail in Section AP-15, Expected Resources.



2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The shortage of affordable housing, the needs of the large number of homeless persons, and the need for living wage jobs and business growth in LA drive the goals of the five-year strategic plan for 2018-2022, and this annual action plan. The overarching priorities to reduce and prevent homelessness and to provide opportunities for low-income families to prosper guide the goals and outcomes, as stated below.

Goal and Description	Estimated 5-Year Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1. Develop affordable housing for homeless and low-income	CDBG: \$27,783,000 HOPWA: \$18,070,000 HOME: \$187,958,000	Rental units constructed: 4,000 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 410 Households Assisted
<p>Support development of and equal access to affordable, sustainable, accessible, and resilient housing for homeless residents, persons living with a disability, and other low-income residents. Create new housing opportunities for low-income households and homeless persons by financing new affordable rental housing and permanent supportive housing. Provide first time homebuyers with financial assistance. Increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing units for people living with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS.</p>		
2. Preserve existing affordable housing	CDBG: \$16,981,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 410 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 1,270 Household Housing Unit
<p>Prevent displacement of low- and moderate-income residents by preserving existing affordable and rent-stabilized housing. Preserve existing stock of affordable rental housing and rent-stabilized housing, and support seismic retrofits and other hazard remediation. Provide lead-based paint remediation and other housing interventions and partnerships to make existing housing healthier, more resilient, sustainable, and accessible. Ensure equal access to housing for persons with protected characteristics, lower income and an experience being homeless. Increase community integration and independent living opportunities for persons living with disabilities.</p>		
3. Stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods	CDBG: \$164,678,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Mod Housing: 4,695,850 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Mod Housing: 1,490 Households Assisted
<p>Stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods where people with low income reside. Create new and improve existing public facilities and infrastructure to increase public access to opportunities for education, employment, recreation, and social services. Improve access to public facilities and infrastructure for persons with disabilities. Identify deteriorating properties and code violations for enforcement of safety standards in neighborhoods where people with low income reside.</p>		
4. Prevent and reduce homelessness and domestic violence	CDBG: \$14,604,000 HOPWA: \$95,591,000 ESG: \$20,575,000	Public service activities other than Low/Mod Housing Benefit: 10,690 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Mod Housing Benefit: 13,450 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 22,800 Persons Assisted
<p>Work in partnership with community-based, not-for-profit and government agencies to prevent and reduce homelessness and domestic violence. Support efforts to reach out to and provide emergency shelters, transitional housing, case management, supportive services, and rental assistance to persons who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Provide housing-related supportive services and rental assistance to residents with low incomes, including at-risk homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS.</p>		
5. Improve local economy for low income residents	CDBG: \$55,658,000	Jobs created/retained: 3,970 Jobs Businesses assisted: 110 Businesses Assisted
<p>Improve local economic conditions and expand access to opportunity for low income residents and other protected classes by supporting efforts to create and retain jobs and provide essential goods and services to neighborhoods lacking them. Produce new jobs and retain employees in existing jobs for low to moderate-income residents by helping businesses to thrive and succeed, through economic development, business loans, business assistance, and entrepreneurial assistance. Support businesses' efforts to provide goods and services needed in neighborhoods where people with low income reside.</p>		
6. Help low-income families to stabilize economically	CDBG: \$31,581,000	Public service activities other than Low/Mod Housing Benefit: 205,950 Persons Assisted
<p>Help households with low incomes to stabilize economically and avoid displacement. Support family economic stabilization by providing services to improve employment, income, financial literacy, asset development, and academic achievement. Support seniors to maintain their physical and mental health and independence, and prevent loss of housing and premature institutionalization.</p>		

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Evaluation of Homeless Services/Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

LAHSA's evaluation of performance is reflected in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Written Standards (attached). Developed collaboratively with recipients, the written standards cover all aspects of ESG-funded activities, including reporting requirements. All ESG recipients have incorporated the CoC ESG Standards, or an analogous version, in their Annual Action Plans. Phone meetings with recipients, organized by the CoC, cover evaluation and reporting performance under the ESG Program. Additionally, LAHSA solicits input and feedback from its providers, stakeholders, and the community as to the quality and utility of its performance standards. Lastly, as the HMIS Administrator, LAHSA provides program data to recipients to facilitate performance evaluation reviews of subrecipients and to support ESG Program reporting. Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis and need for targeted homeless prevention, preparation, and response, additional standards and reporting elements for ESG programs funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be added to the LA CoC's ESG Written Standards in 2021.

Overall, LAHSA continues to review, adjust, and improve the various programs to end homelessness under LAHSA's purview. This is reflected through multiple reviews and in partnership with system partners, including but not limited to Coordinated Entry System (CES) refinement processes across all target populations, annual review and adoption of the CoC Program performance and evaluation methodology, and continuing refinements to LAHSA's Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

Evaluation of HOPWA Providers

HCIDLA serves as the administering agency for the HOPWA grant for Los Angeles County and conducts remote and on-site monitoring of all HOPWA-contracted agencies. HOPWA-funded contractors are required to use a HOPWA-funded client-centered database. The database captures client demographic, tracks client progress, and agency performance outcomes and goals. In addition, all HOPWA-contracted agencies are required to submit monthly invoices for personnel, program, operations and administrative costs. Ongoing assessments are conducted for all HOPWA-contracted agencies assessing their performance in regards to expenditure rate and client service amounts. At the end of each program year, in conjunction with the ongoing assessments, HCIDLA completes an annual evaluation of each agency.

Additionally, the HOPWA program contracts with Shelter Partnership (SP) for technical services and advice. Shelter Partnership is a nonprofit agency with expertise in HOPWA programs, affordable housing, and preventing and reducing homelessness in Los Angeles County. SP provides a variety of

services to the HOPWA program, including conducting assessments of the program's Regional Offices (regionally-based sites that coordinate the main HOPWA services), and the assessments report on program operations, challenges and recommendations for improving the program. In addition, SP continues to support HCIDLA in analyzing service provision to clients and fine-tuning HOPWA programs to ensure compliance, maximize efficiency, and increase effectiveness.

Evaluation of Family Source Centers

An annual performance evaluation of its individual Domestic Violence Shelter Operations and FamilySource Center contractors is conducted. The annual evaluation and scorecard are derived from the Malcolm Baldrige criteria for performance excellence, which measures business results in the categories of Products and Services, Customer Satisfaction, Financial and Market Outcomes and Process Effectiveness. The evaluation:

- Focuses on recognizing outstanding, rather than average, performance uses simple and transparent measures that are broadly understood and recognized as equitable
- Makes performance information public to create accountability
- Makes performance a requirement for continued funding

Additionally, in evaluating FamilySource performance, data revealed FamilySource Centers have been experiencing a higher number of families seeking eviction defense and homelessness prevention services. At the half-way point of this program year FamilySource households have reached 99% of the previous year's numbers for tenant/landlord mediation, eviction protection and housing assistance referrals. Utilizing this data, HCIDLA incorporated into the FamilySource 2021- 22 goals eviction and homelessness prevention strategies that focus on stabilizing housing and building a more financially secure future.

Evaluation of Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking Shelters

The Domestic Violence Shelter Operations (DVSO) program is in its fourth year of implementing trauma-informed and client-centered service delivery. Program outcomes emphasize long-term stability and independence of the client and their family during their stay. Service providers work with clients on their safety planning and stable housing and are expected to increase clients' knowledge of available resources and provide services and activities that encourage their clients and their children to decrease their isolation as part of the healing process. In the case of shelters with a transitional housing component, agencies are additionally required to have clients maintain or increase their income during their stay. These outcomes are now tracked through Bitfocus Clarity data system, implemented in January of 2020. Service outcomes now available via Bitfocus will continually inform the program of best practices and of areas for improvement.

Evaluation of City Departments

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been executed between HCIDLA and other City departments implementing projects to memorialize the purpose for the use of the CDBG funds. Departments include Aging, Building and Safety, City Attorney, Economic and Workforce Development, Public Works and each of its bureaus, and Recreation and Parks. These MOUs describe the scope of work that each department commits to, including roles and responsibilities to meet specific goals. Desk reviews and annual site visits will be performed to track and evaluate performance based on the agreement and determine the continuance of funding for a department. Corrective action will be requested of those that do not meet their MOU goals, and the reprogramming of CDBG funds from the department will be considered if the corrective action is not implemented.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Virtual Public Meetings—Fall 2020

Before the Fourth-Year Annual Action Plan was developed, and to continue compliance with the Mayor of Los Angeles mandate of no public face to face meetings due to COVID-19, two virtual meetings were held in the evenings in October 2020 to receive input from the City's diverse population on program-related issues, past and current projects, and funding priorities for the future. An English language virtual meeting was held, and a Spanish language virtual meeting was held to allow for greater participation by non- and limited-English speaking persons. There were a total of 57 participants from both meetings.

Utilizing GoToWebinar, the virtual public meetings participants heard a description of the Con Plan and what it funds, and the additional CARES Act funding and its proposed uses to assist Angelenos during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, presentations on Affordable Housing, and Homeless Programs and Services were presented to inform the public on how the City of Los Angeles is addressing these concerns. Throughout the presentation, feedback on various topics were provided via audience participated poll questions, comments and questions. At the close of the meetings, a survey question identified the respondents zip code area. Public input was compiled, analyzed, and submitted to the Mayor and City Council.

Public Hearings – Fall 2020

In addition to the virtual public meetings and to further community input, there were two virtual consultation meetings provided through commission hearings to provide valuable insight and input on community needs and recommendations for effective uses of the Con Plan. The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Planning, Priorities & Allocations Committee virtual meeting; and the Commission on Community and Family Services were held in October and November respectively. There were a total of 53 participants from both hearings.

The public was able to submit additional comments from the meetings and the virtual hearings by email (via HCIDLA) to the City Council. There were three public comments received by email. These comments discussed domestic violence and homelessness, virtual learning challenges, and COVID-19 testing locations.

Virtual Public Meetings—Spring 2021

Utilizing Zoom, the public was invited to participate and give feedback on the presentations related to the Consolidated Plan, and the Mayor's proposed Plan budget. There were two virtual public meetings held in the evenings in April 2021. The meetings were available for both English and the Spanish language to allow for greater participation by non- and limited-English speaking persons. Live interpretation was available at both meetings to facilitate participation by both English- and Spanish-speaking persons in either meeting. There were a total of 25 participants from both virtual meetings, with six participants at the Spanish meeting and 19 participants at the English meeting.

Throughout the presentation the audience participated through answering interactive poll questions and by submitting comments and questions. Questions and comments were addressed during the meeting, and opportunities for continued comments and questions were made available via email to HCIDLA.

Online Survey—Spring 2021

In addition to the virtual Spring meetings and to gather further input and feedback on the Mayor's proposed Annual Action Plan budget, an online survey was provided to the public between April 16th through 25th. The survey was available in both English and Spanish languages. The survey coincided with the required 30-day public comment period, and a total of 204 persons from both languages completed the survey. Standard demographics requested were: zip code, annual income; and, if their income decreased due to the COVID-19 recession? Additional feedback was gathered on specified needs seen in their community towards: housing and homelessness; neighborhood and public facilities improvements; social services; and, economic developments. Respondents were asked to prioritize how they saw the needs of residents with lower to moderate incomes in the City of Los Angeles; and provide the top three most important efforts that the City of L.A. had used, or plans to use, to affirm and promote access to fair housing. The response data was compiled, analyzed and submitted to the City Council.

Outreach Methods

To maximize outreach, HCIDLA coordinated with an extended network to promote the meetings and surveys to constituents, including community-based organization partners, City Council Districts, FamilySource Centers, public libraries, Recreation and Parks Department, and other City departments. Citywide outreach methods included mass email notifications, advertising on the HCIDLA website, a press release (meetings only), public announcements on City Channel 35 (meetings only), Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and publication of an official notice per HUD regulations. Outreach flyers were provided in English and Spanish for the meetings.

Impact on Goal-Setting

The Mayor's proposed plan budget aligns with community needs and expressed interests of the public. The 2021-2022 proposed plan budget allocates nearly half to housing and related programs, and the second priority to neighborhood improvements. The proposed plan budget also expands public services to address the needs of persons facing homelessness.

5. Summary of public comments

There were three comments received from the public in response to the Council File, and a total of 11 public comments/questions received by email. The majority of the comments concerned affordable housing and the homelessness faced in Los Angeles. Similar to the Fall public meeting responses, the Spring meeting responses expressed the need for affordable housing is still great and of high priority. This concern also aligned with the Mayor's plan to be addressed. The current COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession has led to other concerns and priorities, such as a rise in domestic violence and the need for wireless internet that are being addressed.

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

The City received comments about issues not funded by the Con Plan, including crime and concerns with virtual learning/education from schools.

7. Summary

With the need to pivot as a result of social distancing from COVID-19, the new technology of meeting virtually has shown some limitations in connecting with the public. The City of Los Angeles is poised to meet this challenge with alternative methods to connect. The City is continuing its chief efforts to address homelessness and other major challenges affecting its residents with lower incomes. The Con Plan grants are a critical component of this work.