

Summary of Public Participation for  
Program Year 48 (2022-23) Housing and Community Development  
Consolidated Plan  
Fall 2021

## Overview

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, on March 12, 2020, the Mayor of Los Angeles imposed social distancing safety measures and directed that all nonessential public meetings be canceled. Two virtual public meetings were held October 19-20, 2021, (5:00-6:30 p.m.) to collect public input in developing the 48<sup>th</sup> Program Year (PY 48) 2022-23 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan (Con Plan). The October 20 meeting included a Spanish language simulcast to allow for greater participation by non- and limited-English speaking persons. There were 120 registrants and 67 attendees for both virtual meetings, with 20 attendees at the English-only meeting and 47 at the bilingual meeting. Additional methods to collect public input included a public survey, two virtual focus group meetings, and comments received by email.

Throughout this public engagement process, the top three categories of need repeatedly identified were:

- Development and preservation of affordable housing
- Street and sidewalk maintenance and improvements
- Homeless supportive services

## Virtual Public Meetings

The virtual public meetings provided an overview of the Con Plan; including goals; examples of funded programs and projects; the current year's budget; available additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding; proposed uses of CARES Act funding to assist Angelenos during the COVID-19 pandemic; and the estimated grant funding for 2022-23 (PY 48).

The meetings also included the following presentations:

- Affordable Housing Development—Use of federal funds in combination with other funds, including the local Proposition HHH, to finance new construction and rehabilitation of multi-family rental housing for persons who are low-income.
- American Rescue Plan for Homeless Housing (Project Homekey)—California Project Homekey addresses homelessness by increasing the number of available affordable units through acquiring and rehabilitating apartment buildings and hotels. Project will leverage federal American Rescue Plan funds awarded to the City.
- Homelessness Programs—Statistics on persons experiencing homelessness in the city and county of Los Angeles, and how the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) works with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to administer various funding sources to address homelessness.
- FamilySource/Homelessness Prevention—How CIFD works with its nonprofit partners (16 FamilySource Centers) to address housing insecurity to help prevent families from experiencing homelessness.

- Business Assistance—Services offered to small business owners through the Economic and Workforce Development Department’s (EWDD) BusinessSource System and other programs, such as business plan and operations assessment, entrepreneur training programs, and assistance with financing applications.

### Real-Time Participant Interaction

The audience answered interactive poll questions and submitted comments and questions that were addressed live in the meetings.

### Poll Questions

1) Of the four federal grants mentioned, which one does the City of Los Angeles receive the most money for?

The correct answer, Community Development Block Grant, was selected by 78 percent of respondents

2) Now that you have heard our goals and seen examples, what is most important to you?

Of the six goals presented, the top three choices were: “Develop affordable housing for homeless/low-income persons,” “Help low-income families to stabilize economically,” and “Prevent and reduce homelessness and domestic violence.”

3) In what neighborhood should more affordable housing be built?

Of the seven Planning Areas, the top choice was Central LA. South LA was the second most common response and East LA came in third.

4) About how many people are experiencing homelessness in the city of Los Angeles?

The correct answer was *around 40,000 people* and 38 percent chose this answer. Another 34 percent responded 60,000, which is the estimated number in the county of Los Angeles.

### Questions and Answers (Q&A)

The audience submitted many questions and comments on various topics, and the most common concerns were homelessness, including preventing homelessness, and the development of affordable housing. Staff responded to most of these questions verbally and also responded to several questions in writing through Zoom’s chat feature.

### Areas Represented by the Audience

Among the meeting participants, the largest number of people identified as living in Central LA, with 13 people coming from there. East LA had six attendees. All other areas of the city were represented evenly: Harbor, South LA, West, North Valley, and South Valley. Five participants reported zip codes outside the City’s boundaries.

### Public Survey

The survey resulted in 41 responses. The survey asked three key questions and collected demographic information.

1) What locations or services in your neighborhood are most valuable to you? Please list up to three.

This was an open-ended question that elicited many distinctive responses.

- 1) The most frequent response (80 percent) dealt with sidewalks and streets, such as the maintenance, improvements, cleaning, and tree planting and care along these public rights of way, as the most valuable neighborhood locations or services.
- 2) The second most frequent response concerned parks, community centers, and greenspace (49 percent).
- 3) The third most frequent response was homeless services (27 percent).

It should be noted that 44 percent of the responses identified police, schools, or public transportation, and although these are all important services, they are not eligible for the subject federal grants.

## 2) What kind of improvements to businesses and jobs would be most beneficial in your neighborhood?

Of the varying responses submitted, the top response (27 percent) focused on more jobs and living wages. There was a tie for the second most popular response (22 percent each) between restaurants, local grocery and retail stores and street/sidewalk maintenance, cleaning and improvements. It was notable that respondents once again mentioned that street and sidewalk maintenance and improvements are a top priority, particularly as they affect businesses.

3) If you were in charge of \$130 million in federal grant funds for the needs in your community, how would you spend it? Below is a list of 20 common requests by the community. Please divide the money in millions of dollars, where 20 means \$20 million. (Please use whole numbers and note that your answer must add up to 130.)

Although all 20 categories plus five additional categories submitted received some voting, the items below were prioritized in the order below by respondents:

- 1) Building more affordable housing
- 2) Sidewalk improvements
- 3) Building supportive housing (for homeless persons)
- 4) More homeless shelters and homeless services
- 5) Job training

## Survey Demographics

**Area:** Of the 31 who answered, the most reported zip codes are in Central Los Angeles. The second most represented area was the West area, followed by South LA, and the Harbor area. There was one reported zip code from the North Valley and one response from a neighboring community outside of the city.

**Age:** Of the 31 who provided their age, nearly half reported being 55 or older. The second most common age group was between 35 and 54.

**Impacts of COVID-19:** Of the 31 who answered the question as to whether their income or housing had been negatively impacted by COVID, ten respondents reported “Not at all.” Another nine selected “Somewhat,” and eight reported “A little.”

**Household Size:** We received 31 responses to this question. The largest group—26 percent—reported that there was one person in their household. The second most common response was a household size of four.

*Income:* Nearly a third of the 31 respondents reported an average household income between \$75,000 and \$89,999. There were 23 percent who indicated their household income was over \$120,000.

*Employment:* Nearly half of the 31 respondents reported being employed full-time. Retired was the second most common response to this question, with six respondents.

## Email Comments

There were six public comments received by email and they predominately commented on the development of affordable housing being needed in different areas of the city.

## Focus Group Meetings

There were two focus group meetings held virtually that also allowed for public participation. CIFD and EWDD collaborated with the Office of Council District 4 on two Business Resource webinars to provide information for business owners and gather input on the Con Plan relating to economic development. The webinars were held on October 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and were attended by 18 members of the public. CIFD discussed the Con Plan overall, and EWDD presented on the various available benefits to prospective and current business operators. There were no comments from the public during these meetings.

The Commission on Community and Family Services (CCFS) is a body of community leaders that advises on matters related to the Con Plan. During a CCFS meeting on October 27, 2021, the public had an opportunity to hear about and comment on the development of the Con Plan. The meeting included an overview of the Con Plan; including goals; examples of funded programs and projects; the Con Plan public input process; the Mayor's focus for the next program year; and the estimated grant funding for PY 48. CCFS members commented on the amount and use of the subject grant funds. There were no comments made by the public during this meeting.

## Outreach

CIFD used a number of outreach methods to promote the virtual meetings, including flyers, mass email notification to about 25,000 subscribers, posting on the Los Angeles Housing Department website and City social media outlets, a newspaper publication, the City's Channel 35 television station, as well as notifications to the Mayor's Office, Council District Offices, various City Commissions, Neighborhood Councils, community-based organizations, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles for sharing with residents, other City Departments and the Los Angeles County Development Authority. The same outreach methods were used for the survey, and registrants were sent a survey link upon registering for the public meeting.