

CITY OF RACINE 2024 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The City of Racine receives an annual entitlement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing and community development activities to assist low to moderate income persons. In accordance with HUD regulation 24 CFR 91.105, the City is required to adopt a Citizen Participation Plan that sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the creation of a 5-Year Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan) that addresses affordable housing and community development needs, submit an Annual Action Plan (Annual Plan) to outline spending and activities for the corresponding program years, a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to evaluate the City's accomplishments and use of CDBG funds and an Analysis of Impediments / Assessment of Fair Housing Plan.

Objectives

The Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages citizens to participate in the development of the Consolidated Plan, any substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, the performance report (CAPER) and the Fair Housing Plan. This Plan is designed to solicit views and recommendations from the community, organizations, and other interested parties, encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, and to incorporate their views and recommendations in the decision-making process. Actions will be taken to encourage participation of all citizens, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

The City of Racine encourages collaboration with the Housing Authority of Racine County (HARC) and the residents of public and assisted housing developments during the process of developing and implementing the Consolidated Plan, along with other low-income residents of targeted revitalization areas in which the developments are located. The City strives to provide information to the Housing Authority of Racine County about consolidated plan activities related to its developments and surrounding communities.

Development of Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans and Analysis of Impediments / Assessment of Fair Housing Plan

Before the City adopts a consolidated plan, the City will make available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the City expects to receive (including grant funds and program income) and the range of activities that will be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low and moderate income. The city will make a concerted effort to notify residents, social service providers, non-profit organizations, community and faith-based organizations, and other interested parties of the development of the Consolidated and Annual Plans, and Fair Housing Plan through electronic mail, online postings and notices in the local newspaper.

During project development, it is the City's goal to minimize displacement of persons and to assist any person displaced. During redevelopment or rehabilitation projects, the City will work with citizens and property owners to present assistance available during the displacement period. Depending on the

nature and scope of the project, this information will be made available in written and/or oral formats. City staff will be available to meet with those being displaced to continue any necessary discussion.

The City of Racine will publish a summary of the proposed Plans and Fair Housing Plan which describes the contents and purpose of the Plan(s) and/or Fair housing Plan and include a list of locations where they may be examined. The Plan(s) and/or Fair Housing Plan will be available for review at the Department of City Development (City Hall, Room 102, 730 Washington Ave., Racine, WI 53403), and online at <https://www.cityofracine.org/CityDevelopment/CityPlans/>. In addition, the City will provide a reasonable number of free copies of the plan to citizens and groups that request it. The notice will include information on the public hearing including location, date, and time.

The notice published in the local newspaper will initiate citizen review comment periods.

- Consolidated Plan or Amendments and Analysis of Impediments/Assessment of Fair Housing: a 30-day period to receive comments from citizens and interested parties.
- Annual Action Plan and Performance Report: a 15-day period to receive comments from citizens and interested parties.

During the preparation of the Plans, the City of Racine will consider any comments or views received at public hearings or by other means. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons, therefore, will be attached as an appendix to the Plans.

Amendments to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans and Analysis of Impediments/Assessment of Fair Housing. The City of Racine will amend the consolidated plan if, during the program year, it is decided not to carry out an activity described in the annual action plan, propose a new project, or to substantially change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity. For purposes of this Plan, the criterion for a substantial amendment is defined to be an action which changes a project category by an amount equal to or more than twenty percent (20%) of the current entitlement grant, or if the location of a project is changed in a manner that would deprive persons originally included of specific benefits. A public hearing to amend the Plans would be held before the Common Council. Citizen comment period shall be as noted above.

During the preparation of substantial amendments to the consolidated plan, the City will consider any comments or views received at public hearings or by other means. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons, therefore, will be attached as an appendix to the Plans.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER is due to HUD within 90 days of the end of the program year. The City of Racine's program year ends December 31st; therefore, the performance report is due to HUD by the end of March. Thus, this review period will typically be conducted during the month of March.

A comment period of not less than 15 days will be published in the local newspaper. Copies of the report will be available for review at the Department of City Development, and online at <https://www.cityofracine.org>. Comments or views of citizens will be accepted in both written and oral formats. A summary of these comments or views will be attached to the CAPER and submitted to HUD.

Public Hearings. The City will hold a minimum of two public hearings each year to obtain citizens views regarding housing and community development needs, proposed allocation of CDBG funds, strategies and actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing and review program performance. Notice will be provided a minimum of 10 days in advance of the public hearing and published in the local newspaper.

The hearings will address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, and review of program performance. Public hearings and meeting locations shall be accessible to those with disabilities. Reasonable accommodation will be provided for those with disabilities or in need of interpreters upon advance request by contacting the Department of City Development.

Access to Information and Records. Any citizen, organization or interested party may submit written requests for information regarding the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, Fair Housing Plan and CAPER, including the City's use of funds under the CDBG program and the benefit to low- and moderate-income persons. These Plans will be available for public review at the Department of City Development (City Hall, Room 102, 730 Washington Ave., Racine, WI 53403), and on the City's website, <https://www.cityofracine.org>. The City will, upon request, make available these documents in a form accessible to persons with disabilities.

Technical Assistance. Upon request and where applicable, technical assistance will be provided to groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under any of the programs covered by the consolidated plan. The assistance need not include the provision of funds to the groups.

Comment and Complaint Process. The City will consider any comments from citizens received in writing or orally at public hearings in preparing this Citizen Participation Plan, the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, CAPERs, Fair Housing Plan and/or substantial amendments to these Plans. A summary of all comments will be attached and submitted to HUD.

The City will respond to written complaints received relating to the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, Fair Housing Plan, CAPERs and/or substantial amendments. Written complaints must describe the objection and provide contact information of the complainant. The City will respond to complaints within 15 working days of receiving the written complaint, acknowledging the letter, and identifying a plan of action, if necessary.

Approved by the Racine Common Council: April 15, 2024