



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1957, **Agenda Item #:** 77.

4/23/2020

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on community needs for the City's Federal Action Plans for Fiscal Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 that relate to federal funding opportunities, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 373.

Lead Department

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Over the next year, the City of Austin expects to receive approximately \$20.8 million in federal funding through four U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), as well as HUD funds the City of Austin expects to receive as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

In order to receive these HUD grants, the City must submit an Action Plan that provides an overview of the community needs, resources, priorities, and proposed activities with regard to housing, homeless assistance, community development, economic development and public services.

The requested action is to conduct a public hearing in accordance with the modified procedures to the normal community input process as described in the City of Austin's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), which sets forth procedures for public input in the development of each annual Action Plan. This modified process is in accordance with HUD guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Modifications include expanding opportunities for public input by offering an online platform for public comment, which includes a dedicated web page and Speak Up Austin tool to capture public comment.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on the community's needs and priorities. This public input informs funding decisions related to housing, homelessness, community development, economic development, and public services, including COVID-19-related services, that are outlined in the Annual Action Plan.

Once community suggestions are incorporated, the draft Action Plan will be available for review for a 5-day public comment period, consistent with HUD's guidance and in an effort to deploy funding to the community as quickly as possible.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.