



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Office of Communications and Community Outreach

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*****Press Release*****

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**DHCD Submits Five-Year Vision on
Housing, Homelessness and Communities to HUD**

Consolidated Plan Shows How Federal Resources Will Help Support District Initiatives

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(WASHINGTON, DC) – The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently submitted its five-year plan on how it intends to use federal resources for housing-related activities and neighborhood revitalization to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The plans are: (1) the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, which covers the period from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2021, and analyzes local government policies, functions and data so that the District can make affordable housing and community development decisions; (2) the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Action Plan, which specifies one-year planned use of grant funds that are tied back to Consolidated Plan priorities and goals; and (3) the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) Allocation Plan, which specifies allocation priorities and guidelines for use from the NHTF.

Submitting the plans to HUD is a federal requirement. HUD has 45 days from the August 16 submission date to review the plans and issue a report. DHCD estimates more than \$280 million from five federal resources could be available to the District for housing and community development initiatives throughout the five-year plan. These estimates are based on historical data comprised of previous allocations, unspent resources and program income. The resources are:

- **The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program** is the District's most flexible funding resource and can be used for both housing and non-housing activities, including those that revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, and improve community facilities, infrastructure and services in low-moderate income communities.
- **The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program** supports building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent, homeownership, or provides direct rental assistance to low-income residents.

- **The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program** provides funding for programs and service supporting homeless individuals and families to engage homeless individuals to help operate shelters, provide essential services to shelter residents, rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless. The Department of Human Services (DHS) administers the program.
- **The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program** makes grants to the District and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. HOPWA funds are distributed to the entire Washington, DC Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (District of Columbia, counties in Northern Virginia, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s Counties, Maryland and parts of West Virginia). The Department of Health (DOH) administers the program.
- **The NHTF** supports the production, preservation, rehabilitation, and operation of housing affordable to extremely low-income households earning less than 30 percent of the area median income (AMI).

For FY2016, the District received allocations of \$13.7 million from CDBG, \$3.9 million from HOME, \$11.1 million from HOPWA, \$1.2 million from ESG. For the first time, the District will receive \$3 million from the new NHTF beginning in FY2017.

“The many tools we use to produce and preserve affordable housing in the District include not only local funds such as the Housing Production Trust Fund, but also federal funding,” said DHCD Director Polly Donaldson. “We’ve spent many months developing our five-year vision for affordable housing and community development initiatives, with substantial input from the public throughout the entire process. We are proud of the hard work that went into this effort, and look forward to receiving HUD’s report.”

Affordable housing is a major focus of Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Administration. She has committed an historic \$100 million to the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) in each of her budgets—an amount that is unprecedented among U.S. cities. She also created a Housing Preservation Strike Force, which in June unveiled six recommendations on how the District can preserve its existing affordable housing covenants set to expire by 2020. Since January 2015, DHCD has produced and preserved over 2,100 affordable housing units in the District. And more is to come. Another 5,300 units of affordable housing—which will house nearly 12,000 District residents—are in the development pipeline.

For more information on the consolidated plan and District’s efforts to preserve and produce affordable housing, go to www.dhcd.dc.gov.

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