

# **CITY OF SLIDELL**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

Prepared for Submission to the U.S Department of HUD  
By the City of Slidell  
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Submitted to HUD: DATE TBD

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## Executive Summary

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

#### 1. Introduction

The City of Slidell 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan is the City's one year plan to implement housing and community development activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides funding for a variety of community development activities to assist low and moderate- income families and households.

It is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended **42 U.S.C. 5301 et.**

This annual action plan represents the fourth year of the City of Slidell's five-year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. It provides a description of the programs and activities proposed for the fiscal year 2023-2024, and it is the City's application to HUD for Community Development Block Grant entitlement funds. All proposed spending less administrative costs, will occur in the lowest income area in Slidell, Census Tract 409 (CT409).

The strategy developed for this plan is based on the priorities that were outlined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. By addressing these priorities, the City hopes to achieve the objectives outlined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

#### 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 City of Slidell developed its annual action plan based on the data presented in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan with additional planning and input from the community. As a result, the following priority needs and goals were established:

**Priority 1: Public Facilities Improvement (High Need)** - Continue revitalization of public facilities/public parks within CT409 to create a more viable community and improve the quality of life for area residents.  
**Quantifiable Goal:** Improvements made to benefit 2041 persons.

**Priority 2: Increased coordination with Service Providers (High Need)** – To assist the City in identifying community needs and to invest in the future of families who may need emergency services, the City will network with service providers including but not limited to those that provide homelessness prevention,

emergency and supportive services and affordable housing. Quantifiable Goal: Network with ten service providers.

**Priority 3: Urgent Need Public Facilities (High Need)**: This is a preemptive and proactive measure to address emergency public facility needs based on an unforeseen disaster. Quantifiable goal: To be determined based on need and funding.

**Priority 4: Urgent Need Public Services (High Need)**: This is a preemptive and proactive measure to address emergency public service needs based on an unforeseen disaster. Quantifiable goal: To be determined based on need and funding.

**Priority 5: Administration and Planning (High Need)**: Provide for administration and planning activities to develop community development strategies and programs needed to carry out activities. Quantifiable goal: Efficient management of CDBG program.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

Significant contributions have been made in the neighborhoods located in the CDBG Target Area, CT409. The following is a highlight of past accomplishments:

#### **CDBG-CV**

In 2020, HUD awarded the City a CDBG-CV allocation of \$288,026 to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. Part of this allocation was utilized to provide WIFI in four area parks located within the CDBG Target Area to provide school children access to internet availability to assist in learning activities. Currently, the remaining CV funds are being used to provide enhanced restroom improvements in three area parks within the CDBG Target Area that include but are not limited to touchless fixtures, improved air circulation and outdoor fans.

#### **2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

**Public Facilities Improvement**: The City's CDBG activities provided funding over the last three years for recreation improvements in Ducksworth Park located within the CDBG Target Area. These activities were based upon priorities established in the Ducksworth Park Plan, adopted by the Planning Commission in August 2019. Elements of the Ducksworth Plan were subsequently incorporated into the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the City's Annual Action Plans. Proposed activities in the action plans include but are but not limited to conversion of a baseball field to a multi-use field, lighting and walking trail. This project is on-going. Prior to 2020, two basketball courts were constructed in Ducksworth Park and a new walking path installed in Possum Hollow Park.

Administration and Planning: The City utilized funds for program administration and planning for the CDBG program and for compliance with all Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations.

#### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City conducted the two public hearings on May 09, 2023 and May 15, 2023. Both meetings solicited public input. Residents, local agencies, and regional organizations were encouraged to provide input and participate in the development of the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. Interested parties had opportunities to comment. The City is engaged in ongoing efforts to increase coordination among the network of service providers that serve community. In accordance with the City's adopted Citizen Participation Plan, the City consulted with local civic leaders and non-profits. The City made citizens aware of the meetings by publishing a public hearing notice in the official journal, *The Farmer*; posting a notice on the public bulletin board at City Hall; and posting a notice on the City website and by informing participants of local and regional meetings staff attended. Furthermore, the Planning Department staff organized several meetings with the Mayor's office and other City departments to gain input on anticipated needs, priorities and to assess problematic areas of concerns. A draft of the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan was made available at the City Planning office during the comment period.

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

All comments received. All were considered.

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

All comments were received. None were rejected.

#### **7. Summary**

The strategy of the 2023-2024 Annual Action plan is to develop a viable community by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for low to moderate-income persons. The primary means towards this end is the development of partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for profit and nonprofit service providers. In analyzing the data from a myriad of sources including public input, the City determined that public facility improvements were the best use of funding. Assessments of future current needs will be conducted during the preparation of each annual plan and will be addressed at that time.

**PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)**

**1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan**

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator		City Planning Department

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

**Narrative (optional)**

The City of Slidell Planning Department is the lead agency responsible for the management and implementation of the CDBG program.

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

The public email contact is [cdbg@cityofslidell.org](mailto:cdbg@cityofslidell.org). The Slidell Planning Department phone number is (985) 646-4320 and correspondence may be directed to CDBG, City of Slidell Planning Department, P.O. Box 828, Slidell, LA 70459.

## **AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)**

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Slidell conducted consultation as part of the planning process in different venues where citizens representing the public, municipal officials, nonprofit agencies, governmental agencies, and the Continuum of Care could assist in preparing this plan. Copies of the 2023-2024 Action Plan were posted on the City of Slidell website, myslidell.com and in the office during the 30 day public review period.

### **Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction’s activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l))**

The City will continue to work with providers, both public and private. City staff continues to seek out opportunities to strategize with a number of organizations that address short-term and long-term community needs through participation in local and regional meetings. Furthermore, the City has increased communications with the public housing authority and is engaged in efforts and initiatives to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers, as well as private and governmental health, mental health, and social service agencies. These organizations include but are not limited to Housing Louisiana, Commission on Families and the Northlake Homeless Coalition. In an effort to encourage the development of affordable housing opportunities, the City will continue to network with non-profit organizations which provide programs and services for low-income households, in addition to representatives of the private sector, including financial and housing development groups. The City consults with other agencies as needed, depending on the nature of current and future projects.

### **Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.**

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is an integrated system offering a comprehensive array of housing and supportive services designed to prevent and end homelessness. A CoC must have a community plan to organize and deliver housing services and supportive services to meet the specific needs of the homeless as they move to stable housing and self-sufficiency. HUD identifies four necessary parts of a continuum:

- Outreach, intake, and assessment;
- Emergency shelter;
- Transitional housing with supportive services;
- Permanent & permanent supportive housing with services, if needed.

The City of Slidell supports the Region IX Continuum of Care (CoC), the Northlake Homeless Coalition (NHC). The purpose of the organization is to influence local homeless policy, locate and secure funding for

homeless services, and administer and evaluate homeless programs to meet community needs. Its offers comprehensive homelessness prevention services; services to people who are currently homeless and housing resources to reduce chronic homelessness. Participation in this organization assists the City's outreach into the community.

**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS**

The City of Slidell does not receive ESG funds. For those organizations that do participate in the ESG program, the Northlake Homeless Coalition determines which community programs to fund, and it also evaluates the outcomes of activities. The CoC plays a major role in the gathering and reporting of homeless data with the "Point-in-Time" count. The information gathered, which includes data counts within the City of Slidell, helps create continuum-wide performance measures that are used to evaluate performance and determine resource allocations for the COC.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**



**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Northlake Homeless Coalition
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly                      Persons Services-Persons                      with                      Disabilities Services-Persons                      with                      HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness                      Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through formal and informal meetings. Outcome to increase awareness and improve coordination of services.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	St. Tammany Community Action Agency
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly                      Persons Services-Persons                      with                      Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Employment Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness                      Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through formal and informal meetings. Outcome to increase awareness and improve coordination of services.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Slidell Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA Services - Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public                      Housing                      Needs Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through formal and informal meetings, telephone calls, and emails.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Safe Harbor
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through informal community meetings that addressed the needs of domestic violence. Outcome to increase awareness and improve coordination of services.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Northshore Families Helping Families
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through informal community meetings that addressed the services and needs of the disabled. Outcome to increase awareness and improve coordination of services.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Northshore Housing Alliance
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through formal and informal meetings that address the need of affordable housing. Outcome to increase awareness and improve coordination of services.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	NID -HCA Housing Counseling Agency/ Achieve Realty
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Business Leaders

<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Counseling
<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Through formal meetings that addressed advocacy for fair housing. Outcome to increase fair housing opportunities.

**Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting**

During the preparation of the FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, the City consulted and coordinated with many organizations to determine need and to develop annual goals. Time and financial resources limit the ability to consult with all possible agencies serving residents, though a focused effort has been made each year to expand on these efforts.

**Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan**

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Lead Organization</b>	<b>How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?</b>
Continuum of Care	Northlake Homeless Coalition	Identifies gaps in homeless services and formulate initiatives to address gaps.
Regional	Northshore Housing Alliance	Initiative aimed at addressing Northshore housing needs and to create a network of partners to ensure collaboration across the Northshore region.

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

The purpose of the CDBG program is to develop integrated strategies to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for low and moderate- income persons. The primary means towards this end is the development of partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for profit and nonprofit organizations. The Annual Action Plan is an application for funds under HUD's formula grant program. The 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan combined with the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan act as a blueprint to be followed in carrying CDBG activities.

## **AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

### **1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City of Slidell Planning Department is the lead agency administering the CDBG Program. The City adhered to procedures outlined in the adopted Citizen Participation Plan in the development of the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan.

- The first public hearing was held in the planning stage of the plan and the second hearing was held at the onset of the 30 day comment period;
- Notices of the public hearings were placed on the City webpage [myslidell.com](http://myslidell.com) with a link to the summary of the annual plan;
- Public notices were published in the St. Tammany Farmer which is the official journal of the City prior to the public hearings;
- Various organizations were notified;
- Local units of government were notified.

The efforts summarized above achieve the HUD objective and have been utilized, as appropriate, during the public hearing process.

### Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	A public notice was published stating that that two public hearings would be held and that a draft plan of the Annual Action Plan would be available for public comment.	Comments to expand public notice beyond newspaper publication.	All comments were considered.	
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Two public hearings were held to gather public comment.	Comments to expand recreation improvements in Ducksworth Park.	All comments were considered.	
3	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	A summary of the Annual Action Plan was made available on the City website <a href="http://myslidell.com">myslidell.com</a> . No comments were received.	No comments were received.	Not Applicable	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

## Expected Resources

### AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

#### Introduction

The following table outlines the allocation received from the HUD. Eighty percent (80%) is targeted to project activities and twenty percent (20%) to administration and planning activities. Slidell anticipates it will receive \$159,439 as its CDBG allocation for PY 2023-2024. In the event that the anticipated allocated amount changes, the same 80/20 ratio will apply

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	159,439	0	0	159,439	160,000	CDBG funds allocated for the third year of the ConPlan are \$159,439. The City expects no program income or other types of HUD funding. CDBG funds will finance public facility improvements. CDBG funds are leveraged with other funding sources when possible.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

**Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied**

There are no matching requirements for the CDBG program. A Land and Water Conservation Grant was secured by the City and will provide additional resources for the Ducksworth Park Multi-Year Plan. Additional program funding is constantly being researched using the City's grant management staff and consultant.

**If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan**

Ducksworth Park is a municipally owned park where major improvements will be completed utilizing CDBG funds.

CDBG resources are allocated to activities that address the needs of the low and moderate- income community. These needs would not be met without CDBG resources.

**Discussion**

CDBG resources are allocated to recreation improvements in Ducksworth Park located within the CDBG Target Area. The improvements designated for Ducksworth Park will provide recreation amenities in this low and moderate- income community. These needs would not be met without CDBG resources.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Public Facility Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area CT409	Public Facilities Improvements	CDBG: \$127,551	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2041 Persons Assisted
2	Foster Coordination with Service Organizations	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area CT409	Increased coordination with service providers	CDBG: \$0	Other: 10 Other



## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Public Facility Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area CT409	Public Facilities Improvements	CDBG: \$127,551	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2041 Persons Assisted
2	Foster Coordination with Service Organizations	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area CT409	Increased coordination with service providers	CDBG: \$0	Other: 10 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Urgent Needs: Public Facility Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area CT409	Urgent Need	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2041 Persons Assisted
4	Urgent Needs: Public Service Activities	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG Target Area CT409	Urgent Need	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Administration and Planning	2020	2024	Planning and Administration	CDBG Target Area CT409	Public Facilities Improvements Increased coordination with service providers Urgent Need	CDBG: \$31,888	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

### Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facility Improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	To provide public improvements including but not limited to improvements and upgrades to area parks.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Foster Coordination with Service Organizations
	<b>Goal Description</b>	To increase networking with organizations that assist the low and moderate-income community.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Urgent Needs: Public Facility Improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	To provide public facility improvements that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that result from a serious and/or immediate emergency that threaten the health or welfare of the community.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Urgent Needs: Public Service Activities
	<b>Goal Description</b>	To provide public services that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that result from a serious and/or immediate emergency that threatens the health or welfare of the community.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Administration and Planning
	<b>Goal Description</b>	To provide administration and planning activities to ensure efficient implementation of the program.

## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

#### Introduction

The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan determined the prioritization of CDBG funds. The 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan defines activities that are aligned with the Consolidated Plan. Eligible activities included in this allocation are recreation improvements; increased coordination with service organizations; urgent need public facilities; urgent need public services; and planning and administration. The City will focus on public facility improvements – public parks for the PY 2023-2024 CDBG allocation.

#### Projects

#	Project Name
1	Public Facility Improvements - Parks and Recreation
2	Foster Coordination with Service Organizations
3	Urgent Needs Public Facility Improvements
4	Urgent Needs: Public Services
5	Planning and Administration

Table 7 - Project Information

#### Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

Priorities were based on citizen input and community needs. Rising construction costs due to inflation and limited contractor participation present a significant obstacle and challenge in carrying out proposed activities.

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**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Facility Improvements - Parks and Recreation
	<b>Target Area</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Facility Improvements
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Facilities Improvements
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$127,552
	<b>Description</b>	Improvements will be made to area parks.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Estimates indicate that 586 low to moderate- income families within the target area may benefit from improvements to public parks.
	<b>Location Description</b>	CDBG Target Area CT 409
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Improvements will be made to area parks.
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Foster Coordination with Service Organizations
	<b>Target Area</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Foster Coordination with Service Organizations
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Increased coordination with service providers
	<b>Funding</b>	: 0
	<b>Description</b>	Increase networking with organizations that assist the low to moderate-income community.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Increase networking with organizations that assist the low to moderate-income community.
	<b>Location Description</b>	250 Bouscaren St. Slidell, LA 70458
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Increase networking with the organizations that provide services that may assist the low to moderate-income community.
3	<b>Project Name</b>	Urgent Needs Public Facility Improvements
	<b>Target Area</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Urgent Needs: Public Facility Improvements

	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Urgent Need
	<b>Funding</b>	: 0
	<b>Description</b>	The purpose of this project is to provide public facility improvements that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that are a serious immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	To Be Determined
	<b>Location Description</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	To provide public facility improvements based on needs resulting from an emergency or disaster.
4	<b>Project Name</b>	Urgent Needs: Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Urgent Needs: Public Service Activities
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Urgent Need
	<b>Funding</b>	: 0
	<b>Description</b>	To provide public services that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that pose a serious immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	To Be Determined
	<b>Location Description</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	To provide public services that have a particular urgency and are designed to alleviate existing conditions that pose a serious immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	CDBG Target Area CT409
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Administration and Planning

<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Urgent Need
<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$31,887
<b>Description</b>	Administration and planning of the CDBG program.
<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Estimates indicate that 586 low to moderate- income families may benefit from activities administered through the CDBG program.
<b>Location Description</b>	250 Bouscaren St., Slidell, LA
<b>Planned Activities</b>	Administrative and Planning Activities



## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

**Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed**

Assistance will be directed to the CDBG Target Area CT 409.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
CDBG Target Area CT409	100

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

#### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

CT 409 has been the target area in previous years and needs have been identified in various public meetings in preparation for previous plans and this current plan. This area has the highest concentration of low and moderate- income households. Over the years, CDBG investment in the target area provided several community enhancements including but not limited to drainage improvements, sidewalk construction, recreation improvements, restroom improvements in public parks and Wi-Fi availability in public parks. Because of this concentrated investment, Census Tract 409 has benefited from consistent public facility and infrastructure upgrades.

#### **Discussion**

The goal of the target area is to take the limited funding the City receives and invest in a neighborhood community that has been historically underserved.

## Affordable Housing

### AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

#### Introduction

There are limited opportunities and funding available to provide affordable housing in Slidell. The Slidell 2040 Comprehensive Plan states that affordable housing in Slidell is often in poor condition. Most of the multifamily rental units located in Slidell are luxury apartments with rent beyond that which low and moderate - income families can afford. Demand for buildable land, high homeowner's insurance and high flood insurance costs present a huge market barrier for low and moderate income families. In addition, misconceptions of perceived crime, decreased property values, overwhelmed schools and increased traffic congestion pose major deterrents to affordable housing development. Affordable housing provided by the Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) fund is restricted due to the prevalence of affluent households living in St. Tammany Parish which decreases St. Tammany Parish's and Slidell's competitiveness for funds. There are only 158 LIHTC units available within Slidell and the Housing Choice Voucher Program has only 612 units available.

In the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the following affordable housing goals are listed.

- Goal: Increase access to affordable homeownership.
  - Strategy: Support credit counseling and homeownership education.
  - Strategy: Use public land and adjudicated properties as an in-kind subsidy for affordable development in areas with access to jobs and services.
  - Strategy: Provide additional temporary and permanent shelter for homeless residents of Slidell.
  - Strategy: Expand opportunities for accessory dwellings in single-family neighborhoods in proximity to schools, services, and employment opportunities.
- Goal: Ensure that renters and homeowners have access to a safe and healthy housing.
  - Strategy: Continue to actively enforce Slidell's Property Maintenance Code and respond to calls from renters about housing quality issues that their landlords refuse to correct.
- Goal: Increase climate-resilient housing stock.
  - Strategy: Mitigate and prevent environmental issues that disproportionately affect affordable housing development in Slidell.
  - Strategy: Evaluate the environmental constraints that create challenges with developing market based and subsidized affordable housing.

- Strategy: Improve regulations so designs and specifications for new homes incorporate resilient elements, such as residential-scale green infrastructure and energy efficient windows.
- Strategy: Provide incentives for incorporating green infrastructure beyond requirements.

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported</b>	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	0

**Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement**

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rental Assistance	612
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	612

**Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**

### **Discussion**

The numbers represented above include assistance to homeless families through the Section 8 and the Public Housing Program. The City is not the responsible agency for operation and management of the Slidell Housing Authority programs and facilities.

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The Slidell Housing Authority was established pursuant to the U. S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended. It provides safe, decent and affordable housing to low-income families.

### **Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing**

The Slidell Housing Authority works directly with HUD to address public housing needs.

### **Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership**

The housing authority under the purview of HUD holds regular public meetings.

### **If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance**

The Slidell Housing Authority is a troubled PHA due to a “substantial default” of its federal contract. HUD appointed two recovery administrators, and promoted the deputy director as interim director.

HUD has reopened the authority’s Slidell offices, drafted two agency plans, begun new procurement actions and started holding regular public meetings. There is no CDBG assistance from the City directed to the Slidell Housing Authority.

The City has appointed the Planning Director as the signatory agent for the City when acting as the Responsible Entity when conducting Environmental Reviews and other corroborative actions as needed to assist the Slidell Housing Authority resolve its status and programmatic issues.

### **Discussion**

The City is committed to working with the Housing Authority to provide equal access to housing services and providing safe, decent and affordable housing. The City promotes removing barriers to fair housing and equal opportunity and furthering self-sufficiency and economic opportunity for its residents.

## **AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)**

### **Introduction**

The City addresses homelessness through its participation in the local Continuum of Care (CoC). This organization consists of agencies and service providers that provide a unified approach to serving the homeless in Region IX.

### **Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including**

#### **Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

The City of Slidell plans to coordinate with the Northlake Homeless Coalition. Staff will attend meetings and keep current on issues that address homeless persons; and when opportunities are available, serve on committees that address homelessness prevention. As need arises, the City may provide information and referral services to help individuals and families avoid homelessness. This includes and is not limited to the following:

- extremely low income individuals and families;
- those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions);
- those receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs;
- the chronically homeless.

#### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The City will continue to participate in the Continuum and coordinate with those organizations that provide emergency shelter and transitional housing needs.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again**

The City has no direct funding in this program year to address chronic homelessness. Local resources from various non-profit organizations provide homeless prevention. They provide a wide range of services to

address transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing and supportive services to prevent the recently homeless from becoming homeless again. The CoC member organizations utilize HMIS.

To overcome the gaps in delivery of homeless services or other community development services, the City will work together with homeless prevention organizations and other service providers.

**Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.**

The member organizations of the CoC address the needs of low-income households to avoid becoming homeless. Information and referral between organizations guides those who contact them for assistance. The City will continue to attend the local CoC meetings to stay current with homeless resources and help address issues that face individuals and families facing homelessness.

#### **Discussion**

As outlined in the City's five year Consolidated Plan, the City will work together with homeless prevention organizations and service providers to addressing homeless prevention.

## **AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)**

### **Introduction:**

Public policies directly and indirectly impact affordable housing; both positively and negatively. Local government cannot control many factors that tend to restrict the housing supply. For example, a primary challenge for affordable housing identified in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is the prevalence of floodplains and wetlands. Many residential areas are in high-risk flood zones. The **2017 Assessment of Fair Housing** for the City of Slidell states that it is far more difficult to create new publicly supported housing units and compete for housing funds—including HUD funding—when large areas of the city are in the floodplain. Other barriers that contribute to affordable housing are as follows:

- Rising inflation which is expected to tighten credit for homebuyers. This restricts the home buying market for low and moderate- income buyers. The City of Slidell does not have any specific public policy that affects the home buying market other than those costs associated with regulatory building codes established for the overall public good;
- Limited Land availability within the city limits;
- Aging Housing Stock;
- Rising Construction Costs;
- Rising Costs of Homeowner’s Insurance and Flood Insurance;
- NIMBYism;
- Resources for Affordable Housing Development;
- Maintenance Challenges for Aging Housing;
- Prevalence of Single-Family Ownership Housing;
- Access to Publicly-Supported Housing for Persons with Disabilities.

**Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment**

The City has contracted a planning consultant to examine its zoning ordinance to identify code regulations and policies that may serve as barriers to affordable housing and will explore new avenues to promote affordable housing.

### **Discussion:**

Slidell’s housing and land development policies and codes do not reduce the availability of affordable housing, but do limit the availability of transitional middle housing. All housing development has to meet the standard regulations as set by the State of Louisiana when adopting the International Building Code, the updated Fire Safety Code, and the International Electrical Code.

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

Despite its best attempts, obstacles remain that hinder the City's ability to fully meet the underserved needs of the community.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City will continue to strategically search for new funding for community development activities, and it will provide outreach and general support to social service providers which provide an array of community services. The City of Slidell will spend 100% of its CDBG allocation to benefit the LMI residents in the CDBG Target Area.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City will continue to encourage affordable housing by collaborating with public and private housing organizations. Staff will stay up-to-date on issues that affect affordable housing and identify gaps left by State and Federal programs.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City will continue to educate the public about the dangers of lead based paint.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

The following strategies may be taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families:

- Actively pursue methods to attract businesses that will generate more employment opportunities;
- Coordinate with businesses to increase the number of jobs available, especially higher waged jobs, for low and moderate- income persons;
- Coordinate with the local School Board and Northshore Technical College to generate education and training to prepare individuals for employment.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The City of Slidell Planning Department works closely with Parish-wide service organizations who identify underserved needs and provide programs to meet those needs. Maintaining open lines of communication allows ample opportunity for community input and awareness and helps ensure that the goals and



objectives outlined in the PY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan are effectively addressed.

**Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies**

Reaffirming relationships with community organizations in the areas of affordable housing, community development, and homeless prevention enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. Over the course of the program year, the City will seek to build on existing relationships and establish new connections with community partners.

**Discussion:**

Enhancing coordination with community organizations, assists the City in creating an environment whereby families can recover from economic hardships. Cultivating and strengthening relationships help improve the delivery of services that lead to self-sufficiency.

## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

#### Introduction:

Described below are the Program Specific Requirements for each of these programs. In the implementation of programs and activities under the FY 2023-24 Annual Action Plan, the City will follow all HUD regulations concerning the use of program funds and overall low- and moderate-income benefit for the CDBG program.

#### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. The City of Slidell uses 80% of allocated CDBG funds for activities and 20% of the funds for administration. 100% of activity funds benefit low and moderate income individuals and families.	100.00%

## Attachments

**Citizen Participation Comments**



## The City of Slidell

Greg Cammer  
Mayor

PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
250 Bouscaren Street, Suite 203, Slidell, LA 70458  
P. O. Box 828, Slidell, LA 70459  
Phone (985) 646-4320 • Fax (985) 646-4356 • [www.slidell.la.gov](http://www.slidell.la.gov)

David McElmerney  
City Manager

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Slidell invites public review and comment on the City's 2023-2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan.

The 2023-2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan identifies the specific projects the City will fund with Community Development Block Grant Funds. The City anticipates receiving \$159,439 in CDBG funds for 2023. The City proposes to utilize 80 % of the received allocation for project activities in area parks with in the CDBG Target Area CT409 and 20% for Administration and Planning.

The Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages citizen participation in the Community Block Grant Program. Proposed amendments include but may not be limited to the following: flexibility in publishing notices of public hearings, definition of substantial amendment and addition of definitions to add clarity.

As part of the public review process, the City will hold two public hearings for public comment, Tuesday, May 9, 2023 from 1:30pm to 2:30pm, and Monday, May 15, 2023 from 6pm to 7pm. Both meetings will be held in the Mayor's Community Meeting Room, First Floor, 2055 Second Street, Slidell LA 70458.

All residents, particularly low to moderate income persons, are encouraged to attend one or both public hearings. On-street and municipal lot parking is available. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. Virtual/remote attendance is available and the attendance link will be posted at least 24 hours prior to each meeting on the City's website, or the link can be obtained by contacting the City's CDBG program. To request the meeting link, a particular accommodation, or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact [cdbg@cityofslidell.org](mailto:cdbg@cityofslidell.org) or call 985-646-4320 during weekday business hours.

A draft of the action plan and the citizen participation plan will be available for review at the City of Slidell Planning Department from 8:30am to 3:30pm, Monday through Friday and on the City's website at [www.myslidell.com](http://www.myslidell.com) from May 10, 2023 through June 12, 2023. To comment or ask questions, email [cdbg@cityofslidell.org](mailto:cdbg@cityofslidell.org), call 985-646-4320, or deliver written requests to CDBG, c/o Planning Department, 250 Bouscaren St., Ste. 203, Slidell, LA 70458.

PLEASE PUBLISH TWO TIMES:

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Wednesday, May 03, 2023

**ST. TAMMANY  
FARMER**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY  
PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

The hereto attached notice  
was published in  
**THE ST. TAMMANY FARMER,**  
a weekly newspaper of general  
circulation within the Parish of  
St. Tammany, in the  
following issues:

4/26/2023, 5/3/2023

  
Joy Newman, Public Notices Representative

Sworn and subscribed before me by the person whose signature appears above  
5/3/2023



M. Monic McChristian,  
Notary Public ID# 88293  
State of Louisiana  
My Commission Expires: Indefinite



City of Slidell Planning Dept  
Daria Martin  
PO Box 828  
Slidell, LA 70459

34868

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Slidell invites public review and comment on the City's 2023-2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan.

The 2023-2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan identifies the specific projects the City will fund with Community Development Block Grant Funds. The City anticipates receiving \$159,439 in CDBG funds for 2023. The City proposes to utilize 80% of the received allocation for project activities. It does qualify with in the CDBG Target Area C1409 and 20% for Administration and Planning.

The Citizen Participation Plan provides for and encourages citizen participation in the Community Block Grant Program. Proposed amendments include but may not be limited to the following: Feasibility in publishing notices of public meetings, definition of substantial street repair and addition of definitions in add clarity.

As part of the public review process, the City will hold two public hearings for public comment, Tuesday, May 9, 2023 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm, and Wednesday, May 10, 2023 from 6pm to 7pm. Both meetings will be held in the Mayor's Community Meeting Room, First Floor, 2032 Second Street, Slidell LA 70458.

All residents, particularly low to moderate income persons, are encouraged to attend one or both public hearings. On street and municipal parking is available. We strive to host inclusive, supportive events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. Virtual remote attendance is available and the attendance link will be posted at least 24 hours prior to each meeting on the City's website, or the link can be obtained by contacting the City's CDBG program. To request the meeting link, a particular accommodation, or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact [cdbg@slidell.org](mailto:cdbg@slidell.org) or call 985-646-4320 during regular business hours.

A draft of the urban plan and the urban participating plan will be available for review at the City of Suidell Planning Department from 8:30am to 3:30pm, Monday through Friday and on the City's website at [www.musnell.net](http://www.musnell.net), from May 10, 2023 through June 12, 2023. To comment or ask questions, email [cd@cd.org](mailto:cd@cd.org), call 213-646-2370, or deliver written requests to CD/C, c/o Planning Department, 250 Buena Vista St., Ste. 211, Suidell, LA 70158. 34886-AP20- MAY 3-21





# The City of Slidell

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

2511 Houssiere Street, Suite 201, Slidell, LA 70458

P. O. Box 638, Slidell, LA 70457

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Greg Crumier  
*Mayor*

Daniel W. McElmurray  
*City Manager*

### **PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2022-20230**

Mayor's Community Room  
May 9, 2023  
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Welcome

Introduction of Staff/Elected Officials/Community Leaders

**Purpose:** Present the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments to the City of Slidell Citizen Participation Plan

Overview of CDBG

2023-2024 Annual Action Plan

- General Framework
- 2022-2023 Projects
- Previous Projects

Substantial Amendments Citizen Participation Plan

- Amendment to change the minimum date to publish hearing prior to meetings
- Including Equity Plan as document requiring public notification
- Changing definition of substantial amendment
- Adding definitions

Questions or Comments

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING**  
**2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN & PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS**  
**May 9, 2023 1:30-2:30 PM**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC HEARING:**

Tekla Reichel opened the public hearing for the CDBG program. She stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to provide citizens with information about the Community Development Block Grant program and the City's submission of the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, in addition to proposed amendments to the City's Citizen Participation Plan.

A PowerPoint presentation followed. Staff presented an overview of CDBG and explained that funds must be spent on projects benefiting primarily low and moderate-income persons. Ms. Reichel read several eligible activities including but not limited to examples of public service activities, economic development activities and public facility activities such as sidewalk improvements and improvements to public parks.

Staff addressed the use of the 2023-2024 CDBG funds and outlined past achievements. Citizen participation amendments were discussed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sandy Hicks expressed concern about the meeting notification. She stated that the official journal, *The Forner*, was not widely circulated and that the City website is not generally viewed. She questioned why improvements to other parks were progressing and why the progress in Ducksworth Park was so slow. She mentioned that the past projects listed in the PowerPoint were done years ago. She also wanted to know why the timeframe to publish public notices about public hearings was being reduced.

The response to Sandy Hicks included:

- Regarding meeting notification, staff responded that sufficient notification is a problem facing many communities throughout the country – emailing residents was not feasible and general alerts were for emergency use only; and by reducing the number of days for public notice made the public more aware of the meeting date.
- Regarding the slow progress in Ducksworth Park, it was stated that the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant is being combined with CDBG funds to fully fund the current scope of work. Planning Director Daniel McMurray explained that since COVID, construction costs have escalated dramatically; by combining LWCF funds and CDBG funds from several years' allocation, progress was advancing. He said the multi-use field project was at 95% design completion and that the goal was to use all CDBG funds through 2024 for the improvements in the park.

Jesse Bolden also inquired about why the improvements in Ducksworth Park were not moving forward at a faster pace. He said the City should be using City labor to provide smaller improvements to the park. An example he presented was the sinking concrete in front of the concession stand and requested this minor repair be addressed as soon as possible. He also asked if staff had visited the park and invited everyone to tour the park to see firsthand the areas in need of improvement.

Jesse Bolden stated that the Wi-Fi in all four parks did not work. He wanted to know what was a multi-use field was and what sports were played on it. He said that the bathrooms were locked and that the lighting in the park was removed.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING  
2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN & PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS  
May 9, 2023 1:30-2:30 PM**

Response: Staff noted his remarks, explained some possible sports to be played on the multi-use field, and said that repairs to the Wi-Fi were imminent. These concerns are also going to be passed along to the director of parks and recreation for the City.

Freddy Pichon stated that the ditches in the park were hazardous and had many mosquitos. He was not happy about the poor conditions in the park.

Response: Staff acknowledged his concerns and indicated his concerns would be passed along to the departments who do this work.

Staff noted the common concern among the participants was the lack of available capital funds targeted for improvements to other City parks is not perceived as being available to make similar improvements at Ducksworth Park. Director McElmurray explained the escalating costs of doing work and difficulties of contracting for projects in the post-COVID economy, as well as confirming to participants that the funding for lighting and water fountain improvements is still in the budget for implementation but would need to be wrapped in with a more cost effective larger project.

The public hearing was adjourned at 2:40pm.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Betty Thomas  
Sandy Hicks  
Jesse Balden  
Freddy Pichon  
Landon T. Washington

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Leslie Denham, Council Person District A  
Danny McElmurray, Planning Director  
Tekla Reichel, CDBG Administrator  
Theresa Alexander, Planner

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

**Public Hearing  
2023-2024 Annual Action Plan and  
Proposed Citizen Participation Plan Amendments**

May 9, 2023  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

NAME	AGENCY	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Beth Thomas		985-690-8709	beththomas@yaho
Sandy Hicks		704-748-4160	Sandy.Hicks@carroll
Teresa Butler		985-685-9345	jessjbt50@gmail.c
Leslie Leatham		985-718-7121	ldeletham@cityofsh
Freddy Pickett		985-285-1962	F.Pickett@carroll.co
Lambert Williamson		985-960-0746	lambert.williamson@carroll.co



## The City of Slidell

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Greg Cromer  
*Mayor*

Daniel W. McElmurray  
*Director*

### **PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2022-20230**

Mayor's Community Room  
May 15, 2023  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Welcome

Introduction of Staff/Elected Officials/Community Leaders

Purpose: Present the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments to the City of Slidell Citizen Participation Plan

2023-2024 Annual Action Plan Power Point

Overview of Substantial Amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan

Questions or Comments

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING  
2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN & PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS  
May 15, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC HEARING:**

Daniel McElmurray opened the public hearing for the CDBG program.

Tekia Reichel stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to provide citizens with information about the Community Development Block Grant program and the City's submission of the *2023-2024 Annual Action Plan*, in addition to proposed amendments to the City's *Citizen Participation Plan*.

A PowerPoint presentation followed. Staff presented an overview of CDBG and explained that funds must be spent on projects benefiting primarily low and moderate-income persons. Ms. Reichel read several eligible activities including but not limited to examples of public service activities, economic development activities and public facility activities such as sidewalk improvements and improvements to public parks.

Staff addressed the use of the 2023-2024 CDBG funds and outlined past achievements. Citizen participation amendments were discussed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sandy Hicks inquired about an amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan, specifically regarding the reference to budget revisions. The proposed amendment changes the definition of substantial amendment from "budget changes of the annual allocation that exceed 10%" to now read "revisions of equal or greater than 50% of the annual allocation." Ms. Hicks asked if this referred to changes of activities.

Staff response noted:

- The City does not receive a large annual allocation and when necessary change orders exceed the current 10% limit, the City must follow its citizen participation plan and schedule public hearings and a 30 day review period potentially resulting in the delay of completion of an activity or project.
- Change in the City's activities including the removal of or addition new activities will remain as a substantial amendment.

Ms. Hicks also asked staff why the Equity Plan was added to the Citizen Participation Plan and what was the purpose of the plan.

The response to Sandy Hicks included:

- The Equity plan was a new proposal by HUD to further fair and affordable housing, creating benchmarks the City must achieve. Final regulations are still pending.
- Including the Equity Plan as part of Citizen Participation Plan amendments was a proactive measure so as not to delay implementation of the proposed Equity Plan.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING  
2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN & PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS  
May 15, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM**

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

**Minority Contractors and Section 3**

There was a general discussion about the lack of minority contractors hired to fulfill CDBG contracts, excessive insurance standards and the applicability of Section 3 to awarded contracts.

Mr. Pichon stated that he knew many minority contractors who did not want to apply for City contracts because of high insurance standards.

The response included:

- Recognition of the requirements for insurance coverage as a factor in limiting small contractors from bidding for jobs.
- MBE contractors are encouraged to apply for contracts.
- Section 3 applies to contracts over \$200,000.
- Contractors cannot be made to fire workers to hire Section 3 workers.
- Section 3 hiring practices apply to new hires only.
- Contractors are required to have a Section 3 Plan, as well as subcontractors.
- Section 3 requires additional benchmarks to be fulfilled by the contractor; when contractor does not meet or cannot meet benchmarks, the City assumes the responsibility to fulfill the obligation.
- Staff researched minority owned contractors on the HUD portal, but none were listed for Sldell at the time of the search.
- Participants will assist in establishing a Section 3 contractor list.

**Increasing Awareness of meeting notification and accessibility:**


Participants were concerned about limited notification of meetings. Suggestions to increase awareness included the following:

- Radio announcements
- Info table at community events and festivals
- Mail out flyers
- engage the Council on Aging
- have a phone/text tree similar to a PTA or other community group
- There was a suggestion to hold community meetings at the Viner Center.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:25pm.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:**

- Sandy Hicks
- Freddy Pichon
- Landon T. Washington



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING  
2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN & PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS  
May 15, 2023 6:00-7:00 PM**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

- Leslie Denham, Council Person District A
- Danny McElmurray, Planning Director
- Tekla Reichel, CDBG Administrator
- Theresa Alexander, Planner



**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

**Public Hearing  
2023-2024 Annual Action Plan and  
Proposed Citizen Participation Plan Amendments**

May 15, 2023

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NAME	AGENCY	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Sandy Hicks		700-748-4160	Sandy.hicks@pgh.gov
Lorely T. Harrison		985-920-5744	lorely.harrison@pgh.gov
Theresa Alexander		985-285-6805	thalexander0217@gmail.com
Fredrickson	Council	985-285-1162	FJ.Pickover@pgh.gov
Lestid Denham	Planning Department	985-646-4320	dancelmurray@pgh.gov
Dannay McElroy			

Annual Action Plan  
2023