

## **2019-2024 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan DRAFT Summary**

In 2004 the City of Morristown became designated as a “Metropolitan Statistical Area” (MSA) by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This designation is derived from formulas utilizing census data regarding areas such as population, household income, local housing stock attributes, etc. As a HUD designated MSA Morristown became eligible for a yearly allotment of funding for community development projects through the “Community Development Block Grant” (CDBG) program. The amount of funds the City receives each year is determined by the same data and formulas described above once overall national funding levels are decided in Washington, D.C. The intent of the grant funds is to provide decent housing, provide suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunities, primarily for low and moderate-income persons.

The CDBG program required the City to develop and utilize a “Community Participation Plan” (CPP) to assure community involvement in determining how best to utilize the annual entitlement funds awarded through the CDBG program. This plan was developed and utilized to construct the City’s first required long range Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

The Consolidated Plan/Action Plan creates the opportunity for strategic planning and citizen participation to take place in a comprehensive context and to reduce duplication of effort at the local level. The five-year Strategic Plan/Annual Action Plan for housing and community development is the result of an extensive needs assessment and community outreach process by the City of Morristown. By gathering and applying a wide variety of research data and community input, the City of Morristown has developed this comprehensive approach to housing and community revitalization. This effort will outline the goals and priorities that will serve as the overall framework for the 2019-2024 five-year as well as 2019 annual strategy and provide a linkage between these identified priorities and the adopted strategies and programs of the City of Morristown.

As a growing community, the City of Morristown is challenged to balance a diverse array of housing and community development issues. Given the range of competing needs, the City will strive to invest its scarce public resources wisely. Therefore, as a general principle, the City of Morristown will attempt to expend public funds in a way that leverages the commitment of private sector support whenever possible.

The City of Morristown followed two overall guiding principles to create the five-year strategic plan/annual action plan. These principles are based on the following: 1) results from the local citizen participation and consultation process, and 2) response to specific national Consolidated Plan objectives that Congress has set forth for the CDBG and HOME entitlement programs, as outlined below.

- Provide decent, safe, affordable housing
- Provide a suitable living environment
- Expand economic opportunities

A summary of perceived needs discussed during the citizen participation process and contained in the Consolidated Plan/Action Plan is presented below:

- Increase the provision of decent affordable housing
- Reduce blight and blighting influences in the neighborhoods
- End Chronic Homelessness
- Provision of adequate diverse community facilities and neighborhood services
- Increased homeownership and housing options
- \* Public Park improvements/More walking/biking trails
- \* Continued Economic Development
- \* Street and sidewalk repair
- \* Improved fire suppression ability in the historic downtown area
- \* Youth shelters or shelters that include youth
- \* Youth recreation
- \* Improved minority outreach/input

The Consolidated Plan identifies the priority needs established by the community and obstacles that must be addressed. These strategies will continue to be followed over the time period of this Plan (FY2019-FY2024). Priority levels are evaluated and assigned a ranking as follows:

- High Priority: Activities to address this need will be funded by the locality during the five-year period.
- Medium Priority: If funds are available, activities to address this need may be funded by the locality during the five-year period. Also, the locality will take other actions to assist in locating other sources of funds.
- Low Priority: The locality will not fund activities to address this need during the five-year period.
- No Such Need: The locality finds there is no need, or the grantee shows that this need is substantially addressed.

Regarding the first year of the new Five-Year Plan;

Entitlement project funds for the 2019 program year are estimated to be \$299,000.00. Interested parties were encouraged to comment on this plan at the public hearings (April 12, 2019 at 12pm-1pm and April 15, 2019 at 4:30pm-5:30pm) or by May 13, 2019. (See contact information below) The current draft plan proposes funding;

Downtown Signage	\$10,000.00
Downtown Fire Suppression Waterline	\$160,000.00
Homeowner Rehab/Emergency Repair (\$46,042 2018 carryover)	
Business Façade Program	\$50,000.00
MHCS Homeless prevention	\$10,000.00
Breath of Life Men’s Shelter	\$5,000.00
HMIS	\$5,000.00
Administration	<u>\$59,000.00</u>
Total	\$299,000.00

The last two meetings referenced above will be held at the Morristown City Center in the Community Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The final Plan summary will be presented to City Council on May 7, 2019 and submitted to HUD for approval on no later than May 14, 2019.

Data collection involves consultations, interviews, e-mails, surveys, and community meetings. Comments submitted no later than May 13, 2019 will be incorporated into the final document and included as a vital part of the overall Five-Year Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan. You may submit comments by mail, e-mail, phone, fax, or in person to:

Tracy Stroud, Community Development Coordinator  
City of Morristown  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Center-Finance Department  
Physical Address: 100 West First North Street  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1499  
Morristown, TN 37814  
Phone: 423-585-1834  
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E-mail: [tstroud@mymorristown.com](mailto:tstroud@mymorristown.com)