

**SUMMARY OF THE CITY OF TUSCALOOSA’S PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR
CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS, YEARS 2015-2019, AND THE ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR
PROGRAM YEAR 2015**

As an Entitlement City under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the City of Tuscaloosa is required to prepare a Consolidated Plan for each five-year time period. The City of Tuscaloosa’s Consolidated Plan for Community Planning & Development Programs for Program Years 2015-2019 comprehensive planning document that identifies housing and non-housing community development needs for low-income persons, prioritizes those needs and sets for the a strategy for addressing those needs during a five-year period beginning on April 1 , 2015 and ending on March 31, 2019. The Consolidated Plan is the City’s guide for the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities for its citizens, principally those of low and moderate-income.

The City’s proposed Consolidated Plan was developed after holding two public meetings to obtain comments and recommendations from city residents and after consulting with numerous public agencies and non-profit organizations that provide various services to Tuscaloosa residents, primarily those of low-income. U.S. Census statistical data and data from the City’s Consolidated Plan for 2015-2019 were also accessed. The contents of the proposed Consolidated Plan are summarized in the following paragraphs:

I. HOUSING AND HOME NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This section of plan includes an analysis of needs for housing and supportive services for five years for the following groups of city residents: very low-income, low-income and moderate-income families, renters, homeowners, elderly persons, large families, persons with disabilities, and persons living in overcrowded or substandard housing conditions. The needs of homeless persons and others with special needs are also identified. The numbers of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards and those that are occupied by low-income families are estimated.

II. HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

This section of the plan describes the following characteristics of the City's housing market: supply, demand, condition, cost and housing stock available for persons with disabilities and/or HIV/AIDS. One map of the City and descriptions of areas indicate where the City's African American population is concentrated. Another map and descriptions indicate concentrations of the City's low-income population. The section also identifies public housing and other assisted units, including their number and condition, proposed improvement projects for those units and existing shelters for homeless persons.

It identifies public and private agencies and other entities that will assist in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan and coordination efforts among local governments and the State undertaken to develop the plan.

III. STRATEGIES, PRIORITY NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

This section identifies the City's housing and non-housing community development needs which are eligible for funding under the CDBG and HOME Programs, establishes a priority for each need and the City's long and short term objectives for meeting priority needs. The City's priorities for providing housing assistance, ranked according to greatest need, are as follows: 1st Priority – Provision of Housing Assistance to low-Income Renters; 2nd Priority - Provision of Homeownership Opportunities for Low-Income First-Time Homebuyers; 3rd Priority – Provision of Housing Rehabilitation Assistance to Low-Income Homeowners; 4th Priority – Provision of Transitional Shelter Facilities for Homeless Persons; and 5th Priority - Provision of additional Permanent Housing Units for Persons with Mental and Physical Disabilities and Others with Special Housing Needs, such as Elderly Persons.

The City's priorities for non-housing community development needs are described in the plan under the following categories: Public Facilities; Infrastructure; Public Services; Accessibility for People with Disabilities; Residential and Non-Residential Historic Preservation; Economic Development; Planning; and Other Community Development Needs.

This section identifies Federal and other public and private resources that the City plans to access in order to address housing and non-housing community development needs. It also describes plans for involving public housing residents in homeownership programs, proposed actions to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards, the City's Anti-Poverty Strategy, and activities proposed to coordinate and improve housing assistance efforts by public and private agencies.

IV. PROGRAM YEAR 2015 ACTION PLAN

For each year of the Consolidated Plan, an Action Plan must be developed to identify programs and projects which the City intends to undertake during each specific program year with funds received under the CDBG Program, the HOME Program and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program. Those programs are all funded through HUD.

The City will receive \$ 763,369 in 2015 CDBG funds and \$ 281,316 in 2015 HOME funds. The City also anticipates that during the 2015 program year, \$ 275,000 in program income generated from programs funded with CDBG funds and that \$ 30,000 in program income will be generated from HOME funded programs. The City will apply to the State of Alabama for funds under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program.

The Program Year 2015 Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan identifies the activities which the City proposes to be undertaken during the 2015 Program Year, the time period from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. The Action Plan includes HUD forms for applying for grant assistance under the CDBG and HOME Programs, summary lists of the housing and non-housing community development projects and programs which are proposed for funding under the CDBG, HOME, ESG, and other grant programs, and forms describing each separate activity to be undertaken. Also included in the Program Year 2015 Action Plan are descriptions of specific activities which will be undertaken to address the needs of homeless persons and of actions to be taken to provide additional assisted housing for low-income persons and to improve housing assistance efforts.

Following is a summary list of activities which the City and other local agencies propose to undertake during the 2015 Program Year.

CDBG FUNDED ACTIVITIES:

Section 108 Loan Repayment- Principal & Interest	\$122,461
Secret Meals/Brown Bag Program (West AL Food Bank)	\$13,000
“Safe Haven” Program at the Barnes Branch of the YMCA	\$ 5,000
“Meals on Wheels” Program (Community Services Programs of WA)	\$13,000
Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities (PATA)	\$20,000
Music Education Program for Low-Income Children	\$ 7,000

Employment of a Case Manager for Big Brother/Big Sisters	\$16,000
Community Service Learning Activity Program (Family Counseling Service)	\$10,000
HOPE Initiative Summer Jobs Program (COT)	\$20,505
Housing Counseling Program (COT)	\$10,000
CDBG Program Administration and Planning	\$152,673
Safe Routes TO School Sidewalk Project (COT)	\$215,000
Downing Place Neighborhood Improvements (COT)	\$ 78,730
Economic Development Initiative Program (COT)	\$ 80,000

HOME PROGRAM FUNDED ACTIVITIES

CHDO Operating Costs (Community Service Programs of WA)	\$14,065.80
CHDO Set Aside (Community Service Programs of WA)	\$42,197.40
Community Service Programs – Greenwood Park Homeownership	\$60,000
Tuscaloosa Housing Authority –Affordable Housing	\$179,118.20
HOME Program Administration	\$ 28,132.00

ESG AND OTHER FEDERALLY FUNDING HOUSING ACTIVITIES

Operating costs for shelters for the Homeless (The Salvation Army)	\$106,000
Operating costs & essential services for the Spouse Abuse Shelter (Turning Point)	\$50,000
Community Service Programs (Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing)	\$25,000
Emergency Solutions Grant Administration	\$9,000
Public Housing Comprehensive Grant Program - Repairs to existing units (THA)	\$1,179,442
Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)(Tuscaloosa Housing Authority)	\$7,520,143
Homeless Management Information Systems	\$42,000

V. CERTIFICATIONS

This section contains certifications required to be submitted to HUD for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs.

VI. MONITORING

This section describes the standards and procedures that the City will use to monitor activities carried out under the plan to ensure compliance with CDBG, HOME and ESG Program requirements.

The City of Tuscaloosa welcomes citizen comments concerning the proposed Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Community Planning and Development Programs and the One-Year Action Plan for Program Year 2015. Summaries of the proposed Five-Year Plan and the Program Year 2015 Action Plan are available for review at the City's Office of Federal Programs (OFP), located on the second floor of the City Hall Annex Building at 2201 University Boulevard. Summaries of the plans may also be reviewed at the Central Branch of the Tuscaloosa Public Library, located in 1801 Jack Warner Parkway. Also, a public meeting was held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 10:00 A.M and Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. in the Narashino Room in City Hall to discuss the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Program Year 2015 Action Plan and to accept comments.

Comments concerning the recommendations should be submitted to the OFP, P.O. Box 2089, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 (Telephone: 248-5080), and must be received by the department no later than 5:00 P.M. on March 27, 2015. The proposed Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the Program Year 2015 Action Plan and comments concerning the plans will be submitted to the City Council for review and final approval prior to their submission to HUD on or before April 10, 2015.