

City of Cincinnati 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan Recommendations

Revised September 21, 2009

The following Consolidated Plan recommendations address housing, economic development, quality of life, homeless, and non-homeless special population needs. City policies, reports, and plans, and community input were considered in the development of recommendations.

Development Vision Statement

Cincinnati and its neighborhoods will be strengthened by strategic efforts to increase the quality and diversity of housing, reduce crime and blight, and improve the vitality of small neighborhood business districts as well as large employment centers.

Overall Development Goal

Develop and support comprehensive efforts to expand choices and opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Decent housing is affordable, safe, and accessible. A suitable living environment is safe, livable, free from blighting influences, and economically integrating.

Housing Goals

Housing Goal 1: Expand the diversity and quality of the housing stock.

Housing Objective 1 (H-1): Promote and retain affordable homeownership through new construction and renovation of housing units. Priority should be given to the conversion or occupancy of vacant buildings. Affordable and market rate homeownership units should be integrated to create mixed-income housing opportunities. Whenever possible, sustainable, energy-efficient, green building technologies and universal design principles should be used in the development of housing units and sites.

Housing Objective 2 (H-2): Develop and retain rental units that are affordable for persons of low and very low-incomes in a manner that is consistent with City policy. Units should be located near or within neighborhood business districts to create stronger mixed-use districts. Rental units are encouraged to be developed in conjunction with market rate units and in areas with lower levels of poverty to create stable mixed-income communities and support economic integration. Whenever possible, sustainable, energy-efficient, green building technologies and universal design principles should be used in the development of housing units and sites.

Housing Goal 2: Provide supportive services to assist moderate, low and very low-income persons in finding and remaining in housing that is affordable, safe, and accessible.

Housing Objective 3 (H-3): Assist moderate-income renters make the transition to homeownership.

Housing Objective 4 (H-4): Provide assistance to low and very low-income persons in finding and retaining high-quality affordable rental units. The assistance should consider accessibility features, economic integration, proximity to jobs, and access to transportation networks when locating prospective units.

~~**Housing Objective 5:** Provide assistance to low and very low income renters, especially the elderly and those with physical or mental impairments, to allow for continued independent living and self-sufficiency.~~ **Objective deleted. Assistance provided under Objective H-4.*

Housing Objective 5 (H-5): Provide assistance, including housing maintenance services and emergency mortgage assistance, to ensure that low and very-low income homeowners can remain in housing units. **Objective added to address need.*

Housing Objective 6 (H-6): Affirmatively further fair housing in accordance with the Fair Housing Act and the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Hamilton County, Ohio.

Economic Development Goals

Economic Development Goal 1: Promote commercial and industrial development and redevelopment.

Economic Development Objective 1 (ED-1): Support the development of new and expanded retail and office uses through funding assistance and public improvements. Whenever possible, sustainable, energy-efficient and green building technologies should be used in the development of new and expanded uses. Support should be targeted to redevelopment of existing commercial areas, focusing on designated NBDs and prioritizing those within designated Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs). Where necessary, NBDs should be stabilized by reduction in NBD size through housing development in peripheral areas and/or on upper floors of commercial buildings.

Economic Development Objective 2 (ED-2): Encourage the development of new and expanded low-intensity industrial uses and the remediation and redevelopment of vacant and underutilized industrial property into light-industrial or commercial uses. Whenever possible, sustainable, energy-efficient and green building technologies should be used in the development of new and expanded uses. Support in the form of funding assistance and public improvements should be targeted to the designated Strategic Program for Urban Redevelopment (SPUR) districts, prioritizing the traditional industrial corridors in the Mill Creek valley, and to the growth opportunity areas identified by the GO Cincinnati Report (2008). **Request to highlight GO Cincinnati Report reference made at September 15, 2009 Vibrant Neighborhoods Committee Meeting.*

Economic Development Goal 2: Improve the economic conditions of people and organizations in order to promote business development and employment opportunities.

Economic Development Objective 3 (ED-3): Support financial education and technical assistance and capacity building for small businesses, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and low-income individuals. Services should increase the number of financially secure residents; successful, sustainable businesses; and the stability of commercial districts in Cincinnati. **Objective modified to address financial education needs of low-income individuals.*

Economic Development Objective 4 (ED-4): Provide support for job-training and placement services and other employment opportunities for adults and adolescents. Services should target neighborhoods with rising levels of poverty and/or unemployment despite increasing educational and/or income levels. Whenever possible services should foster increased connections between employers and schools.

Quality of Life Goal

Quality of Life Goal: Promote sustainable neighborhoods through elimination of blighting influences and improved health and safety.

Quality of Life Objective 1 (QOL-1): Support the mitigation and/or removal of blighting influences such as non-code compliant buildings and properties; vacant and abandoned buildings and properties; abandoned automobiles; and environmental contamination, including underground storage tanks and lead hazards. Support positive methods of combating blight through development of parks and greenspace, and preservation and renovation of historic properties. Efforts should focus on primarily residential neighborhoods and designated NBDs, prioritizing those areas designated as NRSAs.

Quality of Life Objective 2 (QOL-2): Support health services and reduce lead hazards. Services should target uninsured and low-income individuals and families.

Quality of Life Objective 3 (QOL-3): Support and encourage public facilities improvements. Improvements should focus on primarily residential neighborhoods and designated NBDs, prioritizing those areas designated as NRSAs.

Quality of Life Objective 4 (QOL-4): Provide assistance to people and community groups aggressively working to improve the safety and perception of safety in their neighborhoods through Block Watch, Citizens on Patrol, Community Problem Oriented Policing (CPOP), and other crime reduction activities. Services should focus on primarily residential neighborhoods and designated NBDs, prioritizing those areas designated as NRSAs.

Homeless Population Goals

Homeless Population Goal 1: *Need* — Information regarding the numbers, scope, and needs of homeless persons is accurate and current.

A. Specific to Chronic Homeless

Homeless Population Objective 1 (HP-1): Conduct on an annual basis a point-in-time study to provide accurate data on the number of chronically homeless persons.

B. All Homeless Individuals and Families

Homeless Population Objective 2 (HP-2): Conduct regular audits of the validity of the data in the HMIS system.

Homeless Population Objective 3 (HP-3): Continue the engagement of homeless persons in determining unmet needs.

Homeless Population Objective 4 (HP-4): Expand the process to track and document the causes/issues for recidivism.

Homeless Population Goal 2: *Quantity* –A sufficient quantity of suitable housing is available to meet the needs of the homeless population in the City of Cincinnati and in Hamilton County that is fairly distributed between the City and Hamilton County and is not concentrated in any one area.

A. Specific to Chronic Homeless

Homeless Population Objective 5 (HP-5): Create permanent supportive housing units or tenant based rental assistance to meet the needs of the chronically homeless.

Homeless Population Objective 6 (HP-6): Ensure that housing units for homeless are fairly distributed within the City and Hamilton County.

Homeless Population Objective 7 (HP-7): Ensure that beds and housing units for homeless are not concentrated in any one area based on a population ratio determined by the most recent Census numbers.

B. All Homeless Individuals and Families

Homeless Population Objective 8 (HP-8): Maintain the existing number of emergency shelter beds, as recommended in the *Homeless to Homes* report.

Homeless Population Objective 9 (HP-9): Increase the number of transitional housing beds for single individuals with a fair distribution between areas of the City and Hamilton County, as recommended in the *Homeless to Homes* report.

Homeless Population Objective 10 (HP-10): Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units for single individuals with a fair distribution between areas of the City and Hamilton County, as recommended in the *Homeless to Homes* report.

Homeless Population Objective 11 (HP-11): Continue the provision of permanent supportive housing for homeless persons in appropriate, diversified locations, according to individual need.

Homeless Population Objective 12 (HP-12): Increase temporary emergency shelter beds for families for seasonal overflow and poor economic conditions with a fair distribution between areas of the City and Hamilton County.

Homeless Population Objective 13 (HP-13): Create new scattered-site transitional housing beds and permanent supportive housing options for families with a fair distribution between areas of the City and Hamilton County.

Homeless Population Objective 14 (HP-14): Ensure that beds and housing units for homeless individuals and families are not concentrated in any one area based on a population ratio determined by the most recent Census numbers.

Homeless Population Goal 3: *Quality* – Quality housing and services are available to meet the needs of homeless persons.

A. Specific to Chronic Homeless

Homeless Population Objective 15 (HP-15): Maintain the requirement that all emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities meet Cincinnati's *Minimum Standards for Shelter* prior to approval for funding.

Homeless Population Objective 16 (HP-16): Continue to increase the quality and quantity of case management services.

Homeless Population Objective 17 (HP-17): Create new methods to ensure substance abuse and mental health treatment is sufficiently available to address the needs of the chronically homeless.

Homeless Population Objective 18 (HP-18): Ensure that beds and housing units are compatible with the neighborhood and will not have an adverse impact on the character of the area or the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Homeless Population Objective 19 (HP-19): Develop criteria for good neighbor plans/agreements and require that all new beds or housing units be reviewed and approved by the appropriate reviewing authority for conformance with the good neighbor plan/agreement prior to funding approval.

Homeless Population Objective 20 (HP-20): Any new or additional housing or service programs for the homeless located in the City of Cincinnati must be coordinated with the Department of Community Development and the Department of City Planning and Buildings.

B. All Homeless Individuals and Families

Homeless Population Objective 21 (HP-21): Maintain the requirement that all emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities meet Cincinnati's *Minimum Standards for Shelter* prior to approval for funding.

Homeless Population Objective 22 (HP-22): Continue Front Line Worker Training (FLWT), updating curriculum at least annually based on needs data and expanding offerings to provide training for aides/advocates/ house manager level workers.

Homeless Population Objective 23 (HP-23): Support agency use of HMIS data in determination of program effectiveness and for staff evaluations.

Homeless Population Objective 24 (HP-24): Ensure that beds and housing units are compatible with the neighborhood and will not have an adverse impact on the character of the area or the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Homeless Population Objective 25 (HP-25): Develop criteria for good neighbor plans/agreements and require that all new beds or housing units be reviewed and approved by the appropriate reviewing authority for conformance with the good neighbor plan/agreement prior to funding approval.

Homeless Population Objective 26 (HP-26): Institute a template for case plan maintenance, which will follow the homeless client.

Homeless Population Objective 27 (HP-27): Any new or additional housing or service programs for the homeless located in the City of Cincinnati must be coordinated

with the Department of Community Development and the Department of City Planning and Buildings.

Homeless Population Goal 4: Access/Paradigm Shift - Homeless persons efficiently and effectively obtain any and all mainstream resources and community systems or services for which they are eligible.

A. Specific to Chronic Homeless

Homeless Population Objective 28 (HP-28): Maintain the current level of coordination and services for outreach to chronically homeless street persons and increase the level for young adults and persons with substance abuse issues.

Homeless Population Objective 29 (HP-29): Expand the Central Access Point (CAP) program to enable the single homeless individuals to connect with information and referral services.

B. All Homeless Individuals and Families

Homeless Population Objective 30 (HP-30): Implementation of systems to improve access to housing/services needed by the homeless population exclusive of the chronically homeless.

Homeless Population Objective 31 (HP-31): Maintain the Central Access Point (CAP) program for families to enable homeless families to gain access to emergency shelter or family homelessness prevention services.

Homeless Population Objective 32 (HP-32): Expand the Central Access Point (CAP) program to enable the single homeless individuals to connect with information and referral services.