

## **St. Johns County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds Proposed Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan and 2016-2017 CDBG Action Plan**

### **Notice to Citizens:**

St. Johns County independently receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as an entitlement community. This program is administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the benefit of low/moderate income residents. St. Johns County uses CDBG funds within the unincorporated areas of the County and within the city limits of St. Augustine Beach. The County's other cities do not participate in this particular CDBG program. The County has prepared a Consolidated Plan and an Action Plan as required by HUD to receive CDBG funding. These plans lay out how the funds will be used for qualifying purposes such as projects, programs and administration. St. Johns County is considering a Substantial Amendment to its Consolidated Plan and the 2016-17 Annual Action Plan.

### **Consolidated Plan:**

The Five Year Consolidated Plan was prepared by St. Johns County and includes a discussion of needs and strategies to meet those needs. It was developed with participation from County staff and elected officials, affordable housing and social service providers, and local citizens. Various public hearings, meetings, and discussions were held to obtain citizen input on community needs. As a result of this process the following priorities were developed:

- **Priority #1–Rehabilitation of Existing Housing**-Focus on improving health and safety, code violations, accessibility and sustainability for extremely low to moderate individuals (including but not limited to elderly, disabled and veterans) below 50% AMI.
- **Priority #2– Public Facilities and Infrastructure**- Provision of adequate infrastructure and public facility to ensure their operation at an efficient level of service and enhance the livability of low- and moderate income neighborhoods.
- **Priority #3 – Public Services**-Public service provided will enhance the living environment of the targeted population by addressing basic needs that they do not have nor the economic means to adequately provide for themselves.
- **Priority #4 –Homeless Assistance**- Provide housing and support services to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- **Priority #5 –Affordable Housing**- Increase the supply of affordable rental housing available to very- low, low, moderate, and middle-income residents as well as veterans, elderly, disabled, and homeless persons through new construction or acquisition

### **Funding for 2016-2017:**

For the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, HUD allocated \$799,754 for St. Johns County. The 2016-2017 Action Plan provided for the following expenditures on projects related to the priorities of the Consolidated Plan:

- Home Repair/Rehabilitation – \$208,000 for repair activities county-wide.
- Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities – \$300,402 for drainage improvement activities in West Augustine.
- Public Services – \$40,740 for afterschool tutorial and enrichment programs in West Augustine.
- Homeless Housing Rehabilitation – \$90,661 to repair housing units for 5 homeless households.

The proposed Substantial Amendment will not decrease the amount of money allocated for the projects already identified in the Action Plan. HUD regulations allow for twenty percent (20%) of CDBG funds allocated to the County to be spent on approved administrative costs associated with establishing and maintaining a CDBG program. During the CDBG budgeting process, St. Johns County staff set aside twenty percent (20%) of the 2016-2017 allocation for administrative costs as per the HUD regulations. As a result of an administrative oversight, the administrative costs were not established as a separate goal as required by HUD. St. Johns County seeks to remedy this administrative oversight through the Substantial Amendment process by adding the goal of Planning and Administration to the Consolidated Plan and adding the goal and project of Planning and Administration to the 2016-2017 Action Plan.

### **Public Comment Period:**

As required by HUD, the proposed Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan and the 2016-2017 Annual Action Plan are available for review Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Health and Human Services Department at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. The documents can also be viewed on the St. Johns County website: <http://www.sjcf.us/Housing/index.aspx>. The public comment period is August 20, 2017 through September 18, 2017. Comments from the public are encouraged and will be accepted during this thirty (30) day period at the Health and Human Services Department at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Comments can also be given by calling 904-827-6890 or emailed to [housing@sjcf.us](mailto:housing@sjcf.us). A written response will be given within fifteen (15) days, to all written comments received. For additional information, please contact Greg Lulkoski at 904-827-6897.

**Public Hearing:**

Two public hearings regarding this Substantial Amendment are scheduled. The first will be held on September 5, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Department located at 200 San Sebastian View, Kingfisher Conference Room; St. Augustine, FL 32084. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in these proceedings should contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 209-0650, or at the County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. For deaf and/or hard of hearing individuals: Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): (904) 209-0650, or the Florida Relay Service: (800) 955-8770. To request services, please notify the County by September 12, 2017. The second public hearing shall be held as the **Final Action** associated with the plan (see below).

**Final Action:**

The Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan and the 2016-2017 Action Plan is scheduled for Board action on **September 19, 2017**, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, at 9:00 a.m., in the County Commission Chambers, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084.

**Response to Citizen Comments:** A written response will be given within 15 days, to all written comments received.



**Equal Housing Opportunity**