

State of Vermont

Consolidated Plan Meeting

Springfield Cinema, Springfield VT

March 9, 2020

State of Vermont Staff: Ann Kroll, Shaun Gilpin, and Nathan Cleveland

Public present: Bob Flint, Springfield Regional Development Corp.; Adam Grinold BDCC, Tom Kennedy SWRPC; Ron Rupp VHCB, George Keeler(sp?); Emily Higgins, AHS

Shaun opened the meeting at 1:13 p.m. and provided an overview of the Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) process that oversees the priorities for Federal funding through HUD and the overall goals set by HUD, and the current priorities for the State of Vermont. DHCD drafts the Conplan with assistance from VHCB and AHS.

The plan is known as the strategic plan and covers 5-year span (2020-2024). Programs covered (CDBG, ESG, HOME, Housing Trust Fund and HOPWA) Home and HTF are administered by VHCB. State of Vermont is ineligible for HOPWA funding

Allocations for 2020 include

CDBG \$7244934 with an additional \$753,000 targeted for recovery housing for opioid crisis

HOME \$3,000,000

ESG 677036

HTF \$3,000,000

HOPWA not eligible for formula funding we apply directly for these funds

Continuum of care and public housing authorities

5 year Conplan re-write State is holding public outreach meetings, an online survey and is assisted with an appointed ConPlan Advisory board, Housing needs assessment, Draft plan to be published by March 15, final plan to submit to HUD by May 15<sup>th</sup>, and expected HUD approval within 45 days (by end of June 2020).

Shaun also provided summary of Housing and Demographic information available through [housingdata.org](https://housingdata.org) This site includes community profiles that include wide ranges of data that will assist with the Housing Needs Assessment that will be included in the ConPlan.

Shaun opened the floor up to comments and feedback from the public who were in attendance.

Adam Grinold – are state priorities ranked in an order? Shaun, and Ann – no, however Ann noted that Housing and Economic development has been funded on a near level basis. Ann also noted that our previous outreach meetings found a need for Childcare.

Adam – does the ConPlan react to advocacy to adopt policies such as the need for childcare that we have heard at regional outreach meetings.

Ann – the consolidated plan needs to address and respond to advocacy groups and explain why or why not the advocacy. Church indicated that churches are able to support the childcare need, since there is often underutilized space. He noted that the trouble is to find workers.

Adam – feels that there are funding available for public facilities and nonprofits and CDBG money, being limited would advocate continued priorities between Economic Development and Housing and associated infrastructure.

Ann – Childcare at previous ConPlan meetings included information that

Bob Flint – projects that include housing in downtowns are also economic development projects.

Tom Kennedy – Opioid funding – are there any regulations known yet?

Ann Kroll – Transitional housing is what we will fund, funding would be available in the next funding program year, with a possible application being available for our November 2020 board meeting.

Tom Kennedy – how do regions or towns ask for more funding, for example to help remediate brownfield projects. Ann Kroll – 70% of CDBG funding goes to entitlement communities with population over 50,000. States made case to our congressional delegation that CDBG funding is necessary.

Adam – eligible applicants are municipalities is this done differently in other states? Ann – NH yes funding goes to a Community Finance Agency but funding then must go through municipalities. Adam – difficult with small communities that have limited capacity and would like to explore how RPC's and RDC's can be utilized to make the application process more feasible to be successful. Ann Kroll – we do need RPC and RDC support for small communities

Keeler ESG – how do these funds leverage additional funding for homeless shelters? Emily Higgins – primarily state funds to manage HOP funds.

Ann – recovery housing from what we know is a one-time funding source that she does not anticipate being a continued allocation in the future, it is possible but not certain.

Ron Rupp – Housing that provide supportive services, but without ongoing funding it is difficult for projects to be successful to continue if funding for recovery housing is not sustained through additional funding.

Emily VHFA awarded \$90,000 for recovery housing.

Ann Kroll – asked for additional comments or thoughts. With no further comments the meeting was closed at 1:56 p.m.