

Public Comments/Questions and Responses

- Joe Huggins: “Thank you for having us and thank you for a great presentation. Joe Huggins with Home Works of America. We provide free home repair for elderly, disabled, and veteran homeowners throughout the state. We’re headquartered in Columbia. Have we missed an opportunity for CDBG funding for home repair this round?”

A: “No.”

Joe Huggins: “Ok, because we have utilized CDBG funds before with Richland County and other counties throughout the state. We look forward to utilizing those to help our neighbors around us. So we thank you for that.”

- Tina Falmas: “Hi, Tina Falmas and I’m just a citizen. I wanted to know where I can access the actual plan online. I thought a draft would have been posted on the website.”

A: Kerry will send a draft. Clayton will make sure it is posted on the website after the public hearing.

- Andrew Boozer: “With Senior Resources here in Columbia. I’m just checking in on, a lot of these services appear to be geared toward homeless, or those who may be homeless, or families involving youth. But it does not speak directly to those who are elderly in our community, which is one of our largest growing segments here in Richland County. I didn’t know if there was any plan to include elderly specific language in this plan for this year?”

A: “No, not in the plan. But we can use CDBG funds for senior housing or to assist elderly.”

Andrew: “I’m particularly interested in how those can be used for community support to help elderly age in place. I’m thinking in addition to the great work that Home Works does rehabilitating homes, but also providing a community center, community access points and helping people stay healthy. And making sure that was included in this plan – an opportunity to do that.”

A: “Yes, so the “One Touch” program helps a lot of seniors. Sometimes they have repairs that are needed that they cannot afford to have done. So they have some deferred maintenance that needs to be done. Or need some assistance with aging in place. So there is a possibility, yes, to assist seniors with aging in place or other services that are needed to assist them and to improve their quality of life.”

- Christopher Rose: “I’ve been on the CDBG committee in Charleston. I know in the beginning you did mention HOPWA, and I was just wondering if there were any specific funds. All the other allocations seems fairly normal. Charleston does HOPWA and I was just wondering if Richland County does that as well?”

A: "No, we don't receive HOPWA funds, but the City of Columbia does."

- Denise Hartley: "I do not have any questions at this time. I was just responding and trying to listen for the information. Thank you."
- Kevin Wimberly: "Kevin Wimberly, SC Uplift Community Outreach. We are a CHDO with Richland County. Kerry, again, we are glad to have you here with us. Looking forward to working with you. When you mention the RFP that's going to be released, will it be sent out to the current CHDOs and will there be a meeting prior to? Or is it just going to be released and we respond to that?"

A: "We will send it to people who have responded to CHDO before, to active CHDOs. We will also most likely do a virtual meeting."

Kevin: "One other question. We also serve as a housing trust fund participant with SC State Housing Development Finance Authority. I know sometimes we partnered, in the past, with Richland County with doing unoccupied projects and renovations. At one point, there was a stipulation that Richland County would not do projects with houses that were pre-1978. Will that still be stipulated? Or will it not matter the age of the home?"

A: Clayton will look up and get back to him and everyone on the meeting list. After staff researched this issue, there doesn't appear to be a stipulation that homes built prior to 1978 can't be repaired or redeveloped. What the SC State Housing Development Finance Authority Housing Production Trust Fund Manual states is for Manufactured/Modular Homes can only participate in the Emergency Repair program and the home must be 20 years old or less than the date of that specific application. For homes built prior to 1978 all jurisdictions require a developers or non-profits to follow the HUD Guidelines and regulations for Lead Based Paint.

- Scott Miller: "I'm with Kimley-Horn and Associates. I was following the CDBG grant application through the second round of mitigation funding. Part of the application for Richland County included some stormwater projects including watershed studies and things. And I didn't see that in this action plan. So I was wondering if that stuff will be coming with the mitigation, if that will be coming later, or is this one big CDBG grant program?"

A: "CDBG-MIT funding is a separate funding stream. Even though it comes from the same block grant. Those funds, we had our public hearing in June and we will be submitting our action plan to HUD at the end of this month. That information can be found online. If we have your email address we can send you the information about that action plan." The information was provided to Mr. Miller on Friday August 14, 2020 by email. Public may access the same information at <http://www.richlandcountysc.gov/Government/Departments/Community-Development/CDBG-Mitigation>

- Margaret Clarkson: Did not answer.

Additional Comments & Questions Submitted by Email or Telephone– Jocelyn Jennings (Received by email on Sunday August 16, 2020)

- Within the document was a partner list. At minimum, each partner agency should receive a copy of the document and be encouraged to comment or provide feedback via survey or other vehicle.
- The sewer line project is essential. However, it crosses multiple census tracts, some of which are above 80% of the AMI. Is County prepared to justify and provide statistical data?

A: The County is prepared to provide data to HUD which will justify the allocation of CDBG to the project if requested by HUD.

- There are new projects and several that carry over from YR 19/20. The county has not filled key positions in CD. Does County have the capacity to accomplish the goals set forth as well as prepare for AI and 2021-2026 Five Year Consolidated Plan?

A: The County is building capacity and will have a team in place to accomplish future projects, goals and tasks including the FY2021-2026 5Yr Consolidated Plan.

- Glad to see projects continued in master planned areas.

Thank you.

5. Draft doesn't show that much public input was received. I recommend that partner agencies be asked to submit a statement of commitment; especially those that are slow spending. Also, I believe it will prove prudent to encourage RCNC leadership to read the draft and comment. Additionally, RC department managers that engage citizens, should be invited to comment.

The public comment input will be added to the draft AAP after the public comment period concludes on Thursday August 20th. The public was notified through several media outlets and venues and had the opportunity to comment and ask questions during the Virtual Public hearing held Aug 13th at 5:00 pm. RCCD will continue to accept comments as of the date of this response and until 11:59pm Thursday Aug 20, 2020.

Mr. Larry Montgomery, Phone Call, Monday August 17

- During the hearing there was a question regarding a moratorium on repair work for houses built pre-1978. Has the question been answered? Also, who is the Director at Community Development?

A: The question has not yet received an answer, we are compiling all of the questions and comments with the answers and will post to the Richland County Community Development website and will email to the Virtual Public Hearing participants we have email addresses. Mr. Clayton Voignier is the Director of Community Planning and Development.

Virtual Public Hearing FY 20-21 Annual Action Plan CDBG & HOME
Thursday, August 13th, 2020

- I understand some of the community funds are being used for the water line being installed in the county. Can some of those funds be used to pave our road? Our road is still a dirt road and it is difficult to travel. CDBG funds may be used for construction and installation of roads, curbs, streets, sidewalks and other public infrastructure. As we prepare for the next 5-Year Consolidated Planning Process, we will consider paving of roads as part of the needs assessment.

A: The sewer project designated in the FY20-21 Budget has been presented to the County Council and is part of the priorities in the FY2017-2021 Consolidated Plan, which is approved by the County Council and HUD. There are no additional funds in the FY20-21 Budget to support the paving of roads. The installation of water/sewer lines so that you and your neighbors may have clean water and decent water pressure is a quality of life issue which is a priority.