

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2021 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

As set forth in 24 CFR Part 91, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state agencies that administer certain HUD programs to incorporate their planning and application requirements into one master plan called the Consolidated Plan. In Louisiana the three state agencies participating in this consolidated planning process and the HUD funded program(s) administered by each agency include the Division of Administration/Office of Community Development-Local Government Assistance (Community Development Block Grant Program), the Louisiana Housing Corporation (HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Emergency Solutions Grants Program and the National Housing Trust Fund), and the Department of Health and Hospitals/STD/HIV Program (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program). A summary of the programs follows.

The **Community Development Block Grant Program** provides financial assistance to parishes with an unincorporated population of less than 200,000 and municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 in their efforts to provide a suitable living environment, essential community facilities, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community infrastructure systems such as water, sewer, and street improvements, and economic development assistance in the form of grants for infrastructure and grants for local governments to make loans to private businesses. Projects funded under this program must principally benefit persons of low and moderate income, prevent or eliminate slums and blight, or meet urgent community development needs.

The objective of the **Home Investment Partnerships Program** is to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing and housing opportunities for low and very low-income households by providing financial and technical assistance to recipients/subrecipients, and to extend and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations, in the production and operation of affordable housing.

The intent of the **National Housing Trust Fund** is to increase and preserve the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing, primarily rental housing, for extremely low-income and very low-income households.

The purpose of the **Emergency Solutions Grants Program** is to assist local governments and community organizations in improving and expanding shelter facilities serving homeless individuals and families, in meeting the cost of operating homeless shelters, in providing essential services, and in performing homeless prevention activities.

The **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program** provides localities with the resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term comprehensive strategies for

meeting the housing needs of persons with acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases and their families.

The agencies administering these programs are beginning to prepare the FY 2021 Consolidated Annual Action Plan that will include specific program requirements for the proposed distribution of funds received under the FY 2021 federal funding allocation for the aforementioned HUD programs.

Additionally, on March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136 was signed into law to respond to the growing effects of the coronavirus public health crisis. The CARES Act provides funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. The FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Action Plan will be amended to include activities funded under this program.

The State will hold two public hearings to obtain views on the housing and community development needs of the State; those comments will assist the agencies in developing the FY 2021 Consolidated Annual Action Plan and the Office of Community Development-Local Government Assistance in preparing an amendment to the FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Action Plan to include the CARES Act funds. For those persons who are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments on the needs of the State may be submitted beginning October 20, 2020, and will be accepted until November 5, 2020. Written comments may be mailed to the Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095, faxed to 225/342-1947, or emailed to heather.paul@la.gov.

The first public hearing will be held in person October 20, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Room 1-100, in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA. This facility is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The second hearing will be held virtually on October 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting information can be found on the Office of Community Development's website at https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd/cdbg/about_lcdbg.aspx

Non-English speaking persons and persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact the Office of Community Development at 225/342-7412 or at the mailing address, fax number, or email address given in the preceding paragraph at least five working days prior to the hearing.