



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
Three Year Consolidated Plan
Public Hearing and Citizen Participation Forum Invitation

Mecklenburg County would like your participation in the preparation of the Three Year Consolidated Plan. This annual document is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to receive federal assistance to address housing, economic development, and community development issues. Join us and find out how funds are being spent in your community and offer suggestions for new programs or projects.

The Consolidated Plan is Mecklenburg County's application for federal funds under HUD's formula grant program Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The process of developing the Plan gives Mecklenburg's Communities a structure for identifying gaps and opportunities for collaboration within the County's current service delivery system. Mecklenburg County encourages citizens to become involved in the development of the Three Year Consolidated Plan. Your participation is needed to discuss how we can best serve our community.

The County will hold a Citizen Participation Forum and a public hearing on the Consolidated Plan to obtain input on housing and community development needs for Mecklenburg County on:

February 16, 2010- 6:30PM to 7:30 PM
PUBLIC HEARING AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORUM
Town of Matthews
Town Hall- Hood Room (Council Chamber)
232 Matthews Station Street
Matthews NC 28105

February 18, 2010 - 6:00PM to 7:00 PM
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORUM
Town of Cornelius
Town Hall- Community Room
21445 Catawba Avenue
Cornelius, NC 28031

The Citizen Participation Plan is open for public review and comment from January 30, 2010 – February 15, 2010 copies of the plan can be found at the following locations:

Mecklenburg County Library
Cornelius- Branch
21105 Catawba Avenue
Cornelius NC 28031

Matthews- Branch
230 Matthews Station St.
Matthews NC 28105

Hickory Grove
5935 Hickory Grove Road
Charlotte NC 28227

Town of Matthews
Town Hall
232 Matthews Station Street
Matthews, NC 28105

Town of Cornelius
Town Hall
21445 Catawba Avenue
Cornelius, NC 28031

Online at:
www.mecklenburgcountync.gov
www.4noboundaries.org
www.matthewsnc.com
www.cornelius.com

If you have a proposed project/program or questions contact Laura Mundell at Community & Economic Development, Centralina Council of Governments, P.O. Box 35008, Charlotte, NC 28235, telephone (704) 348-2720, email- lmundell@centralina.org.



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN MECKLENBURG COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

December 29, 2009

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Consolidated Plan is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirement that combines the planning and application process for an existing HUD grant: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The Consolidated Plan examines the current housing situation, explores the housing and community development needs of Mecklenburg County, and sets priorities for spending the CDBG funds. Public comment is a vital component of exploring Mecklenburg County's housing and community development needs and setting spending priorities. The Consolidated Plan process encourages citizens to participate.

The citizen participation plan describes a program to provide citizens with adequate opportunity to participate in an advisory role in planning, implementing, and assessing the Mecklenburg County CDBG Consolidated Plan, each associated Annual Action Plan (AAP), or any amendment thereto, and the Performance Evaluation Report processes. This citizen participation plan shall apply to current activities as well as to any future activities of the CDBG Program. This plan shall remain in effect until all activities in the CDBG Program are completed or until this plan is superseded by a new plan. All aspects of citizen participation shall be conducted in an open manner with freedom of access for all interested persons.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Participation by minorities, low- and moderate-income persons, non-English speaking persons as well as persons with disabilities, local and regional institutions and other organizations (including businesses, developers, and community and faith-based organizations) shall be encouraged throughout the process of developing and implementing the consolidated plan.

CONSULTATION

In the process of developing and implementing the Consolidated Plan Mecklenburg County staff shall contact, inform and will consult with public and private agencies that provide assisted housing, health and social services and child welfare agencies regarding lead-based paint.

CITIZEN COMMENT ON THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND AMENDMENTS

Mecklenburg County will receive comments on the proposed Citizen Participation Plan during a 15 day comment period. The proposed Citizen Participation Plan and any potential amendments will be made available to the public before the fifteen day comment period begins. These documents will be made available at the following locations:

Mecklenburg County Library

Cornelius- Branch
21105 Catawba Avenue
Cornelius NC 28031

Matthews- Branch
230 Matthews Station St.
Matthews NC 28105

Hickory Grove
5935 Hickory Grove Road
Charlotte NC 28227

Town of Matthews

Town Hall
232 Matthews Station Street
Matthews, NC 28105

Town of Cornelius
Town Hall
21445 Catawba Avenue
Cornelius, NC 28031

Online at:
www.mecklenburgcountync.gov
www.4noboundaries.org
www.matthewsnc.com
www.cornelius.com

These documents will also be made available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

A public meeting will be held to discuss the proposed Consolidated Plan and to collect input from citizens regarding the proposed plan. Notices of these meeting will be published in the weekly newspapers across Mecklenburg County no less than 15 days prior to the meeting.

Once drafted and before adoption, the proposed Consolidated Plan will be made available to the public for a comment period no less than 30 days.

A second public meeting will be held during the 30 day comment period to gather comments on the proposed plan. Citizens will be notified of the proposed plan's availability through the weekly newspapers across Mecklenburg County. The notification will be published on the day the proposed Consolidated Plan comment period begins. The proposed plan will be made available on the following websites:

www.mecklenburgcountync.gov
www.centralina.org
www.4communitydevelopment.org
www.4noboundaries.org

www.matthewsnc.com
www.cornelius.com

Comments from citizens or groups received in writing or at the public meetings will be considered. The final Consolidated Plan will include a summary of all citizen or group comments along with a summary of those accepted and those not accepted and the corresponding explanations.

AMENDMENT CRITERIA

A substantial change to Mecklenburg County's planned or actual activities requires an amendment to the Consolidated Plan.

Criteria set forth:

1. If Mecklenburg County decides not to carry out an activity described in the plan;
2. if Mecklenburg County decides to carry out an activity not described in the plan;
3. if Mecklenburg County substantially changes the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

In the event of an amendment to the Consolidated Plan, the proposed amendments shall be made available via the Mecklenburg County website at www.mecklenburgcountync.gov, to interested parties for a comment period of no less than 30 days, before implementation.

Citizens will be notified of the amended Consolidated Plan's availability through newspaper notification and email to interested parties for whom the CDBG staff has an email address. The notification will be published the day the 30 day comment period begins for the amended Consolidated Plan.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Prior to submitting the Consolidated Plan Annual Performance Report (APR) to HUD, the report shall be made available to interested parties for a comment period no less than 15 days. This comment period will be between 30 and 45 days prior to submission.

Citizens will be notified of the APR's availability through newspaper notification and email to interested parties for whom the CDBG staff has an email address. The notification will be published the day the comment period begins for the amended Consolidated Plan.

During this comment periods the APR will be available on the Mecklenburg County website at www.mecklenburgcountync.gov, hard copies of the APR may be requested and sent by mail to interested parties. Comments from citizens or groups received in writing will be considered. A summary of all citizen or group comments along with a summary of those accepted and those not accepted and the corresponding explanations will be included in the final APR.

AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC

The Consolidated Plan as adopted, substantial amendments and the performance report will be made available to the public within 30 days of HUD's acceptance of the document. The Consolidated Plan and APR will be made available on the Mecklenburg County website at www.mecklenburgcountync.gov. Hard copies may also be requested from the County.

The Consolidated Plan and APR will be made available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

All applicable information and records will be maintained by the CDBG staff and housed at Mecklenburg County, 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, NC 28202.

The County will maintain records for five years following the close of the CDBG program year. Any citizen or agency that desires access to information or documents may contact the Community Development Division.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance will be made available to group's representative of persons of low-and moderate-income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under any of the programs covered in the Consolidated Plan.

COMPLAINTS

Substantive written response to written citizen complaint will be provided within 15 working days.

COMMENTS

Please send comments to Laura Mundell at Centralina Council of Governments, Community & Economic Development, P.O. Box 35008, Charlotte, NC 28235, or email-lmundell@centralina.org.