

## **2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 First-Year Action Plan Citizen Participation and Input Process Timeline**

Following Council's approval of a professional services contract in October 2019 with TDA Consulting, Inc., community work began on the Consolidated Plan/Annual Plan (CP/AP) process, as follows:

- A series of four focus group meetings were conducted by the consultant and Housing staff on December 9-10, 2019, in the Merced Civic Center's Sam Pipes Room, to gather feedback and guidance from residents and community stakeholders regarding issues that are of most importance to the community. An open letter to the community was published for four days between both the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times, and letters were mailed to over 100 area non-profit community service organizations inviting their participation. Spanish interpretation was available.
- An online survey in both English and Spanish, and easily accessed with smartphone QR code technology, was developed to see additional feedback from community members and residents, asking a range of questions from public improvement needs to those regarding the survey-taker's experiences with access to fair housing. Staff attended City Council Town Hall meetings on February 19, 20, and 26, 2020, to distribute flyers with City website and QR code links to the survey, as well as note resident speakers' comments during the meeting. Additionally, emails were sent to Merced City Schools District, Merced Community College, and UC Merced officials, among others, to solicit additional survey responses.
- On February 20, 2020, a Notice of Funding Availability was published in the Merced Sun-Star and Merced County Times, inviting requests for project funding applications and attendance at three public informational meetings held on March 2-3, 2020, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room at City Hall. One meeting was held during evening hours, and Spanish interpretation was available. Housing staff gave a presentation that explained the process and the types of projects that were being sought this funding year.
- A Public Hearing Notice was published on June 4, 2020, notifying interested parties about this public hearing on July 6, 2020, where their participation and input on the draft plans would be welcomed.
- The Draft 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and First-Year Annual Plan was posted for public viewing and downloading on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, to open the required 30-day public comment period, which will close on Friday, July 10, 2020.

### Next steps:

- After this public hearing and introduction of the plan documents, comments received from both the public and from Council will be compiled and any required changes will be made. Housing staff will re-post a Revised Draft on the City website if there is appropriate opportunity to do so before the final public hearing.

- A final public hearing will be held on August 3, 2020, where additional public comment will be accepted. Approval of the Final Draft of the Consolidated Plan, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and First-Year Annual Plan and permission by resolution to submit the final plans will be sought.
- Submission to HUD of all plans, resolutions, and certification documents is expected to be made by Friday, August 7, 2020. HUD's normal regulatory deadline for submission of Consolidated Plans is August 15 of each plan cycle.

*Affects of the COVID-19 Coronavirus on the process:*

Affects of COVID-19 on the Citizen Participation Plan and process for development of the Consolidated Plan have been minimal due to the ability to have tele-conferenced and socially-distanced City Council meetings and to submit comments electronically by e-mail and voicemail (messages can be translated from Spanish or Hmong if submitted in sufficient time to do so). However, the locations where copies of the plans may be physically viewed have been reduced to only City Hall due to extended closures of other public buildings. The plans are viewable and downloadable from the City's Housing Division's website.