

**City of Columbus**  
**Fiscal Year 2026**  
**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grants**  
**Draft Annual Action Plan Summary**

**Introduction**

The City of Columbus Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section, solicited project proposals for the use of Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funding in the summer of 2025.

The City receives annual allocations from HUD for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which has a 15% public service cap<sup>1</sup> and a 20% administration cap<sup>2</sup>, the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program which funds affordable housing opportunities, the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program which provides homelessness prevention and shelter assistance.

This summary of the 2026 Annual Action Plan provides an overview of the projects the Grants Management Section plans to include in the City's submission of the FY 2026 Annual Action Plan to HUD. The projects are expansions of existing programming and new programming to serve low- to moderate-income Columbus residents. Expenditures must be consistent with community needs, priorities and strategies stated in the City's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, and compliant with federal regulations in 24 CFR 570.

Projects are listed in the sections below under a City of Columbus Strategic Plan Goal which are identified in the City's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. The Strategic Plan Goals are:

1. Increase housing opportunities
2. Provide essential services to prevent homelessness
3. Modernize and improve community facilities and infrastructure
4. Address housing discrimination
5. Provide community services
6. Provide public services to special populations
7. Effectively administer HUD programs

<sup>1</sup> Public Service is defined in 24 CFR Part 570.201 (e) as services including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, welfare, homebuyer downpayment assistance, or recreational needs.

<sup>2</sup> Administrative cost is defined in 24 CFR Part 570.206 and is related to the planning and execution of community development activities.



## **FY 2026 HUD Allocations**

In April 2026, HUD announced the total allocated grant awards for each of the City’s HUD CPD grants for 2026. The total budget available for each program for the 2026 program year may be larger than the annual allocation when accounting for program income, returned funds, or unexpended funds from past years.

| <b>FY 2026 Program</b>                      | <b>Entitlement Award</b> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Community Development Block Grant           | \$7,498,472              |
| Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS | \$2,739,753              |
| HOME Investment Partnership                 | \$4,395,313.60           |
| Emergency Solutions Grant                   | \$661,582                |

### **Citizen Participation Process for the FY 2026 Annual Action Plan**

During each year of the City’s HUD Annual Action Plan development process, the City follows its Citizen Participation Plan which is approved within the City’s HUD 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. The section below outlines the efforts made to date by the City to engage with the public throughout the development of the City’s FY 2026 Annual Action Plan.

#### **CDBG Application Workshop**

The Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section hosted a public workshop on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at 3:00 PM to announce the opening of the FY 2026 CDBG grant application and assist prospective applicants in understanding the CDBG program and refining project ideas. The meeting was held at the Fran Ryan Center, 865 E Capital St, Columbus, Ohio 43205, in the community room. The meeting was advertised through social media and email.

The Grants Management Section also offered the opportunity for any prospective applicants to request technical assistance meetings with staff members.

#### **First Public Comment Period**

The City of Columbus started a thirty (30) day public comment period on June 30, 2025 when a notice was published in the Daily Reporter and a summary of applications received was made available on the City’s Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage. The Grants Management Section accepted comments through July 31, 2025.

#### **First Public Meeting – Review of all Applications Received**

The Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section hosted a public meeting on July 10, 2025 at 3:00 PM. Each CDBG project proposal received by Grants Management for was shared and available for discussion, as well as the City’s proposed projects for HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funding. The meeting was held at the Hilltop Library, 511 S. Hague Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215, in the conference room located on the bottom level of the City of Columbus’ parking garage. The meeting was advertised through email and a legal advertisement in the Daily Reporter newspaper, which was published on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **Delay of Funding Awards**

On October 20, 2025, the Grants Management Section sent an email to all CDBG applicants informing them of a delay in the awarding of funds for FY 2026 grants. The City paused the typical timeline for awarding CDBG funds in order to assess changes in federal policy and ensure that the City and its subrecipients have an understanding of any new requirements of these federal funds prior to expending FY 2026 awards.

### **Second Public Comment Period**

The City of Columbus is opening a second thirty (30) day public comment period on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Comments will be accepted until July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. A notice will be published in the Columbus Dispatch on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and this draft summary of the 2026 HUD Annual Action Plan will be made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management webpage.

### **Second Public Meeting**

The Finance Committee of Columbus City Council and the Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Section will host a public meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 at 4:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the 141 N. Front Street conference room, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The City's Draft 2026 Annual Action Plan will be presented for discussion and public comment. The meeting will be advertised through email and a legal advertisement in the Columbus Dispatch newspaper.

### **Submitting public comments to Grants Management**

Public comments on proposed projects, funding priorities, and draft Annual Action Plans are welcome during posted public comment periods and throughout the year by emailing the Grants Management Section at [grantsmgmt@columbus.gov](mailto:grantsmgmt@columbus.gov). When comment is being sought specifically on a portion of the Annual Action Plan planning process, information will be posted on the Grants Management website at <https://www.columbus.gov/finance/financial-management-group/Grants-Management/>

## **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

The draft FY 2026 CDBG budget for eligible activities is \$7,498,472. This total budget is made up of the FY 2026 allocation from HUD awarded to the City. Projects proposed for the 2026 budget are listed below. Strategic goals from the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan are provided for each activity that makes up a project.

### **Fair Housing – Budget: \$250,000**

#### **Goal: Address housing discrimination**

- The City plans to fund fair housing legal services for residents of the City of Columbus who believe they have faced discrimination in any transaction related to housing.

### **Housing Assistance – Budget: \$1,265,000**

#### **Goal: Increase housing opportunities**

- The City plans to fund agencies that provide or improve housing for low- to moderate-income residents, as well as funding services to assist tenants in navigating housing issues that could cause unsafe or unsanitary living conditions.

### **Public Services – Budget: \$480,000**

#### **Goal: Provide community services**

- The City plans to fund community services that meet some of the most critical needs of Columbus residents. In past years these have included health care services, financial skills training, assistance for victims of domestic violence, and food assistance.

### **Public Facilities & Infrastructure Improvements – Budget: \$4,603,472**

#### **Goal: Modernize and improve community facilities and infrastructure**

- The City plans to grant funds and provide construction management services for the improvement and modernization of non-profit or publicly owned facilities that provide services and/or benefits to Columbus residents.

### **Administration & Planning – Budget: \$900,000**

#### **Goal: Effectively administer HUD programs**

- The City has dedicated staff within the Grants Management Section for administration of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants and may procure contracted services to perform environmental review or design and engineering services for planned projects.

## **HOME Investment Partnership (HOME)**

The draft FY 2026 HOME budget for eligible activities is \$5,661,380.23. The total budget is made up of the FY 2026 allocation from HUD awarded to the City and past year program income generated from HOME funded programs. The table below notes each funding resources total dollar amount contributing to the whole FY 2026 HOME budget. Proposed projects are listed according to the strategic goal that they address.

| <b>Funding Resources</b>    | <b>Budget</b>  |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2026 HOME Entitlement Award | \$4,395,313.60 |
| 2025 HOME Program Income    | \$1,266,066.63 |

### **Goal: Increase housing opportunities**

#### Housing Development

- HOME Budget: \$4,259,919.49
- Providing gap financing for new construction and substantial renovation of rental and homeownership projects.

#### Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Set-Aside

- HOME Budget: \$659,297.04
- Required set-aside of 15% of HOME allocation for awards to City-certified CHDOs.

#### Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating Support

- HOME Budget: \$200,000
- Operating support provided to CHDOs by the Community Development Collaborative.

### **Goal: Effectively administer HUD programs**

#### Department of Development – Housing Division Staff

- HOME Budget: \$497,308.02
- Housing Division staffing in the Department of Development for administration of HOME Investment Partnership funded programs.

#### Community Development Collaborative (CDC) – Operating Support (Administration)

- HOME Budget: \$45,000
- CDC funding for administration of CHDO operating support.

## **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

The draft FY 2026 HOPWA budget for eligible activities is \$2,739,753. The total budget is made up of the FY 2026 allocation from HUD awarded to the City. Proposed projects are listed according to the strategic goal that they address.

### **Goal: Provide public services to special populations**

Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency

- HOPWA Budget: \$442,778.96
- Funding will be used for TBRA, PHP, STRMU, Supportive Services, and admin costs.

Equitas Health

- HOPWA Budget: \$975,401.98
- Funding will be used for TBRA, PHP, Supportive Services, and admin costs.

Faith Mission

- HOPWA Budget: \$906,905.17
- Funding will be used for TBRA, PHP, Supportive Services, and admin costs.

Licking County Coalition for Housing

- HOPWA Budget: \$332,474.30
- Funding will be used for TBRA, PHP, STRMU, Supportive Services, and admin costs.

### **Goal: Effectively administer HUD programs**

Department of Development – HOPWA Administration

- HOPWA Budget: \$82,492.59
- Staffing and other costs for HOPWA grant administration.

## **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**

The draft FY 2026 ESG budget for eligible activities is \$661,582. The total budget is made up of the FY 2026 allocation from HUD awarded to the City. Proposed projects are listed according to the strategic goal that they address.

### **Goal: Provide essential services to prevent homelessness**

Department of Development – Emergency Solutions Grants Programs

- ESG Budget: \$661,582
- Emergency shelters provide access to beds for men and women in Columbus and Franklin County. Beyond providing a secure and clean place to sleep, shelter programs provide access to basic services such as showers, meals, healthcare and material assistance, along with supportive services, referrals to additional supportive services as needed, and crisis assistance. Shelter programs have resource centers that provide internet access, telephones, employment leads, job training resources and other community resources. ESG-funded Direct Housing programs provide services and financial assistance to families exiting emergency shelter programs into their own homes, with the goal of long-term stabilization.