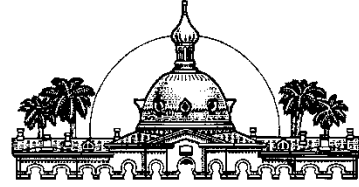


5-Year Consolidated Plan – Public Meeting #5

Plant City
Bruton Memorial Library
February 24, 2011
6:00 PM



Summary:

Plant City

Hillsborough County is in the process of developing a Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2011-2016 to create a strategic and unified vision for HUD funding over the next five years. In order to arrive at this vision, Hillsborough County conducted a series of public workshops to allow for public input related to the Five-Year Plan.

On February 24, 2011 the County conducted the fifth of six workshops, which was held in Plant City at the Bruton Memorial Library on McLendon Street.

In an effort to provide an environment that would allow for all attendees to be heard, a two-part approach was conducted. The first was in the form of a fill-able survey. The second was through an open discussion where citizens were asked to identify issues publicly.

Community Survey

The survey allowed for attendees to rank eligible activities from 0 “no need” to 5 “highest need.” Activities were divided in to six categories including: Public Facilities and Improvements, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Other CDBG Activities, Economic Development Activities, and Homeless Services. The surveys also addressed public opinions and information for housing and other statistical information.

Survey Results

Through the course of this fifth public workshop there were a total of 7 respondents to the Community Survey. Their results produced *category* ranking scores between 3.8 and 4.4. Out of the six *categories* the public responded that activities in Homeless Services had the strongest need with an average overall score of 4.4 out of 5. The Lowest averaged ranked *category* was Economic Development Activities at 3.8 out of 5. The highest average ranked *activity* was Employment Training at 5. The lowest average ranked *activity* was Tree Planting with a rank of 2.8.

Details in each category are as follows:

- Public Facilities – Average 4.0

Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
Youth Centers	4.7
Health Facilities	4.7

Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
Tree Planting	2.8

- Public Services – Average 4.3

Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
Employment Training	5.0

Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Ranking
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	Screening for Lead-Based Paint/Lead Hazards Poison	3.3
-	Housing Rehabilitation – 4.2	
	Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Rehab; Single-Unit Residential	4.7
	Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Lead-Base/Lead Hazard Test/Abate	3.5
-	Other CDBG Activities – Average 4.1	
	Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Construction of Single-family Housing	4.7
	Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Code Enforcement	3.3
-	Economic Development Activities – Average 3.8	
	Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Loans/Grants for Business Development Activities	4.5
	Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Streetscaping for Commercial Districts	3.5
	Façade Improvements for Commercial Districts	3.5
	Commercial/Industrial infrastructure Improvements	3.5
-	Homeless Services – Average 4.4	
	Highest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Veterans	4.8
	Lowest Ranking Activity(s)	Average Rank
	Persons with HIV/AIDS	4.0

Source: Hillsborough County Affordable Housing Department: Community Survey February 2011

Housing

Of the residents surveyed, the majority responded that home ownership is more affordable than renting within Hillsborough County. Also, when purchasing a home, surveys showed that a family of four making \$54,000 annually, prior to taxes, could afford to pay “less than \$125,000” for a home (although 1 respondent did not answer and 3 responded “Don’t Know”). The majority affordable rent range is less than \$650 (although 3 responded “Don’t Know”).

Respondent Information

There were 7 respondents (1 male, 5 female, and one did not respond). These respondents came from two different zip codes; 33565 and 33563 (one did not respond). These residents have lived in Hillsborough County between 6 and 60 years, with an average of 35.2 years. Of the respondents 3 were White, 2 Black/African American, 1 other, and one did not respond. The median age of residents was about 50.5. Income ranges differed significantly, with two (2) respondents from each of the *Under \$20,000*,

\$35,000 to 49,000, and \$50,000 to \$69,000 income groups. Respondents' familiarity with Community Development was split with three respondents that were somewhat familiar and three respondents that were not at all familiar (one respondent did not respond).

Open Discussion

During the open discussion citizens were asked to identify issues specific to their respective community. Through this process many residents spoke out. A number of issues were brought to the Project Team's attention. Listed below are issues that were discussed openly:

Community Needs

- Public Facilities
 - Expansion of public library
 - Police/fire substations to serve rural areas
 - Better police response times
 - Transportation
 - Access to jobs
 - Youth transportation to afterschool/activities
 - Bus routes – used to have route to Tampa; but no longer in service
 - Address old/aged utilities (e.g. water/wastewater)
 - Drainage
 - Ditches in rural areas near strawberry fields – flooding toward adjacent residential
- Public Services
 - Public art classes
 - Adult daycare
 - Community representation/organizations
 - Youth services
 - Parks and recreation programs
 - Programs for 18-21 age group (“missing link” between teen and adult services – e.g. foster care transition)
 - Medical Facilities
 - Mental health services
 - Health department for immunizations, etc.
 - Education
 - Job training in healthcare industry (e.g. nursing school)
 - HCC too expensive for some populations
 - Lack of transportation to Tampa education providers
 - Need options to learn practical/trade skills in Plant City
 - Bealsville Recreation Center
 - Possible facility improvements and/or expansion of public services
- Homelessness
 - Homeless shelter
 - Job training
 - Programs for those in foreclosure facing homelessness
 - Concern about homeless families (living in cars, etc.)
 - Programs for children of the homeless

- Housing
 - Housing assistance
 - Information about Section 8, etc.
 - Information regarding acquisition of foreclosed/vacant homes (investor and individual home buyer)

Conclusion

Although there are many issues that citizens of Plant City feel are important to address, there are a few items that were stressed throughout the meeting as being of the highest priority:

- Access to public transportation
- Affordable education opportunities/vocational training
- Youth services, particularly for underserved age groups
- Health services, including mental health
- Homeless services and homelessness prevention
- Availability of information regarding housing assistance (e.g. Section 8, NSP, and similar programs)

For questions regarding the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, please contact Karen Collins at 813.274.6605 or collinsk@hillsboroughcounty.org.

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More information can be found at:

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/affordablehousingoffice/5yearplan.cfm