

**DATE:** November 3, 2014

**TO:** Mesa City Council

**THROUGH:** Michael Kennington, Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Tammy Albright, Director, Housing and Community Development Department

**SUBJECT:** Mesa Substantial Amendment

Approve a Resolution Authorizing a Second Substantial Amendment to:

- Modify the City of Mesa Consolidated Plan FY 2010-14

Covering the Following Programs:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

Council District: Citywide

**STRATEGIC  
INITIATIVES**



***Purpose and Recommendation***

The purpose of this report is to request approval from City Council for a resolution authorizing a Second Substantial Amendment to modify the City of Mesa's Consolidated Plan FY 2010-14.

This Second Substantial Amendment would:

Modify the City of Mesa's Consolidated Plan FY 2010-14 to include a housing preference for the following individuals:

- 1) Persons with Disabilities as defined by HUD;
- 2) The Elderly (62-74) and the Frail Elderly (>75);
- 3) Homeless Person as defined by HUD; and,
- 4) Professionals per federal regulation changes (Examples: Teachers & Artists).



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If you are a person with a disability and require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the programs and services at the City of Mesa, please contact the Director of Housing and Revitalization at 480-644-3536 (Voice). You may be required to provide information to support your reasonable accommodation request.



This Amendment would provide the City with enhanced flexibility to meet the housing needs of vulnerable and at-risk populations and increase economic opportunities.

### ***Background***

Mesa's current Consolidated Plan does not include "housing preferences" for any of the above mentioned classification of individuals. Instead, it lists them as priorities and assigns a level to indicate their importance (high, medium, or low priority). Some of the priorities cited in the Consolidated Plan are not an exact match for the proposed preferences; but, they are close. Priorities from the Consolidated Plan that are applicable:

Severe Mental Illness – High Priority  
Physical Disabilities – High Priority  
Developmental Disabilities – High Priority  
The Elderly – High Priority  
Frail Elderly – High Priority  
Prevention of Homelessness (Individuals and Families) – High Priority  
Chronic Homelessness (Sheltered and Unsheltered) – High Priority

Homeless Persons do, however, receive a preference in the selection process for Mesa's Housing Choice Voucher Program (commonly referred to as Section 8).

### ***Discussion***

Over the past few years the City has seen an increase in requests for City participation in rental housing developments for low- to moderate-income persons, including some of the targeted groups proposed as preferences and part of this Second Substantial Amendment. Additional points are given to projects applying for low income tax credits serving these populations if they have City participation.

To serve these vulnerable populations better and enhance its flexibility regarding the adoption of projects specifically targeting these groups, Mesa is designating the following as "housing preferences" within its current Consolidated Plan: 1) Persons with Disabilities as defined by HUD; 2) The Elderly (62-74) and the Frail Elderly (>75); 3) Homeless and Chronically Homeless Person; and 4) Professionals as defined by HUD.

Last year HUD approved an additional preference option for Professional such as teachers and artists. This was to enhance economic opportunities and attract resources to specific areas.

A 30-day public comment period for the Substantial Amendment began on September 14, 2014, and was concluded on October 13, 2014.

The required public hearing for the Substantial Amendment was held October 2, 2014 during the Housing and Community Development Board Meeting to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment in person regarding the proposed changes to the Consolidated Plan. All received comments will be included in the Amendment for final approval of the resolution by City Council on November 3, 2014. The Amendment will be filed with HUD following approval.

***Fiscal Impact***

There is no fiscal impact with the adoption of these housing preferences in Mesa's current Consolidated Plan.

***Coordinated With***

The proposed Second Substantial Amendment has been released to the public, non-profit agencies and other city departments for review and/or comment and meets the Citizen Participation requirements set by HUD for participation in these federal programs. Both the Housing and Community Development Board and the Community and Cultural Development Council Subcommittee have review and recommend approval of the amendment as outlined above.