

2015-2019 Consolidated Plan

Summary of Plan Priorities

The City of Mesa's Consolidated Plan outlines the priorities by which the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds will be invested over the next five years. Based on a Needs Assessment and Market Analysis, the Plan identifies the following priority needs in ranked order:

1	Priority Need	Invest in Economic Growth and Workforce Development
	Priority Level	High
	Associated Activities	• Provide support, training, and assistance to owners and/or developers of microenterprises. • Create and secure financial resources to seed a revolving small business loan fund, targeted to business owners along the light rail corridor. • Undertake commercial revitalization in target areas through the construction and/or rehabilitation of commercial structures and through façade improvement programs. • Provide job skills training opportunities to better prepare workforce for employment. • Prioritize funding for economic development projects based on proximity to transit.
2	Priority Need	Increase and Maintain Affordable Housing Stock
	Priority Level	High
	Associated Activities	• Provide funding for the development of new and/or rehabilitated rental units affordable to households at or below 60% AMI, with specific targets for the 0-30%, 31-50%, 51-60%, and 61-80% AMI categories. • Fund construction of new affordable units for sale to low- and moderate-income buyers. • Develop and implement a rating tool to be used when evaluating proposed affordable housing developments that scores and weights criteria such as proximity to public transportation, proximity to job centers, and other opportunity factors. • Consider other opportunities (such as HCVs and TBRA) that provide rental subsidies to low income households to make existing units affordable. • Develop an incentive program that encourages private-sector developers to include affordable units in their projects and advocate for the adoption of the program by City government. • Extend the useful life of existing affordable housing through weatherization, emergency repair, and rehabilitation. • Provide down payment assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income homebuyers.

3	Priority Need	Decrease Homelessness
	Priority Level	High
	Associated Activities	• Provide funds to support homeless shelter facilities (emergency and transitional) that encourage development of more beds for single females and single males, as well as, serving both homeless individuals and homeless families. • Support homelessness prevention activities, street outreach efforts, and rapid re-housing. • Maintain data on utilization of homelessness resources and services using HMIS. • Support efforts to integrate the management of ESG funds with the Continuum of Care • Strengthen the capacity of homelessness service providers and advocacy organizations. • Provide funds to support Permanent Housing for homeless individuals and families exiting transitional facilities
4	Priority Need	Provide Other Non-Homeless Public Services
	Priority Level	High
	Associated Activities	• Undertake public services projects and programs. • Provide support for special needs facilities, permanent housing, and support services for non-homeless individuals and families with special needs. • Supplement code enforcement services in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods to curtail substandard housing and other instances of blight.
5	Priority Need	Implement Transit-Oriented Strategies for Community Development
	Priority Level	High
	Associated Activities	• Undertake public infrastructure projects that complement the existing and planned public transportation network, to include sidewalk construction, improvement, and maintenance. • Undertake public facilities projects that complement the existing and planned public transportation network, to include improvements to bus stops and light rail access points. • Fund transit corridor enhancements such as façade improvements and public art. • Prioritize funding for other infrastructure and facility projects based on proximity to transit. • Address slum and blight removal projects along the light rail corridor.
6	Priority Need	Increase Collaboration Between Service Providers
	Priority Level	Medium
	Associated Activities	• Facilitate the development of a regional social service collaborative to coordinate the work of social service organizations, disseminate news and information, eliminate duplication of effort, and spearhead community-wide solutions to local needs. • Review the work of various departments within the City and seek opportunities for collaborations between similar programs that could leverage greater services.
7	Priority Need	Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
	Priority Level	Medium

	Associated Activities	• Increase the supply of affordable units and units accessible to people with disabilities. • Increase fair housing education and build capacity for fair housing testing and enforcement. • Support improved access to community resources.
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