

**CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO
CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2003 - 2007**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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City of Lancaster, Ohio
Community Development Block Grant Program
Citizen Participation Plan

CITIZEN COMMENTS

In compliance with the citizen participation plan, many efforts were made to obtain citizen input regarding the update of the City of Lancaster's Community Development Block Grant *Consolidated Plan*.

The following list partially summaries the public participation component of the plan.

Notices of public hearings were published in display advertisements of the Lancaster Eagle Gazette and information was disseminated at the public hearings.

Tremendous input and participation was received regarding the distribution of approximate 1100 CDBG priority needs assessment surveys.

The Continuum of Care meetings were well attended and committee members representing non profit housing agencies and affiliates provided a current housing needs analysis.

The city conducted a comprehensive housing market analysis.

Draft copies of the *Consolidated Plan* were distributed to approximately 100 agencies for review and comment.

Lancaster City Council presented three readings regarding the resolution adopting the updated Consolidated Plan and FY 2003 Annual Action Plan. Lancaster City Council agendas are published in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette.

The CD Director was interviewed in a cable network TV discussion forum regarding the CDBG program and the priority needs assessment survey.

The CD Director made a presentation in conjunction with the OSU Extension Service Education program regarding available CDBG programs and eligibility criteria.

The following citizen comments or views were received regarding the Consolidated Plan components:

A representative from Lutheran Social Services informed the CD staff their initial request for FY 2003 CDBG funding will be reduced due to staff cuts within their organization. The LSS homeless prevention counseling activity is ongoing but at a slower pace due to staff reduction.

Representatives participating in the initial public hearing acknowledged their appreciation regarding the presentation of the CDBG material in a comprehensible format.

Appreciation comments were received from applicants participating in the housing rehabilitation and homebuyer acquisition assistance programs.

A board member of the Lighthouse Domestic Violence Shelter presented comments concerning the board's dissatisfaction regarding the decrease in CDBG funding for FY 2003.

Comments were received from the Director of the Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority submitting additional information regarding housing needs and programs.

Positive comments were received from MRDD regarding the consolidated plan process and document.

Letters of support were received regarding the Consolidated Plan, the FY 2003 Annual Action Plan, and the overall positive impact CDBG funding has provided to agencies within the communities. Letters were received from the Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency, New Horizons Youth and Family Center, Habitat for Humanity, Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority, and the Lighthouse.