

II. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

Community outreach is an important component of HUD's Community Planning and Development (CPD) grant programs (i.e. CDBG, HOME, ESG, ADDI and HOPWA). To foster community outreach, the City of Long Beach has developed a Citizen Participation Plan, which establishes policies and protocols for community outreach and citizen involvement.

The City of Long Beach has developed and followed a detailed Citizen Participation Plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation and which emphasizes participation by persons of low and/or moderate income, for which the City proposes to use HUD entitlement funding. The City of Long Beach Citizen Participation Plan is included as reference item in the Appendix. The Plan provides citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings; provides an opportunity to review proposed activities and to review program performance; provides for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances; and identifies how the needs residents will be met in the case of public hearings.

During the development of this 2005 – 2010 Consolidated Plan, the City of Long Beach adhered to the Citizen Participation Plan and provided multiple opportunities for community input. The community outreach process undertaken for the development of this Consolidated Plan is also presented in this chapter.

A. COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR THE 2005-2010 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

Presentations and discussions were held at 19 community outreach group meetings to describe what a Consolidated Plan is and obtain community input on community development needs. Outreach was conducted to a wide variety of groups, including NIS (Neighborhood Improvement Strategy) neighborhood groups, Long Beach Coalition for the Homeless, Long Beach Youth and Children Commission, Long Beach Housing Trust Fund Coalition, Long Beach Non-Profit Partnership Coalition, and others. These groups were chosen because they represent areas with the highest concentrations of low and moderate income populations and reflect a variety of community interests (Table II-1).

**Table II-1
Community Outreach Meetings**

Date	Organization	Address
January 6, 2005	WESCA NIS	Lee Elementary School, 1620 Temple Avenue
January 18, 2005	MacArthur NIS	Anaheim Police Center, 1320 Gaviota Avenue
January 18, 2005	Roosevelt NIS	Roosevelt Elementary, 1574 Linden Avenue
January 19, 2005	Central Advisory Committee	Central Facilities Center, 1133 Rhea at King Park
January 19, 2005	Willmore NIS	Willmore Police Center, 910 Daisy
January 20, 2005	St. Mary's NIS	Lincoln Elementary, 1175 East 11 th Street
January 20, 2005	Washington NIS	Washington Middle School, 1450 Cedar Avenue
January 26, 2005	Central NIS	Burnett Elementary, 565 East Hill St
January 26, 2005	Hellman NIS	Long Beach Senior Center, 1150 East 4 th Street
January 27, 2005	Madres Unidas	Garfield Elementary School, 2240 Baltic Ave
February 2, 2005	Pro West NIS	West Side Police Station, 1835 Santa Fe Avenue
February 10, 2005	South Wrigley NIS	Lafayette Elementary, 2445 Chestnut Avenue
March 23, 2005	Long Beach Commission on Youth & Children	Long Beach Senior Center, 1150 E. 4 th Street
March 9, 2005	Neighborhood Workshop on Consolidated Plan	Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Avenue
February 25, 2005	Long Beach Non Profit Partnership – Executive Roundtable	Conservation Corps, 3635 Atlantic Avenue
February 8, 2005	North Long Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars	VFW, 1032 South Street
February 2, 2005	Long Beach Coalition for the Homeless	Multi-Service Center, 1301 W. 12 th Street
March 28, 2005	Centro CHA	Youth Opportunity Center, 350 Long Beach Blvd
May 5, 2005	Long Beach Housing Trust Fund Coalition	100 Pine Avenue

Key Issues Identified

Several recurring comments were expressed by residents during the community outreach meetings:

- The level of funding available is significantly below the extent of needs in Long Beach.
- Housing costs are too high and affordable housing opportunities are needed. However, certain neighborhoods have an over-concentration of low-income housing and the City should seek to disperse such housing.
- Neighborhood improvements, especially housing rehabilitation, property maintenance, and code enforcement issues, should continue to be addressed.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE 2005-2010 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

In preparation for the development of this Consolidated Plan, the Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) held a joint Public Hearing on February 16, 2005. Present were the Long Beach Housing Development Company, the Long Beach Board of Health and the Long Beach Homeless Services Advisory Committee. The public hearing was held in the City Council Chambers at Long Beach City Hall. The location is handicapped accessible with translation services in Sign Language, Spanish and Khmer made available to the public. Appendix 2 summarizes the comments received during the primary public hearing. Advanced notice of the hearings was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram, in neighborhood-based newspapers, as well as in Spanish and Khmer (Cambodian) language newspapers (the other primary language of our residents). Persons who did not want to speak at the public hearing were encouraged to write their comments on forms provided by the Neighborhood Services Bureau which were distributed at all community outreach meetings and at the Neighborhood Resource Center. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix 3. These forms were translated into Spanish and Khmer.

The City also conducted a mass mailing of a Public Hearing flyer and the public notice, which was translated into Spanish and Khmer. The mailing list consisted of non-profit agencies, City departments (including the Long Beach Housing Authority), elected officials, and interested citizens. The notices were also sent to public libraries and to other organizations that outreach to populations that are the most disenfranchised. A draft copy of the Consolidated Plan was sent to any person who requested a copy in order for them to provide additional comments and information. On May 8, 2005 the City published a notice in the Press Telegram informing the public that between May 18 and June 15, 2005 the draft Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan will be available for review and comment. A notice was also published in several neighborhood newspapers regarding the availability of the draft documents for review. The public could review the draft documents at the Main Branch of the Public Library and at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Finally, the draft documents will also made available to the public on the City of Long Beach's website.

The City sent out a mass mailing of a flyer translated into Spanish and Khmer and the public notice of the joint Final Public Hearing that occurred on June 15, 2005 in the City Council Chambers in Long Beach City Hall. The mailing list consisted of non-profit agencies, City departments (including the Long Beach Housing Authority), elected officials, and interested citizens. The notices will be sent to public libraries and to other organizations that outreach to populations that are the most disenfranchised. Notices were also sent to surrounding entitlement jurisdictions inviting comments on the draft plan.

The public will be given the opportunity to provide their comments on the draft Consolidated Plan and Action Plan at the Final Public Hearing on June 15, 2005. The Final Consolidated Plan will contain the comments from this public hearing as well as a summary of written comments received during the public comment period.

The Draft Consolidated Plan will be discussed by the Long Beach Housing Development Company, the Long Beach Board of Health and the Long Beach Homeless Services Advisory Committee. The Community Development Advisory Committee will vote to approve to recommend that the Long Beach City Council approve the Consolidated Plan and submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD).

C. AGENCIES CONSULTED

As described above, the City conferred with a wide range of housing, homeless, and social service agencies in preparation of the Consolidated Plan. As the lead agency, the Community Development Department also consulted with other key City departments in development of the Plan, including: the City Manager's Office; Health and Human Services; Parks, Recreation and Marine; and Police. The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services provided specific information on the incidence of childhood lead poisoning in the community, as well as statistics on persons living with HIV/AIDS in Long Beach.

Notification of the availability of the draft Consolidated Plan was sent to surrounding federal entitlement jurisdictions during the 30 day review of the Plan. This includes the cities of Bellflower, Carson, Cerritos, Compton, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Inglewood, Lakewood, Los Angeles, Lynwood and South Gate.