

Section III. Public Participation

The Public Participation section explains the public process and comments received about the Plan from City and County staff and Council, area social services agencies, and the community in general.

Public Participation

The Consolidated Plan regulations stipulate that grantees meet certain citizen participation requirements. Included, the grantee must hold at least two public hearings a year to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions. One of the public hearings should be held during the development of the Plan. The proposed Consolidated Plan must be published in one or more local newspapers, and make copies available in the libraries, government offices and public places. Additionally, there must be a 30-day period for citizen review and comment prior to submitting the Plan to HUD. Public comments must be given consideration. The plan should include a summary of comments received and reasons the comments/ suggestions were not incorporated.

Focus Group. As part of the Broomfield 2009 Consolidated Planning process, a focus group was conducted on October 30, 2008 with individuals from organizations serving special populations. A total of 25 individuals representing 18 organizations and county departments participated in the focus group.

The participants served a broad range of populations, including:

Low-income individuals and families;	Youth aging out of foster care;
Persons with physical or mental disabilities;	Mobile home community residents;
Persons with HIV/AIDS;	Seniors;
Families in need of emergency assistance;	Persons at risk of foreclosure; and
Persons who are homeless;	Persons who lack employment and/or are underemployed.

Public Hearing. Two Public Hearings were held during the 30-day Public Comment Period for the community to provide input regarding the Consolidated Plan:

Monday, March 16, 2009

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Lakeshore Room, Broomfield Senior Center
280 Lamar, Broomfield

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Eisenhower Room, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Library
3 Community Park Road, Broomfield

30-Day Public Comment Period. The 30-day public comment period was held March 2 –31, 2009.

Public Comments

Public Comments. The following public comments were received during the focus group. Additional comments received from the 30-day comment period, will be added at the end of that period.

Comment No. 1:

"We have had incidents of individuals traveling to different counties for emergency housing and returning to work in Broomfield because it has been their home for years. These people are multiple age and multiple family dynamics from two parent homes, single parent homes and single individuals of all ages. Many of these people may also be connected with other Broomfield programs.

At this time due to economic conditions we both feel the money should be used for rental/ mortgage payment assistance.

In the future it would be a good idea to have some funds to either purchase/ or refurbish affordable housing and have more subsidized housing.

In the future for some of the young people and people with children we would like to see a subsidized housing community that had built into it a lot of life skills training, resources for continued success and support.

Also some resources for seniors in life changing times such as death of spouse. Income often is cut in half and they are in need of different housing or housing subsidies to survive."

Comment No. 2:

The following comments about the transportation system are from a low-income resident who works and lives in Broomfield.

"1. Easy Ride - does not go to as many places as needed. They only serve minimal hours (9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) Riders must call in advance the day before and before 2:00 p.m. The fee is reasonable, \$1 per roundtrip (inside Broomfield) and they do go to Kaiser Med. for \$3 RT. However, they will not cross Sheridan to the east nor to the south past 120th Avenue. They only go west to the Broomfield Park N Ride and to the west of Hwy 287. They also pickup prescriptions from the residents if they have notice the day before, and they will return with the filled prescriptions the next day.

2. Call N Ride is \$.85/ each time you board and they do have longer hours (5:30a.m-7:30 p.m.) However they do not cross Main St. until 9:30 a.m. as they transport middle school students before and after school. They do connect with all work related buses, but with limited hours, one cannot always make connections with city buses. CNR does cross 120th Ave. only to shopping centers and goes south to Habitat for Humanity; but doesn't cross Sheridan East. It goes only to 136th Avenue. north, but she often needs to go to 144th. On the west, they do go to industrial area and across HWY 287 as well as to the Broomfield Park N Ride.

Access A Ride- provides service to those who have qualified medically to need the services. However, their track record is very poor. They have left one of our residents downtown Denver on two occasions after her doctor appointment. She had to call her daughter to pick her up at 6:00 p.m. after waiting for Access a Ride for 1 1/2 hrs, only to find they weren't able to come and return her to her apt. Another of our residents got left several times downtown as well, and finally got a ride back by 7:00 p.m. or later.

The seniors really need a lot of help getting on and off the buses, and Easy Ride does a good job of it. However, often they are short drivers and can't pick up all the people when they want to be picked up. The hours need to be extended at least throughout the afternoon. It also appears that there is a need to go to doctor offices farther away than just in Broomfield. But the seniors cannot negotiate that distance on a regular bus. They are reluctant to try to take a bus when they haven't done it before, and many are used to driving, so find it very hard to transition to using public services. If they had someone they trusted to show them the way once or twice, then they may be able to use the services. The other issue is that they do not want to spend the money to go to doctor and some, frankly, can barely afford it. If there were a service that was free for low income seniors I think they would be more comfortable using the bus."

Comment No. 3

Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program

- "The program has been very successful because we have terrific wrap-around services.
- In the past we have served 10-15 families a year.
- 15 TBRA vouchers for Broomfield County residents would be a great start."

Transitional Housing. No transitional housing available since March 1, 2008 (TBRA).

Shelter Needs

- We have no emergency shelter in Broomfield.
- The closest shelter is in EFAA in Lafayette. It is very difficult to get our clients into the shelter and Broomfield residents have to leave their community.

- A small apartment complex with 2-3 units of emergency shelter (6-12 weeks) and additional units for transitional housing would be the ideal situation.
- Case management is the key to a successful unit.

Section 8. Currently, Broomfield does not have Section 8 vouchers unless they come from other counties (most Broomfield residents with vouchers had them before we became a county).

Affordable Housing. Village Square is the only low-income affordable unit in Broomfield. Another affordable complex would be welcome in Broomfield.

Public Housing. There is no low income subsidized housing in Broomfield except for seniors.

[MORE TO BE ADDED AFTER COMMENT PERIOD.]