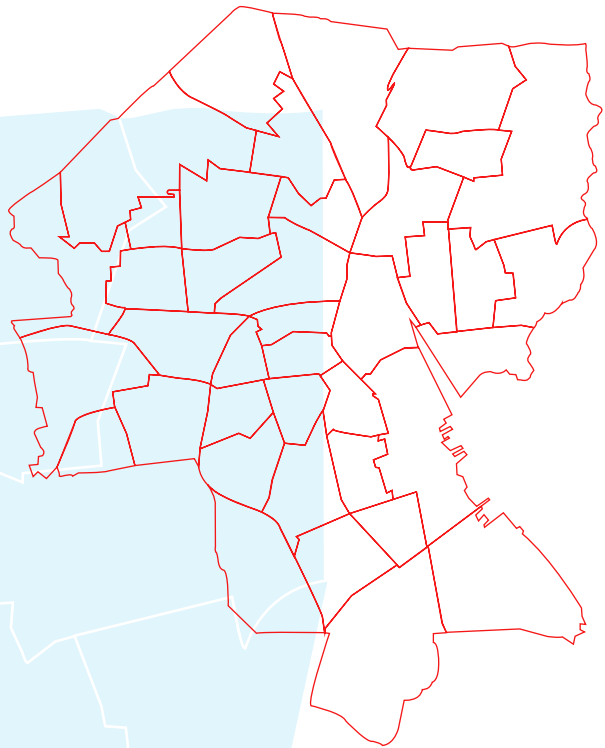


2015 – 2019



# Consolidated & Annual Action Plan

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor  
City of Providence, Rhode Island

Department of Planning and Development  
Bonnie Nickerson, Director  
Brian Hull, Director, Division of Community Development

Community Development Block Grant  
HOME Investment Partnership Program  
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS  
Emergency Solutions Grant

Submitted to the U.S. Department of  
Housing & Urban Development







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# Executive Summary

*ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)*

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## **1. Introduction**

The 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) is the City of Providence's guidance document for strategically allocating the following Federal funds: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and the Lead Hazard Control and Reduction Program (LHC).

The purpose of the ConPlan is to identify the City's housing, community, neighborhood, and economic development needs, prioritize those needs, and develop goals and strategies regarding how funding will be allocated to eligible housing and community development activities to meet the City's priority needs. The ConPlan is rooted in broad-based outreach which solicited information from the City's residents, organizations and agencies that work in housing and community development, civic and community leaders, academics and researchers, and public agencies. This information assisted greatly in the development of the ConPlan and is the foundation for the City's efforts on housing, homelessness, public services, facility and infrastructure improvements, and community and economic development.

The City is required to examine barriers to fair housing choice and develop a plan to mitigate such barriers. This information is contained in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The State of Rhode Island is preparing a statewide Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Once complete, the City will supplement this information with additional City-specific barriers.

In addition to the ConPlan, the City is required to complete two reports each year. First is the Annual Action Plan which specifies how the City proposes to allocate the funds for the upcoming year. These allocations must comport with the priorities articulated in the ConPlan. The 2015 Action Plan is included in this ConPlan. Second is the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) which specifies how the City has spent its federal funds and whether or not the City is meeting the goals set forth in the ConPlan. The CAPER is completed by September 30 of each year. Both of these reports will be made available to the public for review.

## 2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

The City of Providence's housing and community needs were identified through a series of eight community meetings that solicited input from residents of the 25 neighborhoods in the City; multiple meetings with local Community Development organizations, community centers, and other nonprofit service organizations; evaluation of data obtained from partner organizations such as the Providence Housing Authority, Crossroads Rhode Island, AIDS Care Ocean State, Children and Youth Cabinet; data systems such as HMIS; publicly available data; and a variety of other sources. Each of these helped inform various sections of the ConPlan.

### Housing Needs

**Housing Affordability:** Approximately 40% of the rental and homeowners in the city pay more than 30% of their annual income on housing. Add in the facts that many residents fall within the low- and moderate-income brackets and a large number of home owners remain underwater due to the down turn in the economy. These concerns are magnified by the high number of residents who earn between 0% - 30% of the area median income. All these facts make it difficult to find affordable housing for residents of the city.

**Substandard Housing Stock:** The lack of maintenance of a large portion of the City's housing stock, in conjunction with its age, along with the high number of absentee landlords and lack of resources for property owners to maintain their properties affects the quality of housing within the city.

**Public Housing:** Providence Housing Authority is the sole agency in the city that provides public housing. Its portfolio consists of 2,601 units that serve 5,612 residents. Additionally it provides housing assistance to 6,431 individuals as the contract administrator of section 8 housing. In analyzing the data provide by the PHA two facts stand out; 1) the average wait time to get a unit can be as long as 5 years, 2) for elderly or disable clients the wait period approaches 2 years.

### Homeless Needs

**Homelessness:** Estimating the total population of the unsheltered homeless presents a difficult challenge due to the transient nature of the homeless population. Further, estimating those who are at-risk of homelessness is equally challenging. In conversation with homelessness providers, through analysis of HMIS data, and review of the State's strategic plan to end chronic homelessness, one significant issue identified was the need to quickly re-house individuals and families that fall into homelessness. The issue of homelessness is exacerbated by the lack of resources to provide the requisite support

services for individuals and families to maintain their housing. To address these issues, the City is focused on quickly responding to homelessness through rapid re-housing for those that fall into homelessness and the Housing First model of providing homeless individuals with permanent housing and the appropriate wrap around services as required for them to maintain their housing.

## Non-Homeless Special Needs

There are households throughout the City that have special needs unrelated to homelessness. Some of these population groups include the elderly and frail elderly; those living with some type of physical or cognitive disability; those living with HIV/AIDS and their families; persons with substance use disorders; persons with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI); and victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These groups may face greater challenges than the general population due to their specific circumstances and the City's housing stock, particularly the large pools of homes in the City built before 1940, may not be suitable for households with special needs. These groups may also require special attention due to additional social services required.

These special needs populations face a multitude of housing and support service needs unique to their circumstances. A wide availability of housing options for each of these groups, with the requisite supporting services will be necessary to truly meet their needs. Key support needs include additional accommodations for the City's aging population and those that suffer from ambulatory and independent living difficulties. Those living with disabilities need housing that can accommodate wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Those living with HIV/AIDS are in need of housing and supportive medically-related services. Similarly, those diagnosed with mental or developmental disabilities require affordable housing which allows for independent living with the requisite supportive services.

These needs are far beyond the resources available and the City of Providence is fully supportive of additional state-level efforts for additional affordable housing resources for rehabilitation and new development to broaden the spectrum of housing choices in the City.

## Non Housing Community Development Needs

**Schools:** Due to a stagnant population growth and a fragile tax base, the City struggles to provide the resources necessary to meet the educational needs of all its residents. One consistent point highlighted in the community meetings was the condition of the City's school facilities. This issue is compounded by the lack of technology in several schools throughout the City.



**Libraries:** The total cost for facility improvements at the 9 community libraries stands at \$3.18 million; however, several capital repairs are in process with the financial assistance of CDBG funds.

**Parks and Recreation:** The Providence Parks Department is responsible for overseeing numerous ball fields, walking paths, pools, community gardens, recreational centers along with numerous other facilities totaling close to 200 in all. Like the schools and libraries in the City, the need for renovation and preservation far outweigh the dollars available to keep up with the need.

**Senior Centers & Community Centers:** Community Centers and Senior Centers play a vital role in providing services to the residence of Providence. However, like many public facilities in the city these centers are in need of renovations that extend far beyond their ability to meet the fiscal responsibility that goes along with the renovations.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

With the assistance of regional HUD staff, the City has been making consistent improvements to its performance, both in terms of impact as well as meeting all Federal documentation, reporting, and compliance requirements. At the same time, the Community Development staff has been working to bring greater rigor to the evaluation of requests for funding. The Division of Community Development, with active support of the Mayor's Office and the City Council, has sought to change the nature of CDBG investments away from a large number of small dollar grants of marginal and diminishing value to a smaller number of larger grants to allow for more transformational place-based projects. As the resources allocated to the City continue to decrease, maintaining a commitment to progress in this area will be all the more important.

The City of Providence has a strong record of making a significant impact with CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds. A commitment of City resources is often the catalyst used by community-based organizations as the basis for their fundraising efforts and leverage private dollars for even greater impact. With the endorsement and financial commitment of the City, organizations are greatly strengthened in their ability to obtain donations from the community, from foundations, and the private sector. Additionally, City funds are often used as last-in "gap financing" to support important efforts after an organization's fundraising capacity has been reached.

The following are just some of the major community benefits realized through strategic investment of community development resources:

- Continuing to expand the supply of affordable housing
- Arresting neighborhood blight and mitigating the impact of the foreclosure crisis in vulnerable city neighborhoods
- Creation of a unique, cooperative, statewide process for soliciting, evaluating, awarding, and monitoring recipients of funding to address homelessness
- Catalytic place-based strategies for comprehensive neighborhood renewal in neighborhoods such as Olneyville, Smith Hill, and the West End
- Development of a nationally recognized cohort of youth development organizations. Providence is unique for a city its size in being the home to four recipients of the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award: AS220, Community MusicWorks, Providence CityArts for Youth, and New Urban Arts. All four organizations have received CDBG funds that were critical to their growth and success. Simon Moore, founder and executive director of College Visions, will soon receive the Champion of Change Award at a White House ceremony
- Creation of a model afterschool system through the leadership of the Providence After School Alliance, a recipient of CDBG funding  
Development of a robust network of community gardens and farms, and the community resources supporting and sustaining urban agriculture and entrepreneurs in food production
- Implementation of a model Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, aligning resources to take a “whole house” approach to remediation, a major national priority for HUD
- Renovations to numerous public facilities expanding access, services, and impact at branch libraries, community centers, senior centers, job training sites, meal sites, adult education programs, recreational facilities, and more

#### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

As part of the Consolidated Plan process, information on the housing and community development needs of Providence citizens was gathered during eight Community Conversation meetings throughout the City during March and April 2015. Further, in late-2014 / early-2015, Mayor Elorza hosted four “One Providence” listening forums and established Transition Committees in the following areas: Economic Development; Education; Public Safety; City Services; Housing & Neighborhood Development; Arts, Culture, and Cuisine; Sustainability; Sports, Recreation, and Youth Programming; Ethics, Transparency, and Open Government; and Strategic Opportunities. Each of these Transition Committees hosted two or three City-wide community meetings and developed a final report containing a set of short-term and long-term recommendations for the Administration. Finally, in June and July of 2015, the City of Providence held a public meeting and afforded the public, community organizations, and other interested parties sufficient time to review and comment on the Consolidated Plan.

Promotion for these community meetings were done through email, Spanish-language radio, posting flyers at libraries, schools, and community centers, newspaper advertisements, and online social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, etc.).

Generally speaking, the City’s citizen participation process was robust and inclusive; however, future efforts at broadening public engagement will include holding at least one meeting at a public housing development, holding at least one meeting at a homeless shelter, holding meetings at agencies that serve communities of color, immigrants, and refugees, and further soliciting the assistance of community leaders to promote public meetings to their networks.

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

Some of the most important issues of concern and priority needs for the community included the cost of housing and the desire for more affordable housing; improvements to the City’s education system; homelessness, good-paying jobs/economic development; better park maintenance; increased sports and recreation activities; rehabilitating low-quality, unsafe, and unhealthy housing; public safety; poverty; and social services for adults, seniors, and children. Residents also expressed concern over absentee landlords, insufficient housing code enforcement, need for down payment assistance, desire for improved collaboration between the City and local CDCs, better pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, improving the condition of sidewalks and roads, urban farms, funding for senior activities, importance of youth development and afterschool and summer programs for youth, job training, facility improvements, the lack of rehabilitation services for ex-offenders and treatment for drug or alcohol addiction, condition of school facilities, storefront improvements, GED and adult education programs.

## **6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

Some comments fell outside the scope of the Consolidated Plan or referenced activities that would be ineligible for use of CDBG funds. These comments were not accepted and included: a one way street sign near a school, better snow plowing, use of the police sub-station, the ProvConnex system, burying power lines along India Point Park, on-street parking, licensing of liquor stores, increasing the size of the police force, and the City's tax policy. While most of these comments related to activities that are ineligible for CDBG funding, comments were referred to the appropriate City departments.

## **7. Summary**

Not necessary.

# The Process

## *PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)*

### **1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source**

The following agencies/entities are responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG, HOME, HOPWA Grant Administrator	PROVIDENCE	Division of Community Development, Department of Planning and Development
ESG Grant Administrator	PROVIDENCE	Division of Community Development, Department of Planning and Development in consultation with State of Rhode Island Office of Homelessness, Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the Rhode Island Continuum of Care
Section 108 Loan – Small Business Lending	PROVIDENCE	Providence Economic Development Partnership
Public Housing	PROVIDENCE	Providence Housing Authority

### Narrative

The Providence Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is the lead agency and through its Division of Community Development (DCD) administers the annual allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grants. Further, the DCD also administers the lead abatement program funded by a three-year \$3.9 million grant from the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. The Providence Economic Development Partnership (PEDP) is responsible for small business lending and the Providence Housing Authority (PHA) oversees the portfolio of public housing in the City. The City is a member of the Rhode Island Continuum of Care as well as the State’s Consolidated Homeless Fund.

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## *PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)*

### **Introduction**

In preparation for the drafting of this Consolidated Plan, the Division of Community Development hosted a series of 8 community meetings throughout the City, held focus groups with Community Development Corporations and Community Centers, solicited public input through an online survey of community needs in English and Spanish, and reached out to individual community, civic, and business leaders in the City as part of a broad effort of community engagement and consultation.

In late 2014, the City of Providence, through the Division of Community Development, began consulting with City Departments, nonprofit service agencies, Community and Housing Development Corporations, other State Agencies and Departments, City business owners, and the general public to discuss short-term and long-term housing and community development needs for the residents of Providence and strategies for meeting these needs. Providence is rich in the number and type of agencies and organizations that provide social services to populations in need. This network of agencies and organizations provide a broad variety of housing, economic, and social service programs that serve many community residents. These include community development corporations (CDCs), other nonprofit housing developers, non-profit service providers, human services and shelter providers, organizations working with special needs populations, and other community-based organizations. Most of these organizations are funded through a combination of public and private sources.

The unfortunate reality is that many of these service agencies struggle with resource constraints, compete for the same limited funding opportunities, and often offer duplicative services. There is a general lack of communication among the various groups in the City which impedes the efficient delivery of services in a coordinated fashion. Providers in the City need to consider more pro-active collaboration or consolidation to eliminate the duplication of services and to align resources and effort to have greater impact in the communities they serve. In an effort to facilitate collaboration, the Division of Community Development will be building a centralized, searchable database of service providers in the City, the services offered, and the clients served.

Additionally, with a greater emphasis on requiring full compliance with all local, state, and federal rules, and an increased demand for grant recipients to demonstrate outcomes, as opposed to strictly outputs, the DCD believes that funds invested in program will not only have an impact, but that these efforts will also raise the capacity and effectiveness of organizations that adapt to these new demands.

**Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction’s activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I)).**

The City’s Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has regular contact with community residents, business owners, nonprofit organizations, service providers, as well as the beneficiaries of the programs administered by the Division of Community Development (DCD). This direct contact with the public and providers and agencies results in regular input regarding the needs of the community, allows for alignment with the City’s goals, and assists in program development and implementation.

The DCD has periodic meetings or conversations with the Providence Housing Authority and the network of Community Development Corporations in the City to inform and coordinate on strategies related to public and affordable housing and community development. Similarly, the DCD hosts periodic focus groups and meetings with community health centers, mental health centers, substance abuse programs, community centers, as well as service agencies to help inform on an ongoing basis the needs of the community. In the City of Providence, leadership for health policy and program implementation resides in the Mayor’s Healthy Communities Office. This Office has regular and meaningful input on the activities of the DCD. Grant solicitation materials include priorities and standards for performance provided by the Healthy Communities Office and that Office also assists, as needed, with reviewing relevant applications. A similarly cooperative and dynamic partnership exists with the City’s Office of Sustainability, which leads all environmental, energy conservation, and climate-change/adaptation activities in the City. Both the Healthy Communities Office and the Office of Sustainability have active advisory committees and robust public participation.

The City’s DCD also speaks periodically with various state agencies related to housing, health, and -mental health, particularly the Office of Housing and Community Development in the State of Rhode Island Division of Planning, the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, and the Division of Elderly Affairs. Further, the City interacts with the Veterans Administration regarding veteran homelessness.

Providence is the only municipal member of the Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes (RIAHH) Executive Steering Committee. RIAHH is a coalition launched in 2013 to raise awareness about the cost of unhealthy housing and align resources and services among city, state and community-based service organizations to improve the health, safety and energy efficiency of homes. This coalition is comprised of members from Brown University School of Public Health, RI Housing Resources Commission, RI Attorney General’s Office, RI Department of Health, Rhode Island Housing, Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, Housing Works RI, National Grid, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Parent Information Network.



As part of the City's Lead Safe Providence Program, a comprehensive and cohesive strategy to coordinate lead hazard reduction with existing housing programs, a diverse partnership of lead hazard reduction, Healthy Homes, and weatherization organizations were brought together to support a single portal intake process for applicants, a comprehensive assessment model, and the creation of an integrated housing intervention strategy. Program partners include: Office of the Mayor, RI Department of Health, RI Office of Housing & Community Development, RI Housing Resources Commission, City of Providence Lead Housing Court, City of Providence Department of Inspections and Standards, RI Weatherization Assistance Program / Low Income Heating Assistance Program, National Grid, Community Action Partnership of Providence, Saint Joseph Hospital, Childhood Lead Action Project, Community College of Rhode Island, and the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning.

**Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.**

The City of Providence is a full member of the State of Rhode Island's single Continuum of Care (RiCoC) and sits on the review and evaluation committee. The City also is a full member of the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF). In combination, these collaborations guide the state's programs to address the needs of the homeless population. The CHF has brought together various resources available to support homelessness programs into a single, coordinated effort. The CHF includes:

- Pawtucket Emergency Solutions Grants
- Providence Emergency Solutions Grants
- Woonsocket Emergency Solutions Grants
- State of RI Emergency Solutions Grants
- Title XX Shelter/Homeless Service Funds
- Housing Resource Commission Shelter/  
Homeless Service Funds

Both the RiCoC and the CHF are designed to deliver a continuum of programs and assistance that works to reduce the number of homeless individuals and families throughout Rhode Island. The City of Providence's ESG funds bolster that effort by funding agencies and activities in Providence that are in alignment with the coordinated statewide strategy. The RiCoC and CHF support a wide range of activities targeted to assisting persons at-risk of or experiencing homelessness every year and determine funding priorities based on the needs of various population groups including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth. The City supports the goals of "Opening Doors Rhode Island: Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness," the state plan that shares the vision of "Opening Doors, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness." The vision is that no one should

experience homelessness and no one should be without a stable, safe place to call home. The goals of Opening Doors Rhode Island are to:

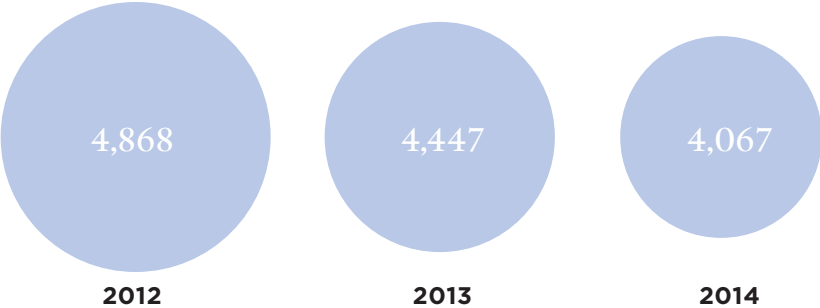
- Increase the supply of and access to permanent housing that is affordable to very low income households
- Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System to be more effective in preventing and ending homelessness
- Increase economic security for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Improve Health and Housing Stability
- Increase Leadership, Collaboration and Civic Engagement

Rhode Island is one of five states that joined the Zero: 2016 campaign with a goal of housing the chronic and veteran homeless by 2016. The DCD is wholly supportive of this effort and participates through its partnership and engagement with the Consolidated Homeless Fund and Continuum of Care.

In November of 2014, an effort led by the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless (RICH) pulled together over 450 volunteers to collect and assess the vulnerability and needs of hundreds of homeless Rhode Islanders - some had never before come in contact with the homeless system. The information collected will allow for better alignment of resources to address homelessness throughout the state and the City.

Finally, the City is developing an enhanced relationship with the Department of Veteran Affairs to assist in efforts to ending Veteran homelessness. The Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office has partnered with the VA Center for Applied Systems Engineering to develop a new multilevel Veteran Homelessness Gap Analysis capability. This capability enables joint analysis of gaps across the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the RICoC to identify services offered by the VA to end Veteran homelessness and gaps in services and programming.

### Homeless in Rhode Island



**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction’s area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS**

The Division of Community Development for the City of Providence meets regularly with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RiCoC) and the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF) to discuss funding priorities to meet the needs of the State’s homeless population. The goals of this coordination are as follows:

- To reduce administrative burden on grantees, allowing more resources and time to be allocated to client services
- To develop consistent policies and procedures across state and municipal boundaries to allow for more effective and efficient programs and services
- To increase efficiency and reduce the duplication of administrative efforts across municipal and state units of government
- To universalize the evaluation of applications and systematize the deployment of funds to decrease homelessness through strategic coordination and alignment

As a key member of the RiCoC Approval and Evaluation Committee and the CHF, the City plays an important role in aligning Providence ESG funds to meet the needs of the homeless population through a coordinated strategy. Further, as all the partner organizations and agencies work together to evaluate programs, consistent performance standards and evaluation criteria are used to universally score programs.

The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless (RICH) is the lead agency for the policies, procedures, and maintenance of the HMIS system. The City is in frequent communication with RICH to discuss policies and procedures regarding HMIS administration. These conversations are generally informal.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction’s consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities.**

## 1. Adoption Rhode Island

**Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Homeless  
Child Welfare Agency

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth  
Homelessness Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Phone conversation with Community Engagement Coordinator to discuss services and programs for youth at risk of homelessness as they transition out of the foster care system. Spoke about supporting the agency’s coordinated partnership with Family Service of RI, Lucy’s Hearth, and House of Hope Community Development Corporation to support the Bridges to Hope Project, a collaboration to help disconnected youth who are at risk of aging out of the foster care system without permanency or who have aged out. Better coordination between the state DCYF system and homeless prevention services is necessary.

## 2. AIDS Care Ocean State

**Organization Type**

Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

HOPWA Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regularly speak with Executive Director to discuss specific services and housing needs for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and better coordination with homeless service providers to identify and rapidly house HIV-infected persons. Collaboration is expected to lead to better coordination between ACOS and homeless providers or other agencies that are providing public services to HIV positive persons.

### 3. Amos House

**Organization Type**

Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS  
Housing  
Services-Homeless  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Civic Leaders  
Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homelessness Strategy  
Anti-Poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Frequent conversations with Executive Director about programs and services offered by Amos House, the broader needs of the community, and anti-poverty strategies to assist low-income individuals, particularly the formerly incarcerated, to obtain the skills necessary to be employable. Consultation leads to an awareness of the lack of coordination between agencies such as Amos House and the public workforce system.

### 4. Billy Taylor House

**Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Economic Development  
Anti-poverty Strategy  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Phone conversations and in-person meetings with Executive Director to discuss community needs, youth violence, programs and services for youth diversion from

the criminal justice system, employment and workforce development opportunities for youth, and the need for more resources to go into youth activities and summer employment programs. Conversations are leading to better coordination among specific public service agencies in the Mount Hope neighborhood.

## 5. Black Contractors Association of Rhode Island

### **Organization Type**

Services-Employment  
Business Leaders

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Anti-poverty Strategy  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

In-person meeting to discuss contracting and business support needs of firms owned by people of color. Desire for technical assistance and capacity building programs tied to revenue generation opportunities such as City contracting.

## 6. Building Futures

### **Organization Type**

Services-Education  
Services-Employment

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Economic Development  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular conversation with Executive Director to discuss apprenticeship and workforce development programs in the construction industry, employment opportunities for low-income City residents in the construction fields, and market opportunities to expand job opportunities for unemployed Providence residents. Consultations lead to improved coordination with the public workforce system.

## 7. Capital City Community Center

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 8. Capital Good Fund

### **Organization Type**

Business Leader  
Community Development Financial Institution

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Economic Development  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Discussed small business lending as a vehicle to expand the economy in small, but meaningful ways for low-income residents. Access to capital and strong business planning in niche markets is an opportunity for some low-income entrepreneurs. These types of entrepreneurs often have insurmountable barriers with traditional lenders. Consultation assisted in the programmatic development of a collateral enhancement program.

## 9. Child and Family Services

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 10. Childhood Lead Action Project

### **Organization Type**

Services-Health

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Lead-based Paint Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular coalition meetings to discuss lead abatement strategies. Consultation led to better coordination and integration of lead abatement strategies into healthy housing programs.

## 11. Crossroads Rhode Island

### **Organization Type**

Housing  
Services-Homeless  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Civic Leaders



**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

- Homelessness Strategy
- Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless
- Homeless Needs - Families with Children
- Homelessness Needs - Veterans
- Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied Youth
- Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Periodic consultation regarding the services offered by Crossroads, the demand for homeless services in Providence and the state, and strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness. Consultation leads to better coordination of services among the various homeless providers in the City and State.

## 12. DaVinci Center for Community Progress

**Organization Type**

- Services-Children
- Services-Elderly Persons
- Services-Education
- Services-Employment
- Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

- Non-Homeless Special Needs
- Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 13. Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE)

**Organization Type**

- Services-Housing
- Services-Education
- Services-Employment
- Services-Fair Housing

Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Met with Executive Director to discuss community needs, housing issues, foreclosure prevention, and programmatic services to meet the needs of low-income City residents. Consultation led to recognition that foreclosure and eviction prevention is a low cost program that minimizes vacancy of housing and reduces the costs of rehabilitation when vacant and abandoned housing becomes vandalized and blighted.

## 14. Elmwood Community Center

**Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 15. Emmanuel House

**Organization Type**

Services-Homeless

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans

Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth  
Homelessness Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Periodic consultation regarding the services offered by Emmanuel House, the demand for homeless services in Providence and the state, strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness, and particularly strategies to reduce inebriated emergency room visits by the homeless. Consultation leads to better coordination of services among the various homeless providers in the City and State.

## 16. Federal Hill House

**Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 17. Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

**Organization Type**

Services-Housing  
Services-Health

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Lead-based Paint Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular coalition meetings to discuss lead abatement strategies. Consultation led to

better coordination and integration of lead abatement strategies into healthy housing programs.

## 18. Housing Network of Rhode Island

### **Organization Type**

Services-Housing

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment

Market Analysis

Lead-based Paint Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular consultation to discuss housing needs, housing finance, programs to support new homeowners, and the market for new owner and rental units. As the Housing Network in a coalition of all the CDCs in the state, consultation leads to better coordination of programs and projects among the various CDCs operating in the City.

## 19. Housing Works RI at Roger Williams University

### **Organization Type**

Services-Housing

Planning Organization

Academic Research

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment

Market Analysis

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular consultation to discuss housing needs, housing finance, and the market for new owner and rental units. Consultation yields important information regarding the housing markets in the various neighborhoods throughout the City.

## 20. Joslin Community Center

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children

Services-Elderly Persons

Services-Education

Services-Employment

Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 21. Local Initiatives Support Corporation

**Organization Type**

Housing  
Services-Housing  
Service-Fair Housing  
Private Sector Banking / Financing

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Homelessness Strategy  
Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans  
Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth  
Economic Development  
Market Analysis  
Anti-poverty Strategy  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

LISC is a member of the Consolidated Homeless Fund and the RI Continuum of Care Review and Evaluation Committee and through these meetings we discuss the demand for homeless services, strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness, and alignment of efforts. Providence is a member of the LISC Neighborhood Development Fund and through this we consult regularly regarding the market for new and/or rehab units, and strategies for aligning funding for larger scale transformative development projects in the City.

## 22. Oasis International

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Neighborhood Organization

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation regarding the public service and community development needs of the African immigrant community, the service offerings of the organization, and strategies on how to best integrate African Americans into broader economic development.

## 23. Opportunities Industrialization Center of Rhode Island

### **Organization Type**

Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Economic Development  
Anti-poverty Strategy  
Non-housing Community Development

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation regarding their program offerings, workforce development, relationships with employer partners, the needs of the community, and anti-poverty strategies. Conversations have yielding important information regarding accessible job opportunities for low-income residents that only require short-term training and better coordination with the public workforce system.

## 24. Olneyville Housing Corporation

### **Organization Type**

Housing  
Services-Housing  
Services-Employment

Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment

Market Analysis

Non-housing Community Development Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

## 25. Omni Development Corporation

**Organization Type**

Housing

Services-Housing

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment

Homelessness Needs - Veterans

Market Analysis

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

## 26. Operation Stand Down Rhode Island

**Organization Type**

Housing

Services-Housing

Services-Homeless

Services-Veterans

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

As part of a broader consultation regarding the coordination of homeless services with the Veterans Administration, the City consulted with Operation Stand Down to discuss veteran homelessness, the housing market for veterans, and public service needs of veterans, particularly mental health services. Consultation highlighted the need for better coordination between veteran service agencies, the VA, and homeless service providers.

## 27. Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

**Organization Type**

Planning Organization  
Grantee Department

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

BPAC is overseen by the Department of Planning and Development. Their monthly meetings are staffed by a member of the Planning Department and the information gleaned from these meetings help shape development in the City by including the needs and preferences of pedestrians and cyclists.

## 28. ProvPlan

**Organization Type**

Planning Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Lead-based Paint Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Periodic consultation regarding their research on lead poisoning, housing market analysis, housing needs for new and rehab units helped inform the Consolidated Plan and the development of the lead abatement program.



## 29. The Providence Center

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Persons with Disabilities  
Services-Health  
Health Agency

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homelessness Strategy  
Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Non-Homeless Special Needs  
Non-housing Community Development

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Periodic consultation regarding the services offered by organization, the nature and extent of homelessness, the service needs of homeless population, and mental health needs of population. Consultation highlights the fragmented nature of mental health providers and the need for better coordination and cooperation among mental health providers and homeless service agencies.

## 30. Providence Children and Youth Cabinet

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Education

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation regarding the research conducted by organization, the service needs in their research area, metrics of analyzing investments, and how to operationalize findings and recommendations. The DCD will be working with CYC about evaluating performance of public service organizations to better identify impact and target resources.

## 31. Providence CityArts for Youth

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Education

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation regarding the programs offered by the organization, the service needs of the neighborhood, arts education programming in general, and the benchmark metrics for evaluating program benefits

## 32. Providence Housing Authority

### **Organization Type**

Public Housing Authority  
Services-Employment

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Public Housing Needs  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultations related to coordination between City Consolidated Plan and PHA Annual Plan for public housing, the needs of public housing residents, the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers, housing market trends, and the service needs of public housing residents.

## 33. Providence Revolving Fund

### **Organization Type**

Housing  
Services-Housing

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Market Analysis

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

## 34. Providence Veterans Administration Medical Center

**Organization Type**

Other Government - Federal  
Services-Health  
Services-Veterans

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homelessness Needs – Veterans  
Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation regarding the coordination of homeless services provided through the Consolidated Homeless Fund and state CoC with the Veterans Administration, veteran homelessness, the housing market for veterans, and public service needs of veterans. Consultation highlighted the need for better coordination between veteran service agencies, the VA, and homeless service providers.

## 35. Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes

**Organization Type**

Services-Housing  
Services-Health

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Lead-based Paint Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular coalition meetings to discuss healthy housing strategies. Consultation led to better coordination and integration of lead abatement strategies into healthy housing programs, identification of a wider network of agencies and organizations with the mission of healthy housing, and the identification and alignment of resources.

## 36. Rhode Island Black Business Association

### **Organization Type**

Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Regional Organization  
Business Leaders

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Economic Development  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation regarding the needs of small businesses in the City and state, particularly access to credit and capacity building programs to improve operations. Consultation has led to the development of a collateral enhancement program.

## 37. Rhode Island Center for Justice

### **Organization Type**

Services-Legal

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

In person consultation to discuss the legal service needs of low-income residents, particularly related to housing and evictions. Consultation led to a deeper understanding regarding state legislation related to evictions and retaliation. Next steps are to consult with Dept. of Inspections and Standards regarding insights.

## 38. Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

### **Organization Type**

Services-Victims of Domestic Violence

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Homeless Needs - Families with Children

Non-Homeless Special Needs

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultation to discuss the service and housing needs of victim of domestic violence, the services offered by domestic violence organizations in the City and State, and gaps in programs and services, and improvements in coordination with affordable housing developers to make available additional units to meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence.

## 39. Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless

**Organization Type**

Services-Homeless

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans  
Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth  
Homelessness Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Consultations to discuss homeless data, the availability of services and housing for the homeless, prior research on homelessness and programs, and the transformation of the homelessness system towards more permanent supportive housing. Consultation highlighted the strength of homeless providers in the state, although also recognized their fragmentation and occasional duplication of services.

## 40. Rhode Island Continuum of Care

**Organization Type**

Continuum of Care

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans  
Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth  
Homelessness Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or**

### **areas for improved coordination**

In regular meetings to evaluate applications and assign funding, the homelessness system in the State is discussed as well as better coordination between the CoC and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the transformation of the system to meet the goals of Opening Doors, the state strategic plan to end homelessness. The City of Providence has embraced the state plan to end chronic homelessness and Opening Doors is used as guidance on allocations of funding.

## **41. Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation**

### **Organization Type**

Housing  
Service-Housing  
Service-Fair Housing  
Private Sector Banking/Financing

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Lead-based Paint Strategy  
Public Housing Needs  
Homelessness Strategy  
Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans  
Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

The City and Rhode island Housing have an ongoing relationship and are partner organizations on a myriad of different programs and projects. Through these regular interactions, consultation on the following occur regularly: housing market, affordable housing need for new and rehab units, lead abatement and property rehabilitation, and the housing and service needs of the homeless. With new leadership at RI Housing, there has been a renewed emphasis on working collaboratively on projects.

## **42. Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community**

### **Development**

### **Organization Type**

Other Government - State

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Lead-based Paint Strategy  
Homelessness Strategy  
Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless  
Homeless Needs - Families with children  
Homelessness Needs - Veterans  
Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth  
Non-Homeless Special Needs  
Market Analysis  
Analysis of Impediments

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

The City and the state Office of Housing and Community Development are in regular communication regarding the City housing market, affordable housing need for new and rehab units, lead abatement and property rehabilitation, and the housing and service needs of the homeless. Consultation highlights the occasional fragmentation of services among various homeless providers, City and State policy related to affordable housing, and the need for better alignment of strategy between state resources and City efforts.

## 43. Roger Williams University, Community Development Program

**Organization Type**

Other-Academic Institution

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Research and Analysis

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

The City is working Roger Williams University to conduct research into the allocation of CDBG funds and the ecosystem of public service providers to provide valuable information to the Division of Community Development.

## 44. Silver Lake Community Center

**Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 45. Southside Community Land Trust

**Organization Type**

Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Economic Development  
Anti-poverty Strategy  
Non-housing Community Development Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Periodic consultation regarding the needs of the community, food production as a vehicle for economic development, and the benefit of urban agriculture to transform neighborhoods. Consultation highlighted the valuable of providing resources to urban farmers to create small businesses, serve hyper-local markets, create income for very low-income immigrants and refugees, and provide healthy food to communities that generally lack local fresh food options.

## 46. Smith Hill Community Development Corporation

**Organization Type**

Housing  
Services-Housing

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Market Analysis



**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

## 47. St. Joseph’s Hospital

**Organization Type**

Services-Health

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Lead-based Paint Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Regular coalition meetings to discuss lead abatement strategies. Consultation led to better coordination and integration of lead abatement strategies into healthy housing programs. Additionally, discussion about health care needs of the surrounding community.

## 48. Stop Wasting Abandoned Property, Inc.

**Organization Type**

Housing  
Services-Housing

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Market Analysis

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

# 49. Washington Park Community Center

**Organization Type**

- Services-Children
- Services-Elderly Persons
- Services-Education
- Services-Employment
- Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

- Non-housing Community Development Strategy
- Anti-poverty Strategy

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

# 50. West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation

**Organization Type**

- Housing
- Services - Housing
- Service-Fair Housing
- Civic Leaders
- Neighborhood Organization

**Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

- Housing Need Assessment
- Market Analysis

**How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

## 51. West End Community Center

### **Organization Type**

Services-Children  
Services-Elderly Persons  
Services-Education  
Services-Employment  
Neighborhood Organization

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Non-housing Community Development Strategy  
Anti-poverty Strategy

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.

## 52. Women's Development Corporation

### **Organization Type**

Housing

### **Section of the Consolidated Plan Addressed**

Housing Need Assessment  
Market Analysis

### **How consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination**

Focus group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties in specific neighborhoods, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development.

### **Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting**

The City of Providence scheduled a number of focus groups and one-on-one conversations with organizations and agencies engaged in affordable housing, homelessness, service delivery, community building, economic development, economic empowerment,

and many other relevant issue areas. Most of these organizations and agencies have existing relationships and partnerships with the City. While the City made every effort to be inclusive of every type of organization in the City, with the great many number of stakeholders involved in the improvement of the livelihoods and living conditions of the City's low- to moderate-income population, it is possible that certain types of organizations may have been overlooked and unintentionally excluded from consultation. In the future, the Division of Community Development will focus on proactive engagement of every organization type, particularly those that may have faced historical exclusion or marginalization in the past. The primary goal of the Division of Community Development is to be as inclusive as possible in order to truly understand what the needs of the community are, and engage local stakeholders in developing the appropriate strategies for addressing those priority needs.

### **Continuum of Care**

*Rhode Island Continuum of Care*

In regular meetings to evaluate applications and assign funding, the homelessness system in the State is discussed as well as better coordination between the CoC and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the transformation of the system to meet the goals of Opening Doors, the state strategic plan to end homelessness. The City of Providence has embraced the state plan to end chronic homelessness and Opening Doors is used as guidance on allocations of funding.

### **The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice**

*Rhode Island Division of Planning*

The State of Rhode Island undertook a regional analysis as part of a HUD funded Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The City must certify that it affirmatively furthers fair housing choice by identifying any specific impediments fair housing and taking actions to address these impediments. As part of the development of the statewide Analysis, the City had the opportunity to consult with, offer comment, and supplement additional information relevant to the City.

### **Bike Providence: A Cycling Master Plan for Providence**

*Providence Department of Planning and Development*

The Bike Providence Master Plan provides the framework to identify, prioritize and implement bicycle facilities in the City of Providence. The Strategic Plan uses Bike Providence as a guide to developing bicycle facilities as it relates to public infrastructure projects.

**Build Olneyville Plan**

*Olneyville Housing Corporation (in partnership with Providence Housing Authority, City of Providence, LISC Rhode Island, and Meeting Street)*

Funded by a Choice Neighborhoods planning grant and locally leveraged resources, the Build Olneyville Plan supports the ongoing revitalization effort in the Olneyville neighborhood of the City of Providence. Based on community and stakeholder input, Build Olneyville builds off earlier plans and initiatives to guide the holistic transformation of this key Providence neighborhood, focusing on investments in neighborhood, housing, people, and education. Detailed strategies have been developed, metrics have been identified to measure progress toward preferred outcomes, implementation partners are in place, and a variety of funding sources have been identified or secured to continue the Olneyville revitalization effort.

**City of Providence Neighborhood Plans**

*Providence Department of Planning and Development*

Each of the City’s Neighborhood Plans highlight neighborhood issues that were used as a baseline understanding for the Consolidated Plan and a multi-phase plan that details the short-, medium- and long-term goals of the neighborhoods and identifies specific actions needed to achieve the vision.

**City of Providence Task Force on Economic Development Final Report**

*Providence City Council*

While the economic development plan focuses on the City’s tax and regulatory environment, it also addresses housing affordability, parks and open space, transportation infrastructure, quality of life issues, economic development, and workforce development supports that can be directly impacted with CDBG.

**Creative Providence: A Cultural Plan for the Creative Sector**

*City of Providence Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism*

The Plan explores the strengths and weaknesses of Providence’s creative community and offers strategies to better position the City to realize its full potential as a creative center and deliver on its promise of innovation and change.

**Economic Intersections of Rhode Island**

*Commerce Rhode Island*

As part of a broader economic development strategy for the state, the information contained in this report is valuable with regard to understanding the strategic opportunities for economic development in the City.

**Governor’s Workforce Board RI Biennial Employment and Training Plan, FY2016-2017**

*Governor’s Workforce Board RI*

The Biennial Employment and Training Plan is an important tool for the workforce system in the state to identify the key steps that will build the state’s talent pipeline. Based on the network of Industry Partners that represent large and/or high-growth sectors of the State’s economy, the Plan offers a good roadmap for the City’s workforce development investments to increase impact and better assist low- and moderate-income City residents.

**Opening Doors Rhode Island: Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

*Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission*

The City of Providence has fully embraced the goals of Opening Doors and coordinates its ESG funds with the RI Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Homeless Fund to align resources and strategy to best address homelessness in the City and State. Similarly, the City advocates for system transformation to reduce the use of shelters and transitional housing to a more holistic approach to prevention, rapid response, and supports to eliminate chronic homelessness.

**Providence Housing Authority FY 2015 Five Year and Annual Plan**

*Providence Housing Authority*

The Providence Housing Authority recently completed its 5 Year Plan which details the organizational goals. The Plan requires a certification by the City that it is consistent with the City’s Consolidated Plan.

**Providence Tomorrow: The Comprehensive Plan**

*Providence Department of Planning and Development*

The City’s Comprehensive Plan addresses community concerns such as housing, parks, transportation, community services, and many others. Providence Tomorrow contains all of the required elements and a few others such as sustainability, the city’s built environment, and the arts. You will also find discussions about growth and change and where and how the City plans for future development. The goals detailed in the Strategic Plan support the goals and concepts of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Sustainable Providence**

*Office of Sustainability*

Sustainable Providence presents a community vision for a future based in sustainability. Sustainable Providence recognizes that making our city an exemplary steward of our natural environment will give us a strong foundation for a resilient and prosperous economy and community. Sustainable Providence sets a course for what sustainability will look like for the City and establishes plans to promote sustainability in six topic areas: Waste, Food, Transportation, Water, Energy, and Land Use and Development.

**Transportation Corridors to Livable Communities: Enhancing Transit, Land Use, and Art and Cultural Opportunities along Providence’s Highest Use Bus Corridors**

*Providence Department of Planning and Development (in partnership with Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, and the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority)*

Through a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant, the City conducted a study focused on enhancing transit, land use, and art and cultural opportunities along the highest ridership bus routes in the city— Broad Street, Chalkstone Avenue, Elmwood Avenue, Manton Avenue, and North Main Street. These routes are also in economically depressed communities. The Strategic Plan seeks to align with the Transportation Corridors to Livable Communities study to improve bus service, encourage mixed-income housing, generate jobs, and build on the City’s reputation as the “The Creative Capital” of Rhode Island by showcasing arts and cultural opportunities.

**Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))**

The City’s Division of Community Development (DCD) reached out to numerous City Departments to inform the Consolidated Plan. These City Departments include: Arts, Culture and Tourism; Community Relations; Providence Economic Development Partnership; Senior Services; Healthy Communities Office; Office of Sustainability; First Source Office; the Mayor’s Policy Office; Public Safety; Center for City Services; Law Department; Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Department of Inspections and Standards; and Department of Public Works. Further, through regularly scheduled inter-departmental policy meetings, collaboration among the various City Departments has been institutionalized. Many of these City agencies whose funds are not covered by the Consolidated Plan will continue to be part of the development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and annual Action Plans.

The City of Providence consulted with neighboring municipalities during the writing of the Consolidated Plan, including Pawtucket, East Providence, North Providence, and Cranston. Invitations for consultation were also extended to Johnston and Woonsocket, but the City did not receive responses to these requests. Providence and these communities have previously worked together to jointly address affordable housing issues and other related needs and concerns. Moreover, at the urging of the City’s Division of Community Development, the State’s Entitlement Communities have established a working group to discuss broader regional issues and how the municipalities can work closer together and learn from each other to better develop proactive and forward-looking collaborative efforts to address local, regional, and statewide housing and community development needs.

The City’s DCD interacts regularly with the State Office of Housing & Community Development. Further, through a broad effort to address affordable housing and homelessness

throughout the state, the City has a relationship with the RI Housing Resources Commission and the state's Interagency Council on Homelessness to help inform policy at the state level. Similarly, the City has a partnership with Rhode Island Housing and collaborates on issues of affordable housing, financing options, and homelessness. Through these interactions, the City and the State interact frequently to discuss issues and initiatives related to housing, lead abatement and remediation, homelessness, and community development. The City's Office of Senior Services interacts with the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs regularly. While much of this involves protective services for the City's elderly population, there is frequent collaboration about identifying and partnering with nonprofit organizations to provide services to seniors throughout the City including fraud protection, health insurance counselling, nutrition programs, etc.

The City of Providence Department of Planning and Development (DPD) regularly works closely with other City departments, state governing entities, and federal agencies, as demonstrated by the numerous project-specific and overall partnerships that have been formed over the years. DPD aims to continue to strengthen these partnerships in order to guide the development and growth of the city in a coordinated manner and to carry out the goals of the Consolidated Plan. Many of the problems facing the City are complex and must be addressed through the cooperative efforts of more than one department or governmental entity. Effective implementation of the goals of the Consolidated Plan will require a multi-disciplinary approach that must be achieved through collaboration between DPD and the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, other City departments, USDOT, EPA, and HUD. By working across disciplines, the Department can better ensure that actions to implement the Consolidated Plan consider partnership opportunities and long-term impacts. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this plan, the City must be creative and entrepreneurial in leveraging its resources by building and maintaining partnerships with both the private sector and other governmental and quasi-public entities. The Department is committed to maintaining and further developing these and other important relationships in the future.

In recent years, DPD has worked closely with RIPTA to identify, study, and implement several initiatives including: management of a \$1 million HUD Community Challenge Grant to conduct land use, arts and cultural, and transit planning studies for five of the City's highest use transit corridors; management of a \$13 million USDOT TIGER grant to fund implementation of Phase 1 of the Providence Streetcar project; construction of Rhode Island's first rapid bus line; improvements to the State's main bus hub at Kennedy Plaza, and the study and implementation of the Metropolitan Providence Transit Study. For all of these initiatives and other ongoing projects, DPD staff typically establishes weekly or biweekly coordination meetings with RIPTA staff to ensure proper communication regarding issues that emerge.

Coordination with RIDOT on improvements to Providence Station and MBTA commuter rail service, the development of a new multi-modal transit hub, a new pedestrian bridge and waterfront parks, and the relocation of I-195 are ongoing. Other transportation related proj-



ects, including Road Safety Assessments for various locations throughout the City require close coordination with RIDOT, USDOT, RIPTA, and the Department of Public Works. Stakeholder and working groups with representation from the agencies involved are typically established to guide these projects.

Coordination on federal grant programs, such as the City's USDOT TIGER Grant and HUD Community Challenge Grant typically involve regular check-in calls with regional and national staff at those agencies.

DPD will continue to work with EPA and other state, private and nonprofit entities to facilitate the assessment, remediation and environmentally sustainable development of environmentally compromised land, including brownfield sites. In partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Health, St. Joseph's Health Center, Rhode Island Housing, the Community Action Partnership of Providence, and the Childhood Lead Action Project, the City's DCD collaborates on lead abatement strategies and coordinates its Lead Safe Providence Program with other environmental hazard improvements in the City's older housing stock. The State of Rhode Island created the Climate Change Coordinating Council Advisory Board in March of 2015 to oversee efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The City's Policy Director sits on this Board. Additionally, the City of Providence drafted its first ever sustainability plan in 2014, "Sustainable Providence." Coordinating local and statewide efforts to combat climate change will be facilitated through this close collaboration and direct integration of the City's Policy Director.

The City's ProvConnex system allows the public to submit service requests for any issue of concern directly to the Center for City Services (CCS). CCS directs these requests to the appropriate City department and aggregates the information to better understand the specific issues of concern from City residents. Through a partnership with CCS, the DCD reviews this information to identify strategic areas of need in the City based on the type and quantity of service requests.

Through the Citizen Participation process (described in PR-15), community organizations offered their comments in concert with the public. Additionally, the City hosted focus groups, meetings, and had one-on-one conversations with affordable housing developers, community centers, senior centers, youth and afterschool program providers, homelessness service providers, the Providence Housing Authority, and other community groups to help inform the Consolidated Plan. The DCD is hosting regular focus group meetings with providers to establish an ongoing process for information collection that will allow for identification of changing needs throughout the year(s). Through these and other efforts, the City takes a multifaceted and collaborative approach to address the housing, community development, and basic needs of the City's low-income residents.

**Narrative (optional):**

Not necessary.

## *PR-15 Citizen Participation*

### **1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

As part of the Consolidated Plan process, information on the housing and community development needs of Providence citizens was gathered during eight Community Conversation meetings throughout the City during March and April 2015. Upon their arrival at each Community Conversation meeting, participants were provided three stickers to vote on their three most important issues in their communities. The issue areas provided in the voting exercise included housing/services for persons with HIV/AIDS; accessibility for those with disabilities; low-quality/unsafe/unhealthy housing; poverty; public safety; homelessness; drug/alcohol addiction; senior services; public housing; education; jobs/economic development; social services for adults and children; affordable housing; parks/sports/recreation. If the issue areas provided did not encompass a participant's concern, he or she was invited to document his or her concern on a separate poster.

Participants were then provided with a presentation that described the Consolidated Plan process and background information on community concerns identified in each community during previous planning processes specific to each neighborhood. Acknowledgement of past planning efforts demonstrated to participants that the process was not occurring in a vacuum. This approach provided participants with a framework for discussion and provided room for discussion as to whether previous issues are still relevant, have evolved or escalated, or if new issues have surfaced.

Subsequent to the presentation, participants engaged in break-out discussion about their communities. Facilitators of each group documented the responses on note pads, and reported the main topics of their group's conversations to the entire audience at the end of the discussion period. This allowed participants to get a general sense of the community-wide concerns that emerged from the meeting, and provided the City with guidance on the areas of need, and where to allocate resources to service those needs in each community. Participants were encouraged to complete a survey either in person or on the City's Consolidated Plan webpage to provide information similar to the voting exercise. The online version of the survey enabled citizens who were unable to attend the community meetings a vehicle for having their voice heard. Survey results, discussion notes, and photos of the voting exercise from each meeting were posted on the City's Consolidated Plan webpage for public review and comment.

Further, in late-2014 / early-2015, Mayor Elorza hosted four "One Providence" listening forums and established Transition Committees in the following areas:

- Economic Development
- Education
- Public Safety
- City Services
- Housing and Neighborhood Development
- Arts, Culture, and Cuisine
- Sustainability
- Sports, Recreation, and Youth Programming
- Ethics, Transparency, and Open Government
- Strategic Opportunities

Each of these Transition Committees hosted two to three City-wide community meetings and developed a final report containing a set of short-term and long-term recommendations for the Administration. These transition reports solicited information from the public through widespread community engagement, and each of the transition committees were composed of individuals of diverse backgrounds representing a broad cross-section of the City's population. While some recommendations are beyond the scope of the Consolidated Plan, all relevant information from these transition reports was incorporated into the drafting of the Consolidated Plan.

Finally, in June 2015, the City of Providence held a public meeting and afforded the public, community organizations, and other interested parties sufficient time to review and comment on the Consolidated Plan consistent with the requirements detailed in 24 CFR 91.105. A summary of these comments can be found in Section ES-05.

# Citizen Participation Outreach

**3/3/2015**

Public Meeting



15 attendees

#### Target of Outreach

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 6, 7, 15**

**3/4/2015**

Public Meeting



38 attendees

#### Target of Outreach

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 1 and 2**

#### Summary of comments received

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included education, jobs/economic development, public safety, and social services for adults and children. Residents also expressed concern over absentee landlords, the lack of housing code enforcement, poor advertisement of public meetings, and existing sidewalk and road conditions.

#### Summary of comments not accepted and reasons

Some comments fell outside the scope of the Consolidated Plan and CDBG funds. Specifically, one way sign, snow plowing, and use of the police sub-station, and the Prov-Connex system. These comments were delivered to appropriate departments.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>

#### Summary of comments received

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included education, jobs/economic development, parks/sports/recreation, public safety, and senior services. Residents also expressed concern over burying the power lines in India Point Park, pedestrian access and safety, inadequate snow removal, and maintaining funding for senior activities.

#### Summary of comments not accepted and reasons

Some community residents expressed a desire to have the power lines along India Point Park buried. The cost of this project inhibits CDBG as a viable option. Further, this issue is only of concern for a small group of neighborhood residents.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>



**3/10/2015**  
Public Meeting



27 attendees

**Target of Outreach**

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 8, 11, 13**

**Summary of comments received**

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included education, jobs/ economic development, parks / sports / recreation, and low-quality / unsafe / unhealthy housing. Residents also expressed interest in traffic calming, improved collaboration between the City and local CDCs, better enforcement of quality housing repairs, and sidewalk improvements.

**Summary of comments not accepted and reasons**

There were comments about on-street parking which is outside the scope of CDBG funds.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>



**3/18/2015**  
Public Meeting



25 attendees

**Target of Outreach**

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 9, 10, 11**

**Summary of comments received**

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included affordable housing, jobs / economic development, education, and poverty. Residents also expressed concern over the lack of police enforcement, limited funding for affordable housing, importance of youth participation and programs for youth, liquor store operating hours, the lack of rehabilitation services for ex-offenders and treatment for drug or alcohol addiction, and Grace Church Cemetery's state of disrepair.

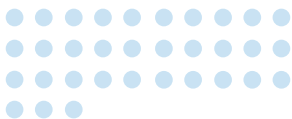
**Summary of comments not accepted and reasons**

Comments about licensing of liquor stores were brought to the attention of the appropriate Department, but were disregarded as they are outside of the scope of CDBG funds.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>



**3/24/2015**  
Public Meeting



33 attendees

**Summary of comments received**

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included education, homelessness, jobs/economic development, poverty, and public safety. Residents also expressed concern over the lack of communication between the city, city departments, and the community and community organizations, youth development and job training, rental and ownership down payment assistance, and funding for the Elmwood Community Center, libraries, and school facilities.

### Target of Outreach

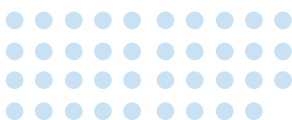
Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 9, 10, 11**



23 attendees

### Target of Outreach

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 4 and 14**



39 attendees

### Target of Outreach

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 5 and 12**

### Summary of comments not accepted and reasons

None.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>

### Summary of comments received

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included education, homelessness, jobs/economic development, parks/sports/recreation, poverty, public safety, and social services for adults and children. Residents expressed concern over the lack of city run sports and non-sports activities for children, quality of housing stock and need for more code enforcement, improvements to Fagnoli Park, more trees in City and shading of parks, year round farmers markets and support for urban farmers, better use of bio-swales for storm water filtration, and the need for better lighting, store restoration, and additional parking in the commercial districts of the City.

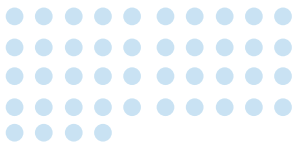
### Summary of comments not accepted and reasons

A comment to increase the size of the police force was not accepted as it is an ineligible use of CDBG funds; however, the comment was referred to Public Safety Dept.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>

### Summary of comments received

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included public safety, jobs/economic development, parks/sports/recreation, affordable housing, education, low-quality/unsafe/unhealthy housing, senior services, social services for adults and children, homelessness, poverty, accessibility for those with disabilities, and drug or alcohol addiction. Residents also expressed concern over the need for rehabilitation of libraries, collaborative programs among multiple agencies, absentee landlords not caring for their property, GED and adult education programs, better coordination with the state Continuum of Care, senior programs, noise from cars, crime (particularly drug dealing), more youth programs, and mixed use redevelopment of the Wanskuck Mills or demolish the building.



44 attendees

**Target of Outreach**

Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities **Wards 2 and 3**

**Summary of comments not accepted and reasons**

A comment to increase the size of the police force was not accepted as it is an ineligible use of CDBG funds; however, the comment was referred to Public Safety Dept. A comment about the number of cars with out of state license plates was not accepted as it is outside of the scope of CDBG.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>

**Summary of comments received**

Some of the most important issues of concern for the community included jobs/economic development, affordable housing, education, homelessness, public housing, low-quality/unsafe/unhealthy housing, social services for adults and children, poverty, and parks/sports/recreation. Residents also expressed concern over gun violence, job training, after school programs, reentry housing, using abandoned property cleanup as a job development program, better pedestrian safety, climate change, food security, energy efficiency, lead paint, neighborhood-based community development with large scale impact, volunteer ambulance program, referral for health and education, weatherization program, traffic speed, Lippitt Park cleanup, vocational education, and racial and economic disparities.

**Summary of comments not accepted and reasons**

A comment about removing neighborhood street signs was not accepted as many others want to keep them. Comments about the City's tax policy were not accepted as they are beyond the scope of CDBG. A comment about better coordination and advertising of city services was referred to the Office of Neighborhood Services. A comment about the enforcement of the First Source ordinance was not accepted as it falls outside of the scope of CDBG, but the comment was referred to First Source Director.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>



6/18/2015  
Public  
Hearing



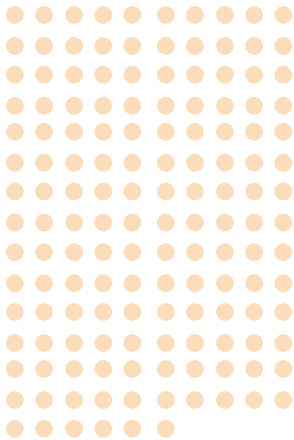
4 attendees

**Target of Outreach**

Minorities Non-English Speaking  
- Specify other language:  
Spanish Persons with disabilities  
Non-targeted/broad community  
Residents of Public and Assisted  
Housing



Continuous  
Online  
Survey



146 responses

**Target of Outreach**

Minorities Non-English Speaking  
- Specify other language:  
Spanish Persons with disabilities  
Non-targeted/broad community  
Residents of Public and Assisted  
Housing

**Summary of comments received**

A question was raised about the evaluation process. Another comment asked about the role banks play in the process as they apply to assisting Providence residents with obtaining home loans. Meeting minutes are included

**Summary of comments not accepted and reasons**

No comments were received.

<http://www.providenceri.com/planning/consolidated-plan>

**Summary of comments received**

Some of the most important issues of concern from the online surveys included jobs/economic development, education, parks/sports/recreation, public safety, poverty, affordable housing, and social services for adults and children. Additionally, there were many additional comments submitted. In aggregate, they focused on better communication and more responsiveness from the City, more competence among the City staff, public safety and more police, better street infrastructure, more youth and senior programs, better education and school improvements, jobs and economic development, work with the City's community development corporations to increase the supply of affordable housing, parks and open space, litter and overall cleanliness of neighborhoods, blighted houses and code violations, and pedestrian safety and bicycle infrastructure.

**Summary of comments not accepted and reasons**

Public transportation comments were not accepted as the City is not responsible for public transportation; however, comments were referred to Planning Department and RIP-TA. Comments about burying the power lines at India Point Park were not accepted as the cost far exceeds the annual allocation of CDBG funding.

<http://tinyurl.com/ProvidenceCDBGSurvey>



# Needs Assessment

## *NA-05 Overview*

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The City of Providence's housing needs were identified through a comprehensive series of community meetings (8 in total); meetings with local Community Development organizations, community centers, and other nonprofit service organizations; evaluation of data obtained from partner organizations such as the Providence Housing Authority, Crossroads Rhode Island, AIDS Care Ocean State, Children and Youth Cabinet, and RI Coalition for the Homeless; publicly available data; and data from a variety of other sources such as media reports, other studies, and internal departmental information. The assessment outlined below will be addressed using annual allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from the following programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). It is our hope that by maximizing these resources and by seeking additional revenue streams we will be able to address many of the community needs that have been identified through the City's public engagement process.

## Housing Needs

**Housing Affordability:** Approximately 40% of the rental and homeowners in the city pay more than 30% of their annual income on housing. In addition, many residents fall within the low- and moderate-income brackets and a large number of home owners remain underwater due to the down turn in the economy. These concerns are magnified by the 16,225 households that earn between 0% - 30% of the area median income. All these facts make it difficult to find affordable housing for residents of the city.

**Substandard Housing Stock:** The lack of maintenance of City's housing, along with the high number of absentee landlords and lack of resources to help property owners to maintain their properties affects the quality of housing within the city.

**Public Housing:** Providence Housing Authority is the sole agency in the city that provides public housing. Its portfolio consists of 2,601 units that serve 5,612 residents. Additionally it provides housing assistance to 6,431 individuals as the contract administrator of section 8 housing. In analyzing the data provided by the PHA two facts stand out: 1) the average wait time to get a family unit can be as long as 5 years, 2) for elderly or disabled clients, the wait time approaches 2 years.

## Homeless Needs

**Homelessness:** Estimating the total population of the unsheltered homeless presents a difficult challenge due to the transient nature of the homeless population. Estimating those who are at-risk of homelessness is equally challenging. In conversation with homelessness providers, through analysis of HMIS data, and review of the State's strategic plan to end chronic homelessness, one significant issue identified was the need to quickly re-house individuals and families that fall into homelessness. The homelessness issue is exacerbated by the lack of resources to provide the requisite support services to the homeless and at-risk populations. To address these issues, the City is focused on quickly responding to homelessness through rapid re-housing for those that fall into homelessness and the Housing First model of providing homeless individuals with permanent housing and the appropriate wrap around services as required for them to maintain their housing.

## Non-Homeless Special Needs

There are households throughout the City that have special needs unrelated to homelessness. Some of these population groups include the elderly and frail elderly; those living with some type of physical or cognitive disability; those living with HIV/AIDS and their families; persons with substance use disorders; persons with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI); and victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These groups may face greater challenges than the general population due to their specific circumstances and the City's housing stock, particularly the large pools of homes in the City built before 1940, may not be suitable for households with special needs. These groups may also require special attention due to additional social services required.

These special needs populations face a multitude of housing and support service needs unique to their circumstances. A wide availability of housing options for each of these groups, with the requisite supporting services will be necessary to truly meet their needs. Key support needs include additional accommodations for the City's aging population and those that suffer from ambulatory and independent living difficulties. Those living with disabilities need housing that can accommodate wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Those living with HIV/AIDS are in need of housing and supportive medically-related services. Similarly, those diagnosed with mental or developmental disabilities require affordable housing which allows for independent living with the requisite supportive services.

These needs are far beyond the resources available and the City of Providence is fully supportive of additional state-level efforts for additional affordable housing resources for rehabilitation and new development to broaden the spectrum of housing choices in the City.

Non Housing Community Development Needs

**Schools:** Due to a stagnant population growth and a fragile tax base, the City struggles to provide the resources necessary to meet the educational needs of all its residents. One consistent point highlighted in the community meetings was the condition of the City's school facilities. This issue is compounded by the lack of technology in several schools throughout the City.

**Libraries:** The total cost for facility improvements at the 9 community libraries stands at \$3.18 million; however, several capital repairs are in process with the financial assistance of CDBG funds.

**Parks and Recreation:** The Providence Parks Department is responsible for overseeing numerous ball fields, walking paths, pools, community gardens, recreational centers along with numerous other facilities totaling close to 200 in all. Like the schools and libraries in the City, the need for renovation and preservation far outweigh the dollars available to keep up with the need.

**Senior Centers & Community Centers:** Community Centers and Senior Centers play a vital role in providing services to the residence of Providence. However, like many public facilities in the city these centers are in need of renovations that extend far beyond their ability to meet the fiscal responsibility that goes along with the renovations.

## *NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)*

### **Summary of Housing Needs**

The City of Providence has a population which faces significant housing affordability challenges.

- 26% of the City's households (16,225 of 61,797) are extremely low income (0-30% HAMFI). Within this group, almost 3,000 households have one or more children 6 years old or younger and 3,900 households have at least one person aged 62 years old or older.
- 58% of the City's households (35,960 of 61,797) have incomes ranging from zero to 80% HAMFI.
- 10,520 renter households and 4,335 owner households pay over 50% of their gross annual income for housing, totaling 24% of the City's households with severe housing cost burdens.
- An additional 7,410 renter households and 2,600 owner households pay between 30 to 50% of their gross annual income for housing, totaling 16% of the City's households with a housing cost burden.

Less than 3% of households (1,740) experience overcrowding of more than one person per room and approximately 1.5% of households (920) are lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities. While the number of households affected by these problems is relatively small in comparison to the entire housing stock of the City, these problems represent a very real burden for the residents living in affected units.

In total, there are 12,850 renter households and 4,660 owner households that have at least one of the four housing problems identified in the tables below: lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, overcrowding, and housing cost burden. This represents 38% of all the households in the City.

The majority of City's housing stock (58.8%) was built before 1940, one of the criteria HUD uses when calculating the CDBG funding formula. While the age of the City's housing stock in and of itself doesn't necessarily indicate the condition of housing, particularly because the quality of construction and materials used for houses built prior to 1940 are largely better than that of post-1940 housing, the age of the City's housing brings challenges related to ongoing maintenance and the remediation of lead and other environmental hazards that further burden low- and moderate-income households.

Through the DCD's community outreach effort, the City received many comments regarding poor quality housing stock and blighted properties in many of the City's neighborhoods: Upper and Lower South Providence, Washington Park, Elmwood, West End, Olneyville, Hartford, Silver Lake, Valley, Smith Hill, Wanskuck, and Charles. There was frustration regarding the lack of code enforcement to address the concerns of residents regarding stairs, railings, porches, paint, overgrowth, etc. In many of the community meetings throughout the City, residents expressed concern regarding the quality of housing due to absentee landlords allowing properties to fall into disrepair or property owners lacking the resources to maintain their properties.

Another concern was raised related to housing options for Providence residents that experience difficulty with walking or climbing stairs or have self-care and independent living difficulties. The nature of the City's housing stock does not accommodate the mobility needs of this population.

Mayor Elorza is the second Mayor of Providence in a row to have previously served as a Housing Court judge. In addition to supporting the work of CDCs to rehabilitate and increase the supply of quality affordable housing, the City has sought to coordinate the work of the departments that can have a direct impact on addressing blighted and abandoned property. The DCD has provided critical support to the Nuisance Task Force, headed by the City Solicitor's Office, which brings together code enforcement, police, fire, building inspection, and others to identify problem properties and work with property owners to address a multitude of issues.

Demographics	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Population	173,618	178,130	3%
Households	62,327	61,795	-1%
Median Income	\$26,867.00	\$38,922.00	45%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

**Data Source:** 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

## Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households *	16,225	8,905	10,830	5,460	20,375
Small Family Households *	5,405	3,495	4,320	2,315	9,520
Large Family Households *	1,295	915	1,575	670	1,445
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	2,315	1,310	1,310	600	2,960
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	1,595	1,390	865	370	1,185
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger *	2,950	2,120	2,395	930	2,490

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

## Housing Needs Summary Tables

### 1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

*Number presented equals number of households*

	Renter					Owner					
	AMI	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities		525	170	115	60	870	10	10	30	0	50
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)		105	70	125	0	300	0	15	0	0	15

	AMI	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)		355	265	395	140	1,155	60	70	95	45	270
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)		7,900	2,300	310	10	10,520	1,145	1,505	1,345	340	4,335
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)		1,510	2,345	3,045	510	7,410	170	450	1,095	885	2,600
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)		1,165	0	0	0	1,165	205	0	0	0	205

Table 7 - Housing Problems Table

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

## 2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

*Number presented equals number of households*

	Renter						Owner				
	AMI	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total
Having 1 or more of four housing problems		8,885	2,800	950	215	12,850	1,210	1,595	1,470	385	4,660
Having none of four housing problems		4,525	3,685	6,390	2,920	17,520	230	825	2,025	1,940	5,020
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems		1,165	0	0	0	1,165	205	0	0	0	205

Table 8 - Housing Problems Table 2

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Providence Consolidated Plan

### 3. Cost Burden > 30%

*Number presented equals number of households*

	Renter				Owner				
	AMI	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	total	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	total
Small Related		4,010	2,290	1,245	7,545	250	660	1,075	1,985
Large Related		1,015	400	340	1,755	105	239	610	954
Elderly		1,560	725	310	2,605	615	820	400	1,835
Other		3,470	1,490	1,705	6,665	395	300	475	1,170
Total need by income		10,055	4,915	3,600	18,570	1,365	2,019	2,560	5,944

Table 9 - Cost Burden > 30%

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 CHAS

### 4. Cost Burden > 50%

*Number presented equals number of households*

	Renter				Owner				
	AMI	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	total	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	total
Small Related		3,285	980	40	4,305	250	540	555	1,345
Large Related		930	110	0	1,040	95	235	400	730
Elderly		1,170	440	45	1,655	515	505	160	1,180
Other		3,080	880	240	4,200	335	275	310	920
Total need by income		8,465	2,410	325	11,200	1,195	1,555	1,425	4,175

Table 10 - Cost Burden > 50%

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 CHAS



## 5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

*Number presented equals number of households*

	Renter					Owner					
	AMI	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	total
Single family households		400	270	425	125	1,220	50	80	55	25	210
Multiple, unrelated family households		75	65	65	15	220	10	4	40	20	74
Other, non-family households		0	0	60	0	60	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income		475	335	550	140	1,500	60	84	95	45	284

Table 11 -Crowding Information - 1/2

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 CHAS

### **Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.**

Approximately 32% of the total households in the City of Providence, 19,735 households, are occupied by single persons. Among these single person households, 10,115 (51%) are occupied by person who are not working. Because Providence has a substantial college student population, it is difficult to disaggregate from this total who is at risk of homelessness because they lack the income to pay for housing and who is not at risk of homelessness because they are college students. Similarly, there are almost 5,000 households that receive retirement income, although it is challenging to identify the total level of income for these households and whether or not they are occupied by single persons.

Rhode Island is one of the many communities in the U.S. participating in the Zero: 2016 initiative to end chronic and veteran homelessness. As part of the state's Zero: 2016 initiative, in November 2014 there were 855 single adults identified as homeless throughout the state. The median age of this population was 45, with specific individuals aged between 19 and 85. Sixty-one percent of them were identified as disabled in some way. Over two-thirds (68%) of this group are male and 32% are female. Regarding where

they primarily sleep, 64% identified that they most often sleep in a shelter, 16% sleep in the street, sidewalk or doorway most often, 16% sleep in abandoned buildings, benches, cemeteries, emergency rooms, garage, tents, along railroad tracks, in the woods, a barn, beach, riverbed, or park, the final 5% sleep in a car, van or RV. Fifty-eight percent have been homeless for two years or longer. Almost half have no regular income (47%) and over three-quarters do not make enough to meet monthly expenses (78%). Many among this population have drug or alcohol abuse issues and experience mental illness.

Finally, in 2014, there were 2,379 sheltered single adults, 1,839 male and 540 female. There were an additional 116 single females housed in domestic violence shelters.

**Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.**

**Persons with Disabilities**

According to the 2013 American Community Survey, there are approximately 21,000 Providence residents living with a physical or cognitive disability, about 12% of the total population. Below is a table that disaggregates the disabled population by age, by disability type.

Type of Disability	Under 5	Aged 5-17	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	total
Total Civilian Non-institutional Population	10,954	29,950	120,945	14,275	176,869
With Hearing Difficulty	70	289	2,473	2,102	4,934
With Vision Difficulty	56	304	2,690	1,137	4,187
With Cognitive Difficulty		1,163	6,410	1,449	9,022
With Ambulatory Difficulty		110	6,301	3,660	10,071
With Self-Care Difficulty		131	2,030	1,347	3,508
With Independent Living Difficulty			4,430	2,783	7,213
Total w/ Any Disability	88	1,646	13,329	5,899	20,962
Total of Population by Age	0%	5.5%	11.0%	40.4%	11.9%

Table 12 -Characteristics of Providence Disabled Population, 2013

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

The largest absolute number of City residents living with a disability is the group aged 18 to 64, with 13,329 living with a disability. As a percentage of the total population by age, seniors aged 65 and older is the population group most likely to live with a disability, with over 40% of (5,899) living with some type of disability. Due to the nature of the City's housing stock with many multi-family and split-level units, one large concern is providing housing options for the 10,000 Providence residents that experience difficulty with walking or climbing stairs and the 10,721 residents with self-care and independent living difficulties.

## **Victims of Domestic Violence**

In the City of Providence, there are two primary resources for victims of domestic violence. Sojourner House provides a wide variety of services including shelter, advocacy, referrals, violence prevention education programs, and other resources. Their catchment area includes Providence and many other municipalities in northern RI. The agency's Safe House provides temporary housing and services for abused women and their children as well as follow-up care once they've moved to more permanent, safe housing. The Safe House has 4 bedrooms, one handicap accessible room, and can accommodate 9 to 11 people. Sojourner House also offers a transitional housing program for victims of domestic violence and their children exiting the Safe House or for those in need of transitional housing as a result of fleeing a situation of domestic violence/dating violence.

The Women's Center of Rhode Island provides emergency shelter and transitional housing, educational and outreach programs to prevent domestic violence, and other support programs for victims and children. The agency's Residential Services Program provides short-term emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence. Clients of this program receive assistance with basic needs including shelter, food, toiletries, medications, and clothing. Their Transitional Housing Second Step Program offers longer-term shelter for women who do not have children who may need longer stays. One any given day, WCRI can accommodate approximately 20 to 24 victims and children.

Information from the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence shows that there were 9,733 individual victims of domestic violence that received help in 2013, 577 adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes for a total of 22,112 nights and 117 adults and children lived in transitional housing for a total of 21,840 nights. In addition, in 2014 there were 796 Providence residents issued a domestic violence restraining order and 785 victims in Providence domestic violence criminal cases. Providence residents were 1,852 (21%) of the 8,861 clients receiving victims' services for domestic violence in Rhode Island. On September 17, 2013, the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted a one-day unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence service in the United States. In Rhode Island, all six participating programs responded about the services provided during the 24-hour survey period. There were 284 victims of domestic violence served on that one day. Of them, 117 (63 children and 54 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. Another 167

adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups. In the 24 hour period, there were 108 answered calls to the domestic violence hotline that provided support, information, safety planning, and resources to victims of domestic violence.

Victims of domestic violence made 223 requests for services that included access to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and nonresidential services that could not be provided because programs did not have the sufficient resources to respond to these requests. Of these requests, 215 (96%) were for housing. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn't be provided were housing advocacy and financial assistance, followed by legal representation and transportation.

### **What are the most common housing problems?**

The major housing challenge for Providence residents is affordability. Roughly 40% of the rental and homeowner households in the City pay more than 30% of their annual income on housing, leaving little left for other expenses such as medical care, transportation, clothing, food, education, and retirement savings.

Providence experienced rapid housing price escalation during the early part of the 2000s, and when the housing bubble "popped," a crushing foreclosure crisis ensued. The median cost of a single family home in Providence (excluding the East Side) in 1999 was \$75,000. Over the next five years, the median cost of a similar home rose to \$185,000 in 2004. Today, the median cost of a similar single family home has dropped to \$105,000. This led to a great many households entering foreclosure or having substantial negative equity in their homes.

Further, while the City saw a precipitous drop in home values and purchase prices due to the foreclosure crisis, average rental prices increased due to the abandonment and foreclosure of many multi-family dwellings resulting in a large loss in total available rental units. HousingWorks RI estimates that a two-bedroom apartment in Providence rose by 15%, from \$960 in 2003 to \$1,100 in 2013. An annual household income of \$44,000 is required for that rental payment to be considered affordable. This is approximately 17% more than the annual median household income of \$37,632 (as of the 2009-2013 American Community Survey).

While the City and the State are seeing declining foreclosure rates, many parts of Providence are still suffering from the significant and painful foreclosure crisis. Foreclosure rates in many Providence zip codes are much higher than the national and state averages, and there are approximately 350-400 abandoned and vacant homes concentrated in low- and moderate-income areas of the City, further depressing home values and creating blight and public safety hazards. Many of these still-vacant homes were in poor condition prior to foreclosure and have further deteriorated in the 7+ years since the foreclosure crisis first hit Providence. Rehabilitation expenses in Providence are high to begin with. With the deep

aesthetic and structural deterioration in the condition of housing, the City, its residents, and developers all face questions about the benefits of preserving the existing housing stock versus demolition and new construction.

The outcome of this debate and policy discussion will have a profound impact on city neighborhoods and the future nature and character of a city where many residential neighborhoods are defined by a particular housing type and resulting density. However, this also provides a rare opportunity for a “built out” city of Providence’s age to plan and act in ways that promote long-term sustainability, energy efficiency, affordability, inclusivity, and neighborhood vitality.

### **Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?**

According to the 2007-2011 CHAS data, there are 61,795 occupied housing units in the City of Providence; 22,655 (36.7%) are owner households and another 39,140 (63.3%) are rental households.

Among these households, 26% are occupied by households earning between 0% and 30% the area median income (16,225), and another 14% are occupied by households earning between 30% and 50% of the area median (8,905). However, low-income renters are particularly affected by cost burden. Among the 10,520 renter households that experience a severe cost burden of paying over 50% of their annual income for rent, 75% (7,900 households) earn between 0% and 30% of the area median, and another 22% (2,300 households) earn between 30% and 50% of the area median. This is in sharp contrast to owner households. Of the 4,335 owner households paying over 50% of their annual income for rent, 26% (1,145 households) earn between 0% and 30% of the area median, and another 35% (1,505 households) earn between 30% and 50% of the area median.

A similar, albeit less striking, pattern arises among renter and owner households spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Among the 7,410 renter households that experience a cost burden of over 30% of their annual income for rent, 20% (1,510 households) earn between 0% and 30% of the area median, and another 32% (2,345 households) earn between 30% and 50% of the area median. Of the 2,600 owner households paying over 30% of their annual income for rent, only 6.5% (170 households) earn between 0% and 30% of the area median, and another 17% (450 households) earn between 30% and 50% of the area median. The implication from the data is that low-income households that experience housing cost burdens are more likely to rent than to own, even though owning a home in Providence is often less expensive than renting.

The CHAS data also shows that there are more small related households and elderly households that are subject to cost burdens greater than 30% and cost burden greater than 50% than large related households. Additionally, there are more single family households that experience crowding than any other household type.

While there are many negative impacts realized by the housing-driven financial stress many households are under, the impact on children is particularly noteworthy. For many low-income families, housing is the single largest expense. Families that take on a heavy housing burden often have a hard time maintaining payments and are often forced to relocate when they fail to keep up with this obligation. Other families, while always making full and timely payments, will leave when a more affordable unit becomes available. The result for children in schools is regular and frequent disruption to their education and a great increase in insecurity and stress, further exacerbating the negative impact on a child's educational chances.

**Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance**

Low-income individuals and families living in Providence often find it difficult to pay for their housing costs, particularly due to the lack of affordable housing for the most economically vulnerable populations. There are almost 15,000 renter households and 3,400 owner households that are spending over 30% of their income on housing, and another 10,875 renter households and 2,750 owner households spending over 50% of their income on housing. These 32,000 households are most at risk of homelessness due to cost burden.

Another related risk factor is the increasingly more common phenomenon of “doubling up,” or temporarily living with friends or families due to housing cost burden or other situation (i.e., eviction, foreclosure, loss of employment, etc.). According to The State of Homelessness in America report for 2015, living doubled up is the most common living situation prior to becoming homeless. Statewide, the number of people in poor households that are doubled up has increased by 16.6% from 19,592 in 2012 to 22,851 in 2013. While it is virtually impossible to identify which specific individuals and families who are living doubled up will actually fall into homelessness, the increase in the total number of persons living in this precarious and untenable situation is cause for concern. Living in this condition can also lead to or exacerbate stress and other mental health problems for adults and children.

It is likely that many low-income households lack the higher skills and education necessary to become more employable in an economy moving towards higher skill jobs. Many are likely working at multiple low-wage jobs that do not pay sufficient wages to meet the increased burden of housing costs. The City and State are still suffering from higher than average unemployment rates leaving many households to collect unemployment and lack any other regular income. Further, there is a strong inverse correlation between income level and financial literacy skills, meaning that many low-income residents lack the basic financial and budgeting skills necessary to protect themselves from predatory and high cost lending options that further burden them economically and financially.

The City and the State do not have an efficient way of tracking data regarding recipients of rapid rehousing services. While there is no set time limit, many of these services are available for up to six months; however, there is no system of identifying recipients nearing the termination of these benefits.

Another population group at risk of homelessness are older youth who are about to “age out” of the foster care, social service, and juvenile justice systems upon their eighteenth birthday. Typically, the foster care and juvenile justice systems expects youth to live independently at age 18; however, these youth are often ill-prepared for independent living and often lack the supports for high school completion, obtaining employment, enrolling in or accessing health care, continued educational opportunities, or housing and transitional living arrangements. These insufficient supports lead to longer-term housing and supportive service needs.

There were 1,833 children and youth in the state foster care on 9/30/2014. Of those, 21.6% (396) were 16 to 18 years old, although only 11.2% (205) of these youth were waiting for adoption. The City was unable to receive information from DCYF regarding the number of youth who age out of the foster care system in Providence each year, but it is estimated to be between 50 and 150 youth per year.

**If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:**

The City of Providence does not estimate the at-risk population.

**Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness**

The threat of homelessness is strongest among the 15,375 households that are experiencing cost burdens over 50% of their income, 73% of which are renter households. Providence is unique in that the average cost burden of owning a home in the City is often less than the cost burden of renting a home. According to Housing Works RI, the average monthly housing payment for Providence (excluding the East Side) is \$866 compared to an average monthly rent for a 2-bedroom apartment of \$1,100. Unfortunately, many households that may want to purchase a home are unable to do so due to a lack of savings for a down-payment or as a result of bad credit.

The lack of maintenance of the City’s housing stock can contribute to substandard housing and various code violations that create unstable living situations requiring relocation and the threat of or actual homelessness. Some of these code violations involve pest and rodent infestations, electrical wiring, lead paint, and other environmental and/or unsafe housing conditions.

There are many other drivers of homelessness above and beyond housing characteristics that are difficult to quantify, such as mental illness, substance abuse, the death of a head of household, job loss, domestic violence, divorce, or discharge from foster care or the criminal justice or health care system.

## **Discussion**

The data presented above paints a clear picture of the City's housing challenges; primary among them is the issue of affordability. The housing cost burden among the City's low- to moderate-income residents creates significant difficulty for the households and for the City as a whole when cost burdens lead to homelessness. The lack of ongoing maintenance of the City's housing stock in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods has created situations where units are of substandard quality, are unhealthy, and potentially unsafe for habitation.



## NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems –

### 91.205 (b)(2)

#### Introduction

In the tables that follow, it becomes clear that the greatest need is among those that earn between 0% and 30% of the area median; 11,775 of these households experience one or more of the following housing problems: lacks complete kitchen facilities; lacks complete plumbing facilities; overcrowding of more than one person per room; or cost Burden greater than 30%. As previously detailed, the primary problem for the City’s residents is cost burden.

As household income increases, the total number of households experiencing one or more housing problems decreases. This is unsurprising as those earning more income have a wider range of housing options than do those households earning less. Among those households between 30% and 50% of the area median, 7,190 experience one or more housing problems; for households earning between 50% and 80% of the area median, 6,560 experience one or more housing problems; and finally among those households earning between 80% and 100% the area median, 1,990 experience one or more housing problems.

A disproportionately greater need exists when members of a particular racial or ethnic group at a given income level experience housing problems at a rate of 10 percentage points or more than the income level as a whole. There are three instances of disproportionately greater need regarding housing problems: (1) Pacific Islander households with 0% to 30% area median income, (2) American Indian, Alaska Native households with 50% to 80% area median income, and (3) Black / African American households with 80% to 100% area median income. These are discussed further below.

#### 0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	11,775	3,080	1,370
White	4,140	1,030	495
Black / African American	1,310	480	160
Asian	510	4	215
American Indian, Alaska Native	150	35	10
Pacific Islander	125	0	0
Hispanic	5,095	1,480	480

Table 13 -Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

### 30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	7,190	1,715	0
White	2,505	900	0
Black / African American	1,000	245	0
Asian	375	60	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	90	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	3,070	440	0

Table 14 -Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

### 50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,560	4,271	0
White	2,605	1,630	0
Black / African American	705	565	0
Asian	415	195	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	50	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	2,605	1,645	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

## 80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,990	3,470	0
White	745	1,810	0
Black / African American	380	430	0
Asian	80	190	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	30	85	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	640	915	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

## Discussion

Housing Problems	0 - 30%	30% - 50%	50% - 80%	80% - 100%
Jurisdiction as a whole	73%	81%	61%	36%
White	73%	74%	62%	29%
Black / African American	67%	80%	56%	47%
Asian	70%	82%	68%	30%
American Indian, Alaska Native	77%	86%	100%	26%
Pacific Islander	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	72%	87%	61%	41%

The table above shows the three instances of disproportionately greater need related to the following housing problems: lacks co--entage in the entire jurisdiction as a whole.

## *NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems*

### *- 91.205 (b)(2)*

#### **Introduction**

Similar to the analysis from NA-15, the greatest need regarding severe housing problems is among those that earn between 0% and 30% of the area median; 10,095 of these households experience one or more of the following severe housing problems: lacks complete kitchen facilities; lacks complete plumbing facilities; overcrowding of more than 1.5 persons per room; or cost burden greater than 50%. As previously detailed, the primary problem for the City's residents is cost burden.

As household income increases, the total number of households experiencing one or more severe housing problems decreases. This is unsurprising as those earning more income have a wider range of housing options than do those households earning less. Among those households between 30% and 50% of the area median, 4,395 experience one or more severe housing problems; for households earning between 50% and 80% of the area median, 2,420 experience one or more severe housing problems; and finally among those households earning between 80% and 100% the area median, 595 experience one or more severe housing problems.

A disproportionately greater need exists when members of a particular racial or ethnic group at a given income level experience housing problems at a rate of 10 percentage points or more than the income level as a whole. There are four instances of disproportionately greater need with respect to severe housing problems: (1) Pacific Islander households with 0% to 30% area median income, (2) Asian households with 50% to 80% area median income, (3) American Indian, Alaska Native households with 50% to 80% area median income, and (4) Black / African American households with 80% to 100% area median income. These are discussed further below.

## 0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems *	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	10,095	4,760	1,370
White	3,630	1,540	495
Black / African American	1,050	740	160
Asian	500	20	215
American Indian, Alaska Native	120	65	10
Pacific Islander	125	0	0
Hispanic	4,270	2,305	480

Table 17 - Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

## 30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems *	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	4,395	4,510	0
White	1,720	1,690	0
Black / African American	505	740	0
Asian	180	155	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	40	65	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,790	1,725	0

Table 18 - Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

### 50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems *	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,420	8,415	0
White	590	3,640	0
Black / African American	330	940	0
Asian	240	370	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	20	30	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,150	3,100	0

Table 19 - Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

### 80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems *	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	595	4,865	0
White	140	2,415	0
Black / African American	95	715	0
Asian	0	275	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	115	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	330	1,230	0

Table 20 - Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

**Discussion**

Severe Housing Problems	0 - 30%	30% - 50%	50% - 80%	80% - 100%
Jurisdiction as a whole	62%	49%	22%	11%
White	64%	50%	14%	5%
Black / African American	54%	41%	26%	12%
Asian	68%	54%	39%	0%
American Indian, Alaska Native	62%	38%	40%	0%
Pacific Islander	100%	0%	0%	0%
Hispanic	61%	51%	27%	41%

The table above shows the four instances of disproportionately greater need related to the following severe housing problems: lacks complete kitchen facilities; lacks complete plumbing facilities; overcrowding of more than 1.5 persons per room; or cost burden greater than 50%.

In the first case of Pacific Islander households, all 125 households fall in the category of 0%-30% area median income living in households with at least one severe housing problem. This is 38 percentage points above the total percentage in the entire jurisdiction as a whole with the same severe housing problems.

In the second case of Asian households with 50% to 80% area median income, there are a total of 610 households, of which 240 (39%) have at least one severe housing problem. This is seventeen percentage points above the total percentage in the entire jurisdiction as a whole.

The third group is American Indian, Alaska Native households with 50% to 80% area median income. In this case, there are a total of 50 households of which 20 (40%) experience at least one severe housing problem. This is eighteen percentage points above the total percentage in the entire jurisdiction as a whole.



The final group is Hispanic households with 80% to 100% area median income. Among the 1,560 households that comprise this group, 330 of them (21%) experience at least one severe housing problem. This is ten percentage points above the total percentage in the entire jurisdiction as a whole.

## NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

### 1. Introduction

One of the greatest challenges for residents of the City of Providence is the cost burden of housing. As previously described, housing cost burden among various income levels is significant with 24% of households paying over 50% of their gross annual income on housing and an additional 16% of households paying between 30% and 50% of their gross annual income on housing.

There is only one instance of disproportionately greater need, discussed below.

### Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30 - 50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	13,580	10,560	15,725	1,560
White	16,625	5,460	6,,190	535
Black / African American	3,980	1,895	1,735	205
Asian	1,475	495	830	245
American Indian, Alaska Native	140	150	180	10
Pacific Islander	0	0	125	0
Hispanic	7,845	4,660	6,580	555

Table 21 - Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

### Discussion:

Based on the data provided in the table above, Pacific Islander households suffer a disproportionately greater need relative to severe housing cost burden of over 50% of their gross annual household income. The data show that 100% of these households spend over 50% of their annual income on housing. This is 62 percentage points above the total percentage in the entire jurisdiction as a whole. There are no other population groups with a disproportionately greater need.

It should be noted though that the data provided in this section cannot possibly be accurate as the population of White households spending less than 30% of their income on housing is shown to be larger than the jurisdiction as a whole.

**Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?**

Pacific Islander households fall into the extremely low income group of 0% to 30% area median income, and all of these households experience severe housing problems. Additionally, in the 50% to 80% area median income group, 100% of the American Indian and Alaska Native households experience housing problems and 40% experience severe housing problems. Thirty-nine percent of Asian households in this income category experience severe housing problems. Finally, among the Black / African American households in the 80% to 100% area median income category, 47% experience at least one housing problem

**If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?**

Among the various communities of color in Providence, the improvement of economic conditions and additional access to economic opportunities is of paramount importance. Job growth is critical, but equally important is creating connections between communities of color and meaningful employment in family supporting jobs.

**Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?**

Broadly speaking, there are concentrations in the City of people of color in the following neighborhoods: Wanskuck, Charles, Manton, Olneyville, Valley, Hartford, Silver Lake, West End, Elmwood, Upper and Lower South Providence, and Washington Park. Many of these neighborhoods also have disproportionately higher levels of poverty.

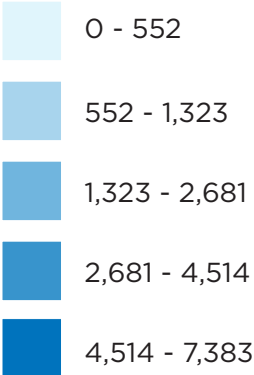
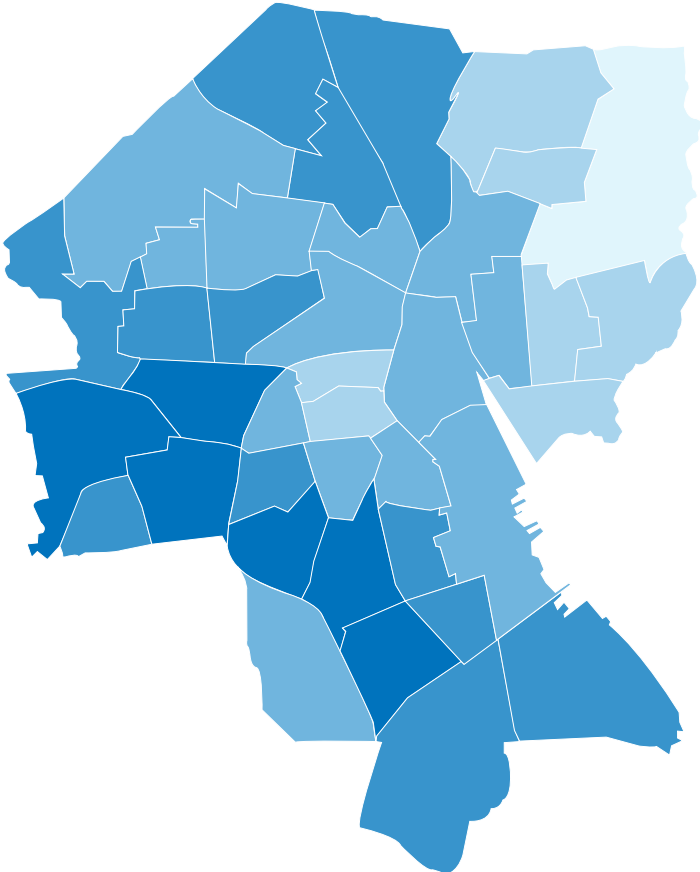
- The Hispanic or Latino population mirrors the overall concentration of people of color within the same neighborhoods listed above, with slightly less concentration in the northern part of the City (Wanskuck and Charles).
- The Black population mirrors the overall concentration of people of color within the same neighborhoods listed above, with little exception.
- The Asian population has virtually no presence in the northern part of the City, but is heavily concentrated in the West End and Elmwood neighborhoods, and on the East Side (College Hill and Wayland). The East Side density is likely due to a large Asian college student population.

- The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population is very small in the City and is concentrated in the western part of the City, particularly in the Manton, Valley, Olneyville, Silver Lake, and West End neighborhoods.
- The American Indian population is concentrated in the western part of the City, particularly in the Manton, Valley, Olneyville, Silver Lake, West End, Elmwood, and Washington Park neighborhoods. There is also a presence in the Wanskuck and Charles neighborhoods, but little presence elsewhere.

The racial / ethnic breakdown by neighborhood is presented visually in the following maps.

# People of Color Population

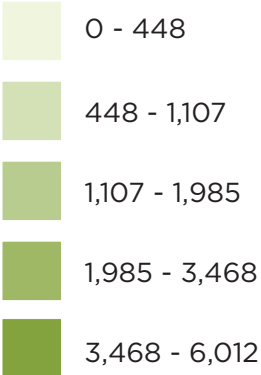
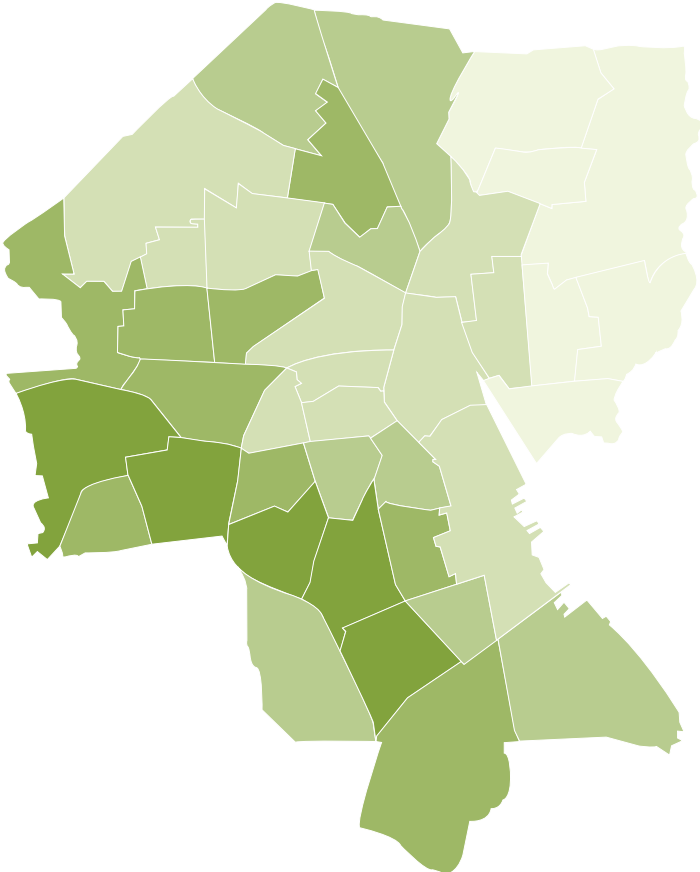
by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

# Hispanic Population

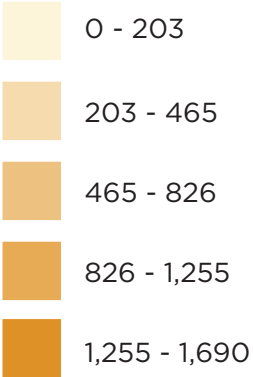
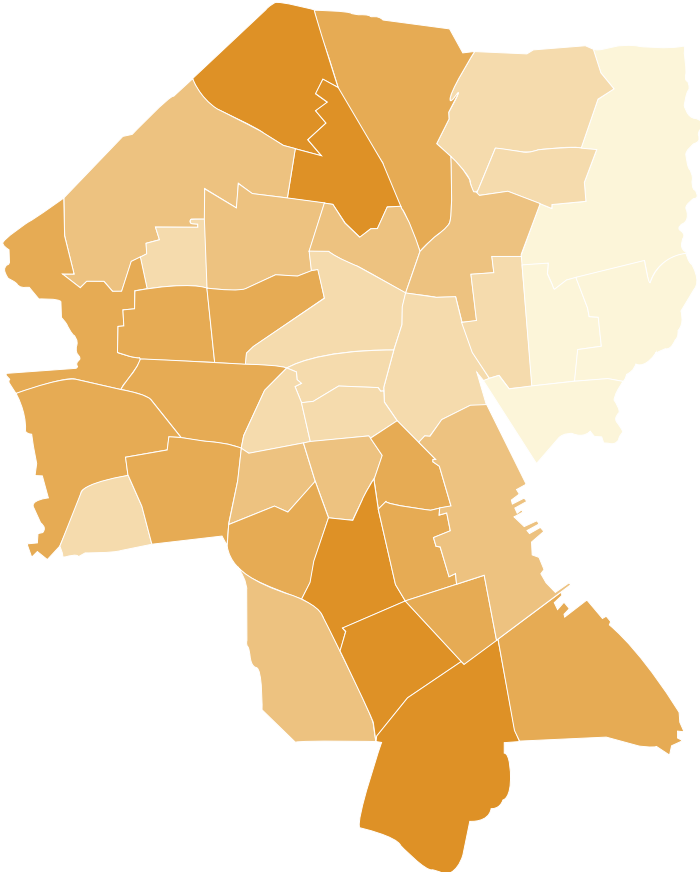
by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

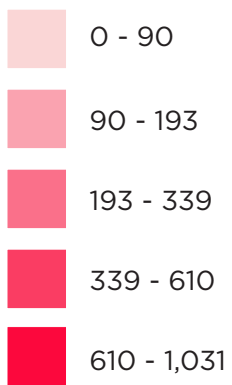
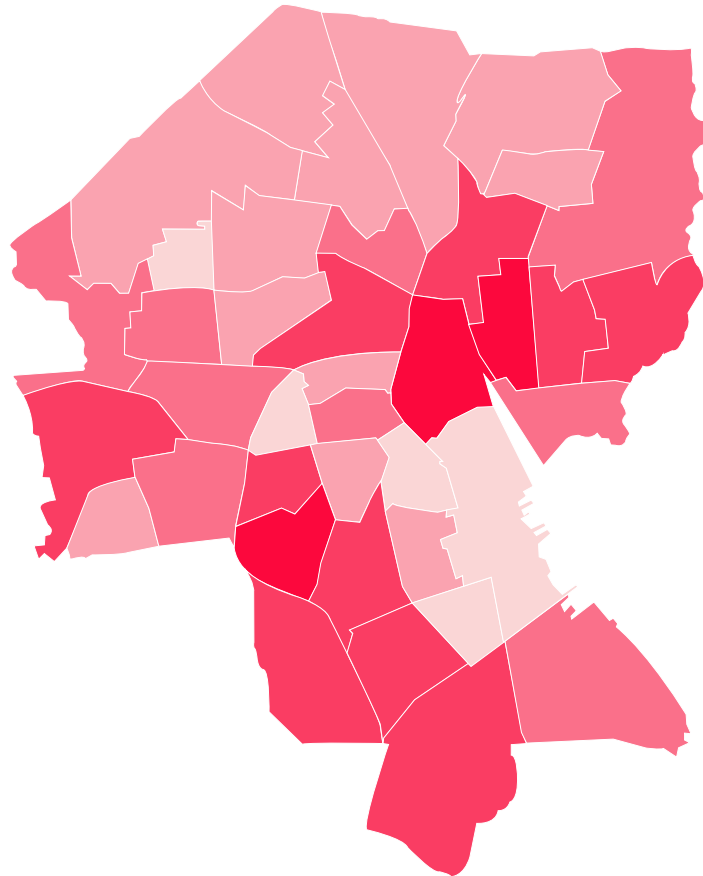
# Black Population

by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

# Asian Population by Census Tract, 2010

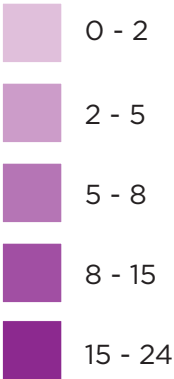
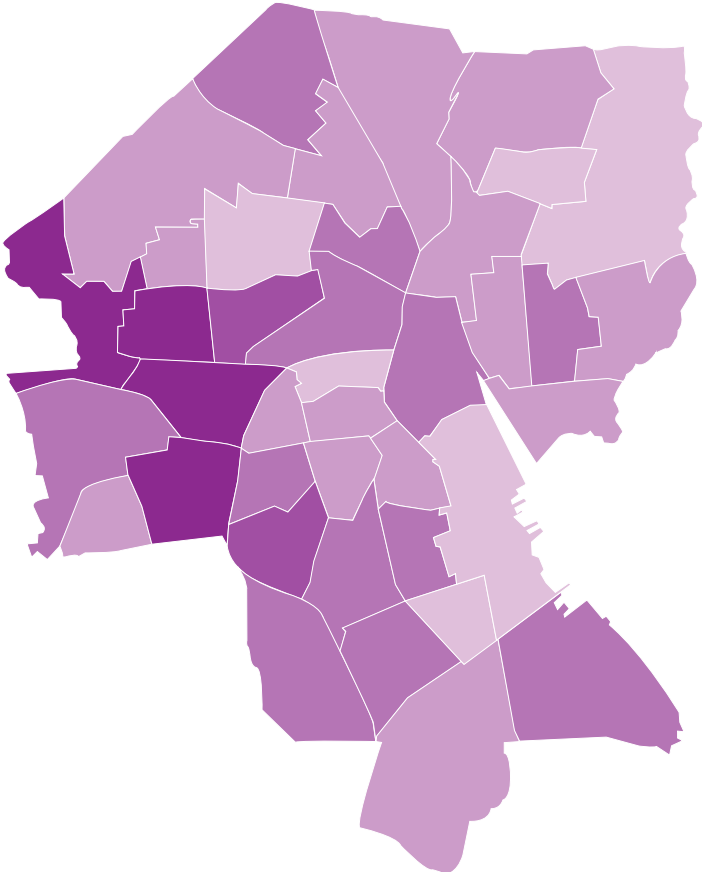


**Source:** ProvPlan



# Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population

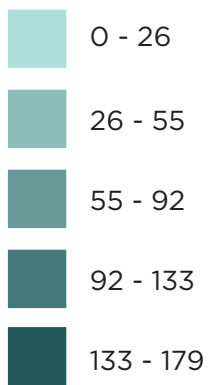
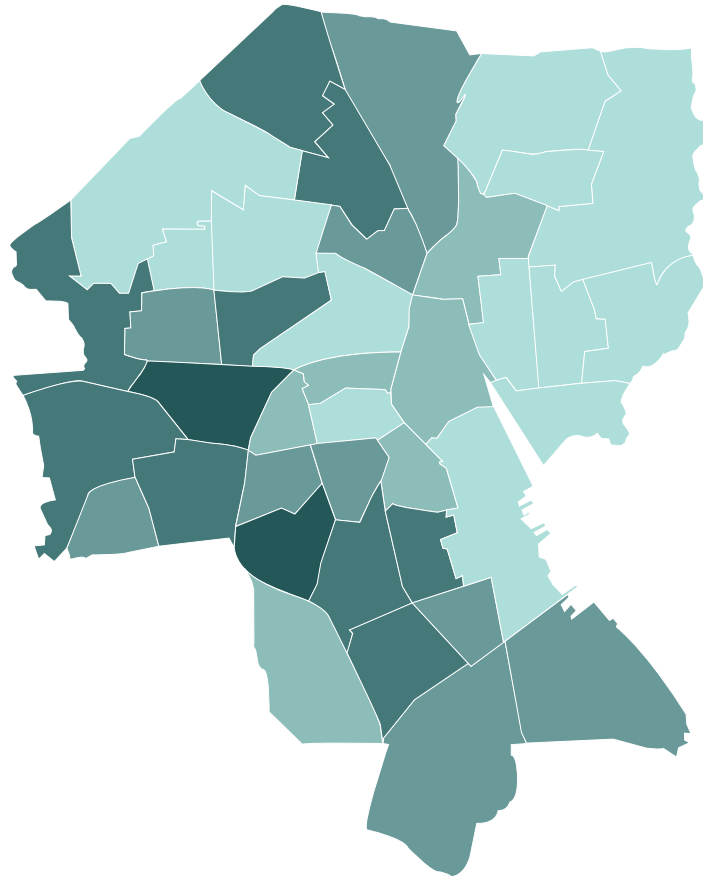
by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

# American Indian Population

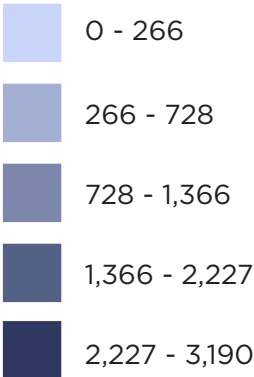
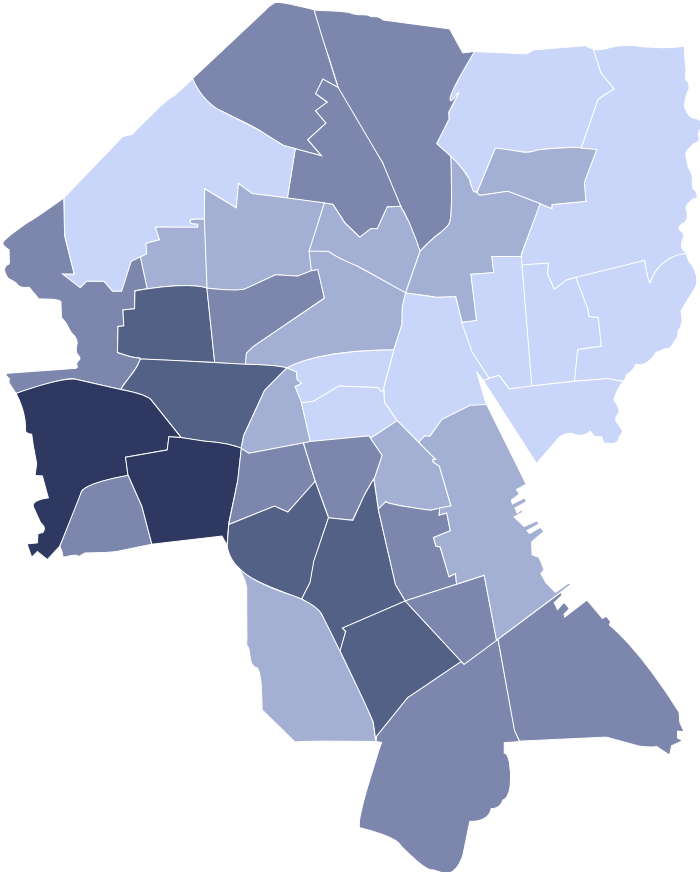
by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

# Other Race Population

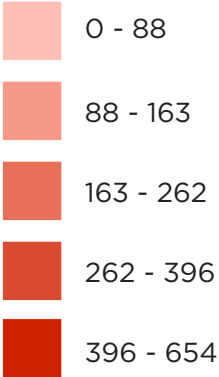
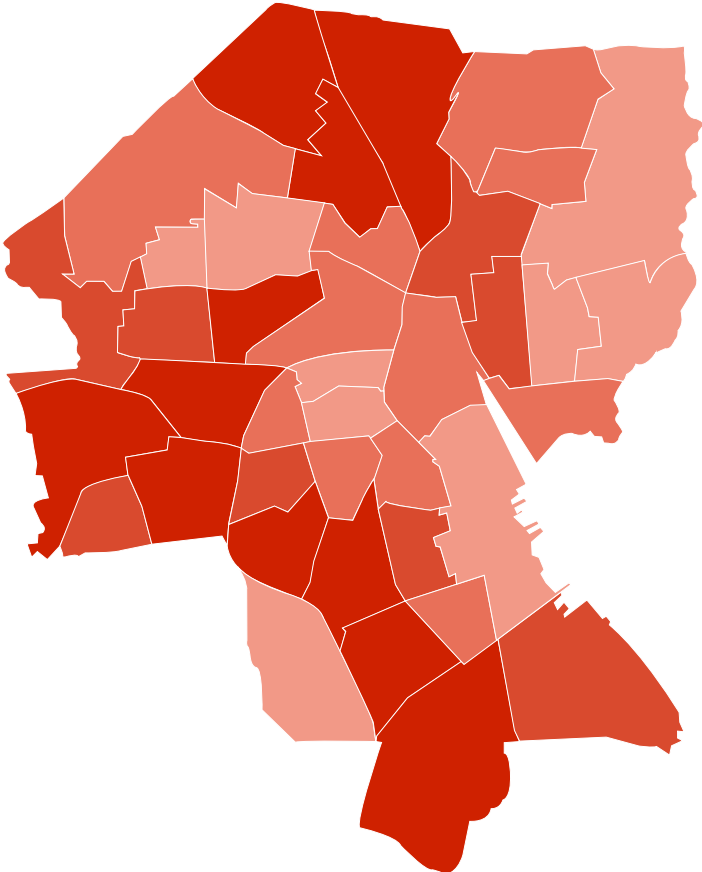
by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

# Two or More Races Population

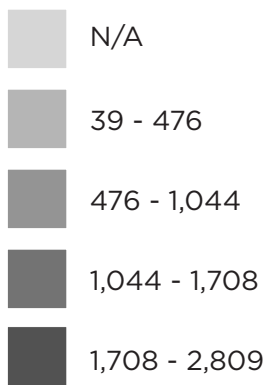
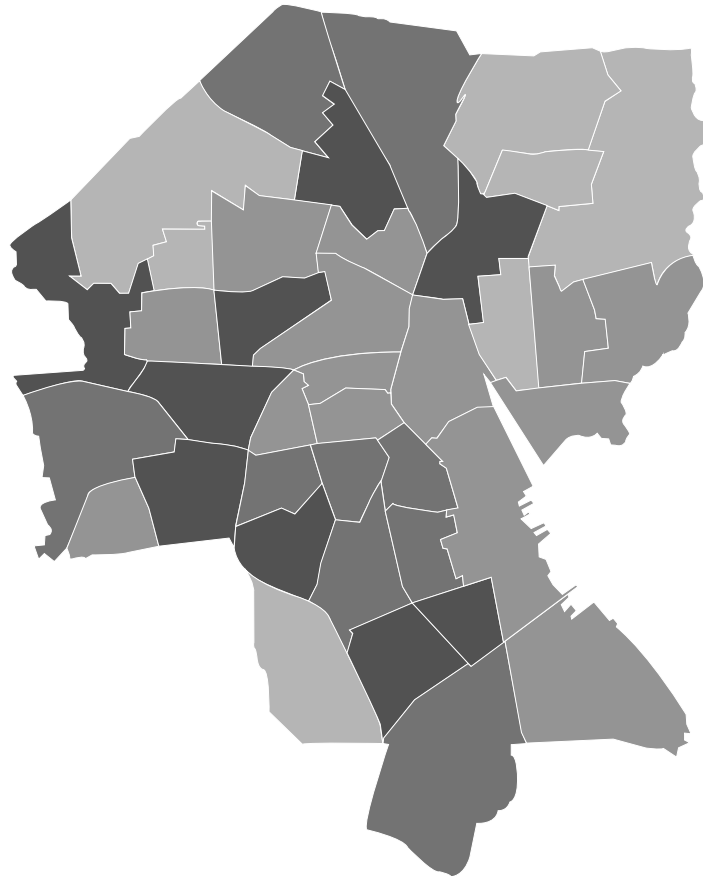
by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

# Two or More Races Population

by Census Tract, 2010



Source: ProvPlan

## NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

### Introduction

The Providence Housing Authority (PHA) is the sole agency in the City tasked with the administration of public housing. The most recent data provided by PHA show that it manages nine public housing development groupings including 244 units of Scattered Site housing throughout the City. Its portfolio consists of 2,601 units of public housing, which currently house 5,612 residents. Further, it provides housing assistance to an additional 6,431 individuals as the contract administrator for 2,569 units of Section 8 housing. These Section 8 market rent units are spread across the City of Providence. The PHA ended FY 2014 with a 98.4% occupancy rate in the units under its administration, with a turnaround time of 8.4 days to lease units as they become available.

PHA Public Housing Developments	Total Units	Total Residents
<b>Family Sites</b>		
Hartford Park and Hartford Park Tower*	507	1,345
Chad Brown, Admiral Terrace and Sunset Village**	375	1,102
Codding Court and Roger Williams	166	609
Manton Heights and Scattered Sites	564	1,469
<b>Elderly Only Sites</b>		
Carroll Tower	194	205
Dominica Manor	204	227
<b>Elderly/Disabled</b>		
Parenti Villa	194	205
Dexter Manor	291	304
Kilmartin Plaza	106	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>5,612</b>

\*Hartford Park includes the Hartford Park Tower with 120 units of elderly /disabled housing

\*\*Chad Brown includes Sunset Village with 24 units of elderly/disabled housing

Twenty percent of the total residents are considered to be elderly living alone, and 80% are families. Of the total population, 1,116 or 20% of public housing residents have a disability. There are 1,482 children under the age of 17 years while 69% of the entire population is Hispanic. The average yearly income for the public housing household is \$10,529.

The current Section 8 data shows that there are 6,431 residents housed in 2,569 Section 8 market rent units spread across the City of Providence. Of the total population, 19% have

disabilities and 3,505 or 55% are Hispanic. The average Section 8 household is 2.3 persons while the average annual income is \$12,661.

In analyzing family types and the overall breakdown of the Providence population, the PHA recognizes the scarcity of affordable housing. Once families or individuals are housed, some stay in public housing for substantial periods of time, decreasing the number of vacant units and thus increasing the average wait time for new applicants. The average wait time for families applying for family developments can be as long as 5 years. Those applying for elderly or disabled housing wait a period of six months to 2 years depending upon the unit size required.

### Totals in Use (Number of Units Vouchers in Use)

			Program Type					
Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
			Total	Project Based	Tenant Based	Vererans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled*
97	252	2,559	1,963	20	1,890	22	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

\*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

### Characteristics of Residents

		Program Type						
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project Based	Tenant Based	Vererans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	10,926	6,936	10,840	13,353	13,951	13,207	11,058	0
Average length of stay (years)	4	4	7	6	6	7	0	0
Average Household size	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	0

	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project Based	Tenant Based	Vererans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
# Home-less at admission	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (62+)	6	22	698	278	3	270	4	0
# of Disabled Families	14	77	688	520	7	500	8	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	97	252	2,559	1,963	20	1,890	22	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 - Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

**Data Source:** PIC (PIH Information Center)



### Race of Residents

Race	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project Based	Tenant Based	Vererans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
White	64	182	1,845	1,403	14	13,207	0	0
Black/African American	33	62	647	515	10	492	8	0
Asian	0	3	28	15	1	13	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	3	35	29	1	28	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	2	4	1	0	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 24 - Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

### Ethnicity of Residents

Ethnicity	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project Based	Tenant Based	Vererans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Hispanic	58	81	1,696	1,058	5	1,058	1	0
Not Hispanic	39	171	863	877	15	932	21	0

Table 25 - Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)  
Providence Consolidated Plan

## **Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:**

The public housing waiting list contains 156 elderly families (13%), 515 families with children (49%), 343 and families with disabilities (38%). The Section 8 waiting list has 23 families. Ninety-one percent or 21 families on the waitlist are considered extremely low-income, 2 families or 9% are very low-income and no families on the waiting list are low income. Families with children account for 96% (22) of the Section 8 waitlist, families with disabilities account for 5% (6) of the list, and families with elderly members account for 7% (8) of the waiting list.

One thousand and forty six (84%) families were identified as extremely low-income on the public housing waiting list, 169 families (14%) are very low-income and 31 families (2%) are low-income. The public housing waiting list contains 156 elderly families (13%), 515 (49%) families with children, 343 (38%) families with disabilities. Approximately, 926 or 74% are White families, 294 or 23% are African-American families, 13 or 1% are Asian families and 19 or 2% are Native American families. There are 859 (69%) Hispanic families (including both White and African-American) and 391 (31%) Non-Hispanic families on the waiting list. Two bedroom units have been identified as the highest demand on the public housing waiting list with 26% of the demand; followed by three bedroom units with 23% and efficiency units with 20% of the demand.

The PHA is diligent in complying with the construction and progress of the accessible units schedule through their agreement with HUD as well as associated activities such as the marketing plan, transition plan and maintaining the requests from residents for reasonable accommodations for residents with disabilities. Disabled residents account for 20% (1,116 residents) of the PHA's population. In Family Development, 13% (610) of residents are disabled, while 47% (506) of the Elderly / Disabled Development residents are disabled. Within the family developments the highest percentage of disabled residents is found in Hartford Park with 17% of the residents being disabled. This is due to the fact that the Hartford Park Tower, and elderly-disabled high-rise, is included in this percentage. Within the elderly developments, the highest percentage of disabled people lives in Kilmartin Plaza (66%) and Dexter Manor (60%). The smallest concentration of disabled people resides in Dominica Manor with only 17% of the population classified as disabled as this is an elderly only designated building.

Aside from increased supply of public housing to accommodate the demand for additional public housing and Section 8 units, some physical modification may be necessary to accommodate the elderly population and for those with disabilities. For instance some units may require wider doorways to accommodate wheelchairs or other mobility assistance devices. Similarly, bathrooms may need to be outfitted with grab handles and handicapped toilets for those with mobility challenges. In the last three years, the PHA received and approved an average of 56 resident requests for reasonable accommodations each year.

## Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders

Based on the bedroom sizes requested on the waiting list and pre-application waiting list, the need for affordable one and two bedroom units is the most immediate need of the applicants for Public Housing. Additionally, the PHA’s transfer list tracks public housing residents’ requests to be moved. This list indicates the greatest need for one bedroom units with a wide ranging variety of reasons for transfer, including but not limited to reasonable accommodations.

There are approximately 80 handicapped accessible units among the public housing portfolio as well as numerous retrofit modifications that have been made to units over the years. The PHA works diligently to comply with its current 504 Plan.

While 68% of the Section 8 waiting list applicants need 2 and 3 bedrooms, the 18% of the applicants who need a one bedroom apartment are finding it challenging to find affordable, one bedroom units in the community other than those that exist in the high-rises that are already subsidized.

In recent years, utility costs place a financial burden on the current Section 8 households, even though Section 8 voucher holders are provided with subsidized utility allowances and payments each month. The rising cost of utilities is a very common complaint among this population.

Among the approximately 6,300 residents participating in the Section 8 program, 1,185 or 19% are disabled. The PHA does not track reasonable accommodation requests of this population as they choose their own units and make their requests directly to their landlords.

Although the PHA’s Homeownership Program is successful and continues (with 44 Homeowners), the funding awarded to the PHA through the HUD Counseling Grant does

PHA Residents Served in	
Adult Programs	
ABE/GED & ESL	136
Job Training	26
Computer Education	58
Credit Counseling	15
Financial Fitness	31
Section 8 Homeownership	14
Family Self-Sufficiency	187
Family Success Center	189
Resident Service Coordinator	391
Youth Programs	
Boys & Girls Club - Youth	380
Boys & Girls Club - Teens	36
Boys & Girls Club - Licensed	
Childcare	33
PASA/AfterZone	126
Youth Safe Haven	46
High-Rise Programs	
Carroll Tower	88
Dexter Manor	77
Dominica Manor	89
Hartford Tower	23
Kilmartin Plaza	45
Parenti Villa	69
Total	2,059

not support a full time Financial / Homeownership Coach. This impacts the delivery of these homeownership services and contributes to the lengthy tenure of public housing residents and the significant waitlist for public housing and Section 8 units.

Based on a 100 question survey conducted by a third party consultant at the Manton Heights development (330 units with a 82% return rate), the number one concern of most of the residents was safety and security.

Food insecurities in the population served by the PHA is being addressed through grant funding and partnerships with non-profit and the City of Providence. The amount of food served in the 2 food pantries at PHA sites as well as the 3 summer lunch programs conducted at family developments is a clear indicator that hunger is an immediate need for residents of public housing.

Programming to address resident needs is provided by PHA's Department of Resident Services through partnerships with community organizations such as the Providence Boys and Girls Club, the Providence After School Alliance, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The primary focus of these services and partnerships is to address the education, economic, and healthcare needs of youth, adults, and the elderly/disabled populations in public housing. Due to diminished funding over the last 5 years, the PHA's programs for youth recreational programs and after school and summer programs have decreased substantially. Additionally, other service programs needed are: adult education (ABE, ESL, GED, and NEDP); computer education and access to technology; job skills training; work readiness training; job placement assistance; financial literacy and counseling; tax preparation assistance; after school and summer youth programming; homeownership counseling; health and wellness education; substance abuse counseling; and direct social services provision.

### **How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large?**

The needs of public housing tenants are fairly similar to those of the greater population, particularly those of the same income level. The primary needs for low-income residents are affordable housing, economic opportunities, and myriad services required to help support those that are living in or near poverty such as food assistance, affordable child care, transportation options, financial literacy, and educational and workforce development programs for higher quality jobs.

### **Discussion**

There is an urgent need for additional affordable housing opportunities for the hundreds of families and individuals on the public housing and Section 8 waiting list. Modifications to existing units are likely required to accommodate the elderly population and those living with a physical disability. Services to address the education, economic, and healthcare needs of youth, adults, and the elderly/disabled populations in public housing are required.

## *NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)*

### **Introduction**

As of February 2015, the agencies comprising the state's homeless system had a total of 2,850 year round beds, 121 seasonal beds, 69 overflow beds, 57 beds for the chronically homeless, 249 beds for homeless Veterans, and 14 homeless youth beds.

There are 41 individual agencies in the state that provide shelter and housing of various types to the homeless population. Nine of these agencies provide services in the City of Providence. They are: Amos House, Crossroads Rhode Island, McAuley House, Mental Health Association of Rhode Island (Access-RI), Operation Stand Down, The Providence Center, Riverwood Mental Health Services, Providence Housing Authority (VASH Program), and YWCA of Greater RI. However, due to the statewide system of services and the transient nature of the homeless, the below data will focus on the statewide homeless population.

As described in PR-10, the City is deeply engaged in the state's Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Homeless Fund. The City fully supports the Opening Doors Rhode Island strategic plan to transform the system of homelessness services and to end chronic homelessness in the City and state. Specifically, the City is focused on quickly responding to homelessness through street outreach and rapid re-housing for those that fall into homelessness, supporting shelter operations, and the Housing First model of providing homeless individuals with permanent housing and the appropriate wrap around services as required for them to maintain their housing.

## Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness of a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	409	2	1,412	569	587	72
Persons in Households with Only Children	17	0	116	45	51	-
Persons in Households with Only Adults	761	18	4,408	541	568	48
Chronically Homeless Individuals	198	6	204	178	189	-
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	108	0	276	168	73	-
Unaccompanied Child	7	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	2	0	2	1	1	-

Table 25 - Homeless Needs Assessment

**Data Source:** Rhode Island Point-in-Time Count; HMIS

**If data is not available for the categories “number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year,” and “number of days that persons experience homelessness,” describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):**

Not applicable.

## Nature and Extent of Homelessness

Race	Sheltered	Unsheltered
American Indian or Alaska Native	23	17
Asian	16	-
Black or African American	669	197
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7	-
White	1,916	580
Multiple Races	207	-
Unknown / Not Given	71	-

Ethnicity	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Hispanic/Latino	635	137
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2,268	718
Unknown / Refused / Not Collected	71	-

Table 26 - Race and Ethnicity of Homeless Population

**Data Source:** HMIS, Point in Time Survey, Vulnerability Assessment, VA Medical Center

### Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

As of the 2015 point in time survey, there were 1,326 households with 1,609 total homeless persons. There were 118 households with at least one adult and at least one child under the age of 18. The total number of persons in these family households was 375, with 114 adults over the age of 24, 37 young adults between the age of 18 and 24, and 224 children and youth under the age of 18. Among adult households without children, there were at total 1,217 people in 1,197 households meaning that the vast majority of these households are single adults. There were 1,157 adults over the age of 24 and another 60 between the ages of 18 and 24. Finally, there were 11 households with only children, with 17 total children under the age of 18.

Among the 241 children under the age of 18, 224 were in households with at least one adult. 139 accompanied children suffer some type of disability, as do two additional unaccompanied children. Among the non-disabled homeless children, 95 were accompanied children and five were unaccompanied as they entered homelessness.

Among homeless veterans, there were 58 chronically homeless veterans and 59 non-chronically homeless veterans in households without children in the 2015 point-in-time

count. Additionally, there were another three homeless veterans in families with at least one adult and one child under 18.

**Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.**

The racial and ethnic breakdown of the homeless population is listed in the table above. The largest absolute number of homeless individuals in the state is White, followed by Black or African Americans. There are much smaller populations of homeless American Indians, Asians, or Pacific Islanders. However, communities of color are more likely to be homeless than are Whites. In particular, while the Black and African American population comprises roughly 8% of the total state population, one-quarter of the sheltered homeless population is Black or African American. Conversely, the White population comprises 83% of the state population, but represents only 65% of the sheltered homeless population. Two percent of the sheltered homeless population is American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1% is Asian, and 0.3% is Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

**Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.**

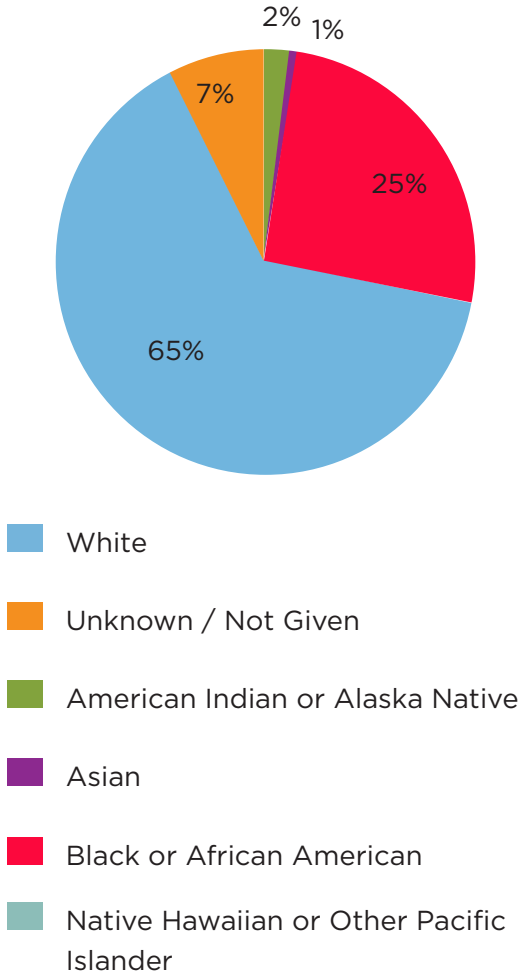
See above.

**Discussion**

In conversation with homelessness providers, through analysis of HMIS and Point-in-Time data, and review of the State’s strategic plan to end chronic homelessness, one significant issue identified was the need to quickly re-house individuals and families that fall into homelessness. The homelessness issue in the City is compounded by the lack of resources to provide the requisite support services to the homeless and at-risk populations. To address these issues, the City is committed to the Open Doors strategic plan to transform the system of homelessness services. Specifically, the City is focused on quickly responding to homelessness through street outreach and rapid re-housing for those that fall into homelessness, supporting shelter operations, and the Housing First model of providing homeless individuals with permanent housing and the appropriate wrap around services as required for them to maintain their housing.

**Sheltered Homeless Population by Race, 2014**

Source: HMIS





## NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

### Introduction

There are households throughout the City that have special needs unrelated to homelessness. Some of these population groups include the elderly and frail elderly; those living with some type of physical or cognitive disability; those living with HIV/AIDS and their families; persons with substance use disorders; persons with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI); and victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These groups may face greater challenges than the general population due to their specific circumstances and the City's housing stock may not be suitable for households with particular special needs. These groups may also require special attention due to additional social services required.

### Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

#### Elderly and Frail Elderly

Characteristics of Providence Elderly Population (65 and Older)		
Category	Total	As % of Total
Total Population	15,540	100%
In family households	9,027	59.4%
In nonfamily households	5,481	33.4%
In group quarters	1,032	7.2%
Median Age (Years)	74.1	-
Labor Force		
Employed	2,082	13.4%
Unemployed	249	1.6%
Not in Labor Force (Retired)	13,209	85%
Poverty Status		
Below 100 percent of the poverty level	2,859	18.4
100 to 149 percent of the poverty level	2,580	16.6%
At or above 150 percent of the poverty level	10,085	64.9%
Housing		
Occupied Housing Units	9,304	100%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	4,950	53%
Housing Cost <30% (Owner Occupied)	2,876	58.1%
Housing Cost >=30% (Owner Occupied)	2,074	41.9%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	4,354	46.8%

Housing Cost <30%	2,273	52.2%
Housing Cost >=30%	2,081	47.8%
Disability Status		
Noninstitutionalized Population	14,601	100%
With Any Disability	5,899	40.4%
No Disability	8,702	59.6%

Table 27- Characteristics of Providence Elderly Population

**Data Source:** 2013 ACS 5-year Estimate

The City of Providence has 15,540 persons aged 65 and older, according to the 2013 American Community Survey, 8.7% of the total City population. Among these seniors, 59% live in family households, 33% live in nonfamily households, and 7% live in group homes. The median age for the population of seniors ages 65 and older is 74.1 years.

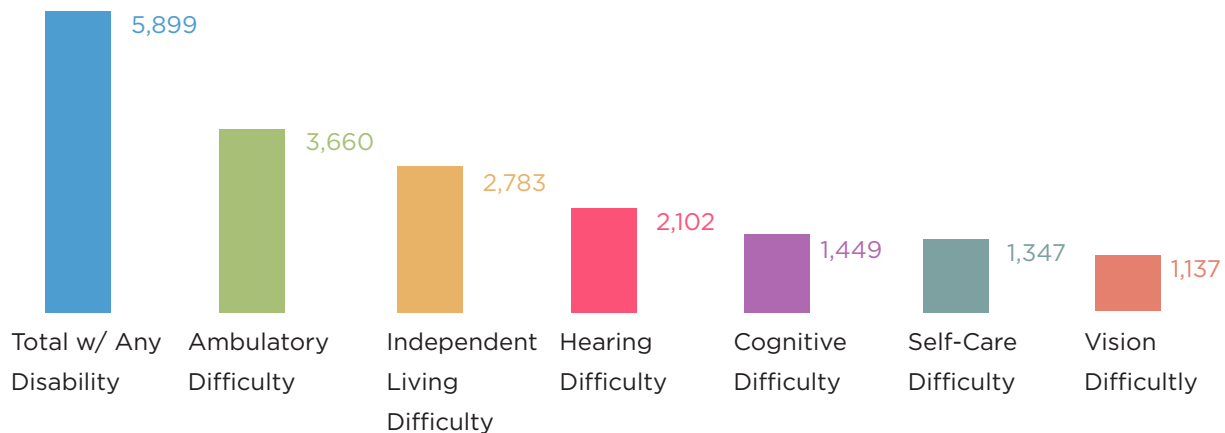
Generally, the elderly population has more limited fixed incomes than the average population, primarily Social Security and other retirement income. There are only 2,082 working seniors aged 65 and older, with another 249 in the labor force seeking employment. This creates affordability issues as housing prices have escalated in the City much faster than income. While almost two-thirds of seniors aged 65 and older are at or above the Federal Poverty Line, there are 4,440 elderly households in the City that experience housing cost burdens of over 30%, and 2,835 elderly households have cost burdens over 50%. Additionally, limited incomes inhibit their ability to make the necessary home improvements to ensure their homes are in compliance with the City's building codes and minimum health and safety standards. It is not uncommon in the City to see homes occupied by seniors to be in substantial disrepair.

Many seniors also lack their own transportation and are often subject to social isolation when they have limited opportunities to leave their homes and engage in beneficial socializing and recreational activities. In the City of Providence, there are 11 Senior Centers that provide entertainment, recreation, and various case management services to the elderly population; however, many seniors are unable to benefit due to lack of transportation.

The elderly and frail elderly population has additional unique challenges that come with age, including chronic medical conditions, higher rates of physical and mental disabilities, limited mobility, and high health care costs. According to the 2013 American Community Survey, 40% of the elderly population aged 65 and over experiences at least one mental or physical disability. Among the most common are ambulatory and independent living difficulties, 62% and 47% of the elderly disabled population respectively. While these are the most common disabilities among the elderly population in the City, other disabilities also greatly impact their housing choice. Seniors are often in need of supportive housing,

such as intermediate care facilities, group homes, and other housing that includes a planned service component to care for seniors when independent living and mobility issues become a challenge.

### Disability Status, Providence Population 65+



The elderly population throughout the state is projected to grow by 74% from 2010 to 2040 while the total population is only projected to grow by 7% during this time. It is likely that the City of Providence will see a similar rapid aging of its population and a subsequent increase in the demand for senior housing and related services. These older residents will need a wider range of housing types that can accommodate certain mobility challenges and mental disabilities that may come with aging.

### Persons with Physically or Cognitively Disabilities

Type of Disability	Total Population Under 5	Total Population Aged 5-17	Total Population Aged 18-64	Total Population Aged 65+	Total Population
Total Civilian Non-institutional Population	10,954	29,950	120,945	14,275	176,869
With Hearing Difficulty	70	289	2,473	2,102	4,934
With Vision Difficulty	56	304	2,690	1,137	4,187
With Cognitive Difficulty		1,163	6,410	1,449	9,022
With Ambulatory Difficulty		110	6,301	3,660	10,071
With Self-Care Difficulty			2,030	1,347	3,508
With Independent Living Difficulty			4,430	2,783	7,213
Total w/ Any Disability	88	1,646	13,329	5,899	20,962
Total of Population by Age	0.8%	0.8%	11.0%	40.4%	11.9%

Table 28- Characteristics of Providence Disabled Population

Data Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimate

Among the City's population, there are 20,962 residents with a disability, approximately 12% of the total population. The largest group of the City's disabled population is adults between 18 and 64 years of age. It is estimated that 13,329 residents between 18 and 64 have at least one physical or cognitive disability, approximately 64% of the total disabled population and 11% of the total population of that age. Residents that are physically or cognitively disabled have special housing needs to accommodate their specific conditions.

Ambulatory difficulty inhibits an individual's ability to walk or climb stairs. Due to the physical characteristics of the City's housing stock, a primary concern is providing housing options for the 10,000 Providence residents that experience ambulatory difficulty. Particular construction features and accessibility modifications are often required for those with mobility challenges, depending on the type and severity of these challenges (i.e., handrails, ramps, wider doorways, grab-bars).

Stable housing for persons with mental illness is hugely beneficial with regard to their mental health care because the primary location of support network is directly linked to their residence. Those living with a mental or developmental disability can find it difficult to retain housing and often their disability prevents them from finding suitable employment or earning an adequate wage that allows for independent living. Many individuals with mental illness are dependent solely on Supplemental Security Income as their primary source of income. Affordability issues become even more challenging for this population as there are few options in the private housing market and their disability leaves them at greater risk of homelessness and ill-equipped to navigate the public support system without substantial assistance.

These individuals benefit from the strong collaboration built and maintained by the CoC, the City, and others in the housing and supportive housing fields. With federal funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and with the expansion of Medicaid, many SMI/SPMI individuals now have the steady, reliable supports they need to maintain independence and live successfully in the community. Additionally, the City of Providence benefits from a partnership between the Providence Police Department and The Providence Center that provides, at no expense to the City, a full-time clinician who is embedded with the Police Department. This clinician assists officers across the City responding to incidents where mental illness and substance use are suspected factors. The clinician assists at the scene, helping officer de-escalate situations, identify when mental illness, as opposed to criminal intent, is the controlling factor, and helps by diverting individuals from the criminal justice system to treatment and care. The clinician also assists family members of those suffering from mental illness and can assist in responding to trauma that may follow a violent incident.

### **Persons with Alcohol or Other Drug Addiction**

A key principle to reduce substance abuse is to treat alcohol and drug addiction as a medical issue rather than a criminal issue. The state of Rhode Island created an Adult Drug

Court within its Superior Court in order to more efficiently divert certain drug cases from the criminal justice system.

In addition to diversion, specific treatment can manifest in a variety of forms depending on the specific acuity of the circumstance. A continuum of services ranging from in-patient hospitalization, residential sobriety treatment in a supportive and structured environment, long-term outpatient treatment, relapse prevention and recovery programs, regular toxicology screening, medication management, and other programs could be necessary to increase the likelihood of future abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Often times, there are contributing or concurrent conditions that result in alcohol or drug abuse which need to be addressed in order to assist the individual from dependence on alcohol or drugs.

### Victims of Domestic Violence

See section NA-10.

### Large Families / Households

Approximately 10% of all households in the City (6,002) have five or more people; 5,831 family households and 171 non-family households. The City’s housing stock has 6,019 units with 4 bedrooms and 2,849 units with 5 or more bedrooms. The available supply of housing for large families and households appears to be adequate at first glance. Further, reviewing the data from NA-10 and the 2013 American Community Survey, there does not appear to be a disproportionate cost burden for large family or non-family households.

Type of Disability					
	Median Income	Family Households	Nonfamily Households	Total Households	% of Total Households
Total:	\$37,632	34,650	26,366	61,016	100.0%
1-person households	\$19,275	-	19,139	19,139	31.4%
2-person households	\$49,881	11,159	4,964	16,123	26.4%
3-person households	\$40,629	9,681	1,438	11,119	18.2%
4-person households	\$47,475	7,979	654	8,633	14.1%
5-person households	\$50,841	3,397	146	3,543	5.8%
6-person households	\$52,083	1,466	15	1,481	2.4%
7-or-more-person households	\$56,836	968	10	978	1.6%

Table 29- Providence Household Data by Family Type and Median Income

Data Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimate

## Persons with HIV/AIDS

According to AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS), the largest HIV/AIDS housing provider in the State of Rhode Island (located in Providence), there are 118 units of HIV/AIDS specific housing in Rhode Island. These include licensed assisted facility scattered site apartments, and nonprofit owned houses which range from assisted living to fully independent apartments. Fifty of these housing units are located in Providence. House of Compassion and Family Resources have ceased to provide HIV/AIDS housing in Rhode Island, leaving ACOS as the major provider of HIV/AIDS housing services in Rhode Island.

According to ACOS at any given time, at least 173 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs) are searching for housing. This number continues to rise. In Rhode Island, there is an active waitlist of 195 for HIV housing. This is a significant increase from the 60 waitlist applications from June 2011. Justice Resource Institute maintains the TBRA/AIDS program waitlist for Bristol County. As of March 2015, there are 250 applicants on this HIV housing waitlist.

The pressing need for PLWHAs is for safe, affordable and secure permanent housing with supportive services. It is estimated that half of those living with HIV/AIDS require housing assistance at some point during their illness. A growing number of people with HIV/AIDS are already homeless when they become ill and find themselves shuffled between unstable situations in acute care hospitals, medically unsafe shelter facilities, and living on the streets.

The target populations at ACOS are minorities and low income individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS, who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and have special needs. These families, youth and individuals, plus people who inject drugs, clients with a history of incarceration, and those with mental health related issues are the populations most in need of HIV housing assistance and support service. Emerging populations for special needs transition in housing are HIV positive youth 18 through 24. Many clients have bad credit and criminal histories and cannot qualify for housing under other programs, perpetuating their chronic homelessness.

HIV positive persons face critically important medication management regimens depending on the stage of the disease and any additional infections that can present as a result of their deficient immune systems. Because of advances in HIV medications, infected patients are surviving longer and having fewer immune-deficiency complications; however, managing the disease requires the patient taking multiple antiretroviral drugs to minimize HIV replication. In addition to the medical treatment necessary for the disease, depression among people infected with HIV/AIDS is common.

Due to the stigma associated with HIV infection, persons living with the disease may be at risk of housing discrimination. While exact figures are unavailable, anecdotally people can face illegal eviction when their medical condition becomes known. Housing instability is a greater challenge for HIV/AIDS patients as stable housing is important for the regular

delivery of consistent medical treatment to manage the disease.

Additional services required by persons living with HIV/AIDS are transportation to and from medical appointments; mental health and psychiatric support; medical treatment adherence programs; continuation of health insurance; financial assistance for housing costs, heat, and other utility expenses; eviction prevention services; clinical counseling; drug treatment for IV drug users; nutrition and medication support; respite care; and palliative and end-of-life care.

**HOPWA**

<b>Current HOPWA formula use:</b>	
Cumulative cases of AIDS reported	4,614
Area incidence of AIDS	97
Rate per population	6
Number of new cases prior year (3 years of data)	324
Rate per population (3 years of data)	7
<b>Current HIV surveillance data:</b>	
Number of Persons living with HIV (PLWH)	3,198
Area Prevalence (PLWH per population)	200
Number of new HIV cases reported last year	0

Table 30- HOPWA Data

**Data Source:** CDC HIV Surveillance

**HIV Housing Need (HOPWA Grantees Only)**

<b>Type of HOPWA Assistance</b>	<b>Estimates of Unmet Need</b>
Tenant based rental assistance	17
Short-term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility	0
Facility Based Housing (Permanent, short-term or transitional)	0

Table 31- HIV Housing Need

**Data Source:** HOPWA CAPER and HOPWA Beneficiary Verification Worksheet

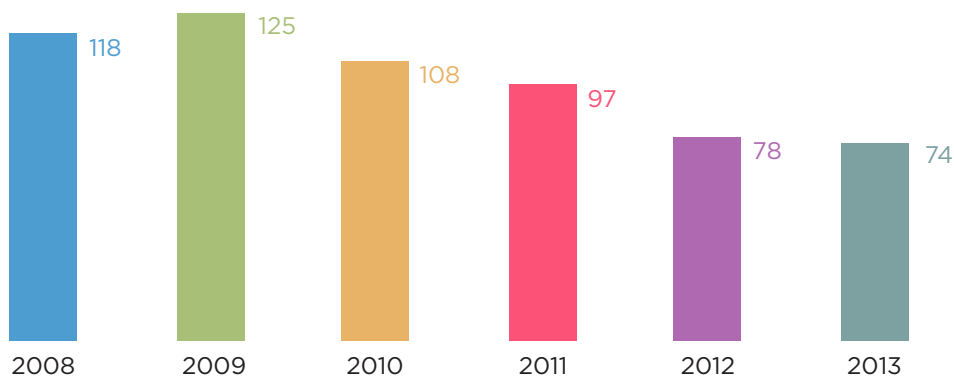
**What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?**

Housing and supportive service needs are discussed above. Needs were determined through consultation with provider agencies and City residents.

### Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

Information from the Rhode Island Department of Health shows that as of 2013 there were more than 3,600 cases of HIV and AIDS in Rhode Island and 1,591 infection-related deaths. The state has seen a decline in new HIV cases from 125 in 2009 to 74 in 2013. Approximately 78% of those newly infected are male and 22% are female. Thirty-six percent of new cases are among those aged 20 to 29 and another 26% are aged 30 to 39.

### Rhode Island HIV Incidence, 2008-2013



Data Source: RI Department of Health

While the largest number of new and existing HIV cases is among whites, people of color are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Between 2009 and 2013, Blacks and African Americans accounted for almost 22% of new cases and Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 28%. Statewide, the Black or African American population is 7.7% of the total population and the Hispanic or Latino population (of any race) is 12.9%. Further, information from AIDS Care Ocean State shows that the agency’s non-medical case management clients were 36% African American and 28% Hispanic.

The majority of clients receiving non-medical case management at AIDS Care Ocean State reside in Providence County (72%). Providence County is the most urban county in Rhode Island, and includes the state’s largest city, Providence. Demographic data from the 2012 Rhode Island HIV/AIDS Epidemiologic Profile indicates 88% of the people infected with HIV in Rhode Island live in Providence County, 8% in Kent County and with <5% living in Bristol,



Newport and Washington Counties. AIDS Care Ocean State anticipates that most clients referred for EMS from other community providers will be from the 5 core cities.

**Discussion:**

The above special needs population face a multitude of housing and supportive service needs unique to their condition. A wide availability of housing choices for each of these groups, with the requisite supporting services will be necessary to truly meet their needs. Key highlights include additional accommodations for the City's aging population and those that suffer from ambulatory and independent living difficulties. Those living with disabilities need housing that can accommodate wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Those living with HIV/AIDS are in need of housing and supportive medically-related services. Similarly, those diagnosed with mental or developmental disabilities require affordable housing which allows for independent living with the requisite supportive services.

These needs are far beyond the resources available and the City of Providence is fully supportive of additional state-level efforts for additional affordable housing resources for rehabilitation and new development to broaden the spectrum of housing choices in the City.

## *NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)*

### **Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Facilities:**

#### **Schools**

The City of Providence faces ongoing public facility needs attributed to an aging building stock and outdated infrastructure. Compounded by stagnant population growth and a fragile tax base, the City struggles to meet the educational, recreational and institutional needs of its residents, while equitably appropriating limited funds citywide. Community meeting participants in each neighborhood identified the need for school facility renovations, road and pothole repairs, comprehensive pedestrian infrastructure, increased street lighting, and improved park facilities.

The Providence Public School Department (PPSD) has had to balance maintaining facilities that serve the greatest populations at the cost of temporarily or permanently closing other facilities. PPSD has 4.2 million square feet of buildings to operate and maintain at a cost of \$18.2 million. Approximately \$177.5 million of capital funding was spent on school facilities between 2006 and 2008, which covered large modernizations, small capital projects and projects such as system wide security cameras, boiler controls and roofs. Continued routine and preventative maintenance is necessary for all school buildings, but the City has been constrained by a 2009 moratorium enacted by the State which impacted virtually all school improvements as only limited construction to ensure the “immediate health and safety” of students, staff, and visitors is allowed. This moratorium was lifted as of July 2015. The state of Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a Public Schoolhouse Assessment in 2013 and estimated the total cost to improve Providence’s public school buildings to good condition to be \$331.7 million.

#### **Libraries**

The Providence Community Library operates 9 neighborhood libraries in the City. A recent facilities report and strategic plan discusses PCL’s goal of completing all the major structural improvements needed at their facilities, with funding secured through a variety of public and private donors. The total cost for these facility improvements stands at \$3.18 million, with several capital repairs in process with the financial assistance of CDBG funds.

#### **Parks & Recreation**

The Providence Parks system includes more than 30 ball fields, eight soccer fields, 30 basketball courts, 19 walking paths and trails, tennis and handball courts, a waterfront park with a community sailing facility, three natural resource conservation areas, 60 playgrounds, two canoe launches, five community gardens, four farmer’s markets and two off-leash dog parks. Providence Recreation operates ten multifunctional recreation centers throughout the city, free of charge, and offers seasonal programs and activities to

all Providence residents. Additionally, the Parks Department operates and maintains five outdoor pools and 11 water play parks that are free and open to the public.

In June of 2015, the Providence Parks Department disseminated a draft report to assess the field conditions for each of the City's athletic fields. The main findings of this assessment are:

1. The demand for and supply of athletic fields in Providence parks is currently out of balance. There is an overabundance of little league (60' fields) and a shortage of good soccer fields and quality adult softball fields.
2. The trends in demand for athletic fields in Providence are likely to continue: participation in Providence little leagues is slowly declining and the requests for soccer fields and adult softball fields is increasing.
3. There is recent growth in pee wee football in Providence. Fifteen years ago, there were just two pee wee football organizations; now there are five. The need for all of these leagues to have lighted neighborhood practice fields to accommodate fall after-school practice schedules has significantly affected the condition of parks lighted fields, because there is not an ability to re-seed worn out turf areas at the end of November as grass will not grow in time for spring use of fields.
4. The use of some park athletic fields by neighboring schools for recess and physical education classes also complicates the ability of Parks to re-condition worn out turf areas.
5. There is a continuing persistent trend of some soccer fields being used by leagues without permits. This has serious consequences: wears out the field, discourages re-conditioning of the field as these leagues tear down temporary fencing after a field has been re-seeded, and frustrates neighbors and other leagues with legitimate permits.
6. There is inadequate funding provided in the city budget for Parks to provide satisfactory maintenance and minor repairs for 50 athletic fields. Approximately \$20,000 is provided for loam, clay, and seed for all of the athletic fields and parks in Providence. Parks uses earned income from leases and park permits to supplement these numbers, but all other park repairs and park improvements also compete for these non-city funds. The fees from field permits generate \$20-25,000 and these funds should be directed specifically to field maintenance.

7. There is barely adequate current in-house capacity in Parks for athletic field maintenance. The 2 person ball field crew, supplemented by one temporary laborer from April-October, is able to keep up with infield repair, but doesn't have the equipment, the funds, and the person power to do comprehensive turf maintenance—fertilization, liming, aeration, and slice seeding.

Several necessary improvements to the parks are planned and funded for the upcoming year; however, additional improvements and repairs are needed for recreational and pool facilities. Funds are also needed to staff and operate these facilities which, when unavailable, often cause the closure of facilities such as pools and recreation centers. Without consistent use and attention, these types of facilities fall into disrepair, thereby exacerbating the need for rehabilitation funding.

## Senior Centers & Community Centers

The City is anticipating conducting a facility audit to better understand the physical condition of the City's senior centers and community centers. Absent that study, the following examples are indicative of several of the physical condition of facilities throughout the City.

At the Davinci Community Center, there is a need to replace a roof-mounted, 30-year old air-conditioning system, installation of a back flow device at the request of the Water Dept., as well as conduct some cosmetic rehabilitation (i.e., painting, carpeting, landscaping, etc.). The approximate cost is \$75,000.

The Federal Hill Community Center is in need of handicapped accessible doors and transportation for those with physical disabilities. They are also in need of new amenities for their meal program as their existing facilities is outdated.

At the Fox Point Senior Center, the front door buzzer and camera system which allows seniors entry without waiting for a person to open door needs to be serviced, the kitchen needs updating as the stove was removed due to fire codes and heating boxes are used now.

The roof of the Lillian Feinstein Senior Center leaks in dining area. A small fence is needed to provide more security for seniors in the outdoor space on the side of the building because the unsecured space is used by drug addicts and the homeless, requiring a daily cleanup of needles and bottles.

The Senior Center at St. Martin DePorres requires a new alarm system that notifies police and fire, a handicapped-accessible stall in the bathroom, new lighting, fans and exit signs, replacement of the front door, and new locks on doors.

Recently, more attention has been given to rededicating public school facilities to the community after school hours to support community, youth, and recreational programs and activities. Further exploration of this concept may relieve pressures on community centers to provide such ranges of services and allow them to better focus on specific populations or programs.

## Climate Change and Sustainability

The City of Providence recognizes the urgent need to address the local causes and effects of global climate change. The environment, economy, and our communities are intrinsically linked; reducing our carbon footprint will give Providence a strong foundation for a resilient and prosperous economy and community.

Over the last several years, the City has made significant progress towards becoming more sustainable. In 2014, the City released Sustainable Providence, establishing a citywide vision and setting goals, strategies, and priority actions to address sustainability in six topic areas: Waste, Food, Transportation, Water, Energy, and Land Use and Development. Each topic also has established metrics to track progress and a “what you can do” section with suggestions for how residents can contribute to achieving the community-wide goals.

Providence was also recently selected as one of 50 cities nationwide to compete in the Georgetown Energy Prize, a national \$5 million competition to rethink the way American communities use energy. Through this opportunity, the City is partnering with the local electric and gas utility, National Grid, the state Office of Energy Resources, the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), West Broadway Neighborhood Association, and Emerald Cities Providence to encourage residents to take advantage of the state’s award-winning home energy efficiency programs and expand upon these proven successes. GHHI Providence, for example, effectively demonstrates that when entities work together, residents can benefit from integrated programs that address health, safety, lead hazard reduction, and energy efficiency. By creating healthier, more sustainable homes in Providence, the City aims to increase the social, economic, and environmental resilience of its neighborhoods.

Climate change is already challenging the City’s resilience with rising sea-levels, more frequent and extreme heat, and more intense storms. While Providence is protected by one of only a handful of Hurricane barriers in the United States, City residents, especially those on fixed incomes, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are increasingly vulnerable to extreme heat, inland flooding, and the rising cost of electricity.

The City of Providence is working with a number of partners to best understand and address these vulnerabilities. For example, in 2012, with support from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Environmental Health, the City of Providence led a

stakeholder engagement process to assess vulnerabilities and explore opportunities to build resilience, focusing on the public health impacts of climate change in Providence. Becoming a more sustainable city will help Providence better protect its residents and provide all services with excellence. The City cannot afford to waste money on inefficient buildings or recycling efforts, or forego the green jobs these programs can provide. One in ten children in Providence has asthma, a preventable health threat often triggered by air pollution. More resilient communities are necessary for Providence to weather the wide range of known and unknown impacts of climate change. Making decisions using an approach that truly recognizes the importance of social and environmental impacts will ensure that the City serves constituents' needs while strengthening the economy and protecting the environment.

### **How were these needs determined?**

Planning for the educational facility needs of the Providence Public School Department (PPSD) is a process that periodically looks at a variety of factors including the alignment of facilities to programs being offered, physical condition of buildings, enrollment trends, proximity of schools to other schools, academic performance, and schools as centers of their communities. The DVD discusses the capital needs of the PPSD in order to align CDBG funding to meet the most urgent needs. A Facilities Master Plan was conducted in 2006, and later updated in 2010. Reaching out to the community was an important part of the Facilities Master Plan process. The first meetings occurred in June 2009, announcing the start of the process, followed by a presentation to the School Board in September.

In January 2010, the Superintendent briefed the City Council in an informational session on the process, progress and preliminary recommendations. Two community meetings were held in each of the six PPSD planning areas, one during the week in the evening and a second on a weekend. An electronic survey system was used to engage the community in a discussion of critical issues, survey results were disseminated which lead to deeper discussion and gathering of additional data following the survey.

The Providence Community Library facility needs were identified through the facilities plan supplied to the DCD. The Parks Department needs were determined by the Parks Superintendent. The information regarding Senior Centers came from the Department of Senior Services for the City. Infrastructure needs were determined based on information and analysis from the Department of Public Works.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:**

Similar to most cities, Providence has experienced deterioration of its aging road infrastructure, municipal buildings, parks, and schools. Due to the harsh winters that persist in this region of the country, requests to fill potholes and repave roads are continuous. Additionally, several areas of the City still lack consistent sidewalks and many public parks have little or no lighting, both of which compromise the safety and perceived security of

residents. Participants at many of the community meetings and information from survey responses echoed the ongoing need for an increased tree canopy, requesting street tree planting assistance and funding, and for better pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure.

In 2012, City residents approved a \$40 million road bond for the Providence Road Improvement Project, which will have repaired and rebuilt approximately 65 miles of roads by the end of 2015. The project will ultimately repave an estimated one out of every six roads in Providence. Many sidewalks throughout the City have been uplifted by tree roots or damaged, causing trip hazards and are dangerous to traverse.

Finally, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association in their 2015 Annual Bridge Report identified 766 bridges in the state of Rhode Island. Among them, there were 174 bridges were identified as structurally deficient, 22.7% of all the bridges in the state and the highest proportion of deficient bridges in the country. While the exact number of these bridges located in Providence and their condition is unknown, it is likely that many of the City's bridges are also structurally deficient.

There is an ongoing recognition that for the City of Providence to continue to thrive as a vibrant place that people of all types will want to live, and to improve the conditions of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, the City needs to expand transportation choices and make these travel choices more convenient, attractive, and safer. Recognizing the ongoing need of expanded travel choices, in early 2015, Mayor Elorza signed up to participate in the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets" to improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation safety in the City of Providence. Further, the City is embracing the "Complete Streets" view of infrastructure design to enable safe access for all users of the City's sidewalks and roadways, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, transit riders of all ages and abilities.

**How were these needs determined?**

Many of the public improvement needs were identified during the community meetings in March and April 2015 and from survey responses. The Road Improvement Project needs were selected using the United States Army Corps of Engineers' merit-based analysis to target street improvements in a strategic way based on condition. The American Road & Transportation Builders Association's 2015 Annual Bridge Report identified the condition of the 766 bridges in the state of Rhode Island.

**Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:**

The City of Providence has a robust ecosystem of nonprofit community organizations and public services agencies that provide a myriad of services to their respective communities. The City consistently provides funding for a network of neighborhood-based community centers allowing them to provide much needed senior, childcare, food assistance, afterschool programs, and other services. These include Capital City Community Center,

DaVinci Center, Elmwood Community Center, Federal Hill House, Fox Point Senior Center, Joslin Community Center, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Nickerson Community Center, Silver Lake Community Center, Thomas Anton Community Center, Washington Park Community Center, and West End Community Center.

In sum, the City's ecosystem of community organizations offer a range of public services for all different age groups; however duplication of services, both administratively and programmatically, is considered a key issue facing public service providers that could be remedied by service and/or facility collaboration and consolidation. Service providers often work in isolation, with limited interaction, coordination, or awareness of the work of other organizations. This creates an inefficient system, particularly as it is difficult to identify specific agencies that deliver services for residents in need. The lack of communication among service providers impedes a more efficient provision of services. The current funding system forces providers to compete against each other for the same funding sources instead of working together to better serve the community. Agencies should be encouraged to share information and work collaboratively to provide services, fund new programs rather than replicate existing programs, and better monitor the performance of their programs to build system accountability.

As resources decline and need increase, it is important for city investments to be targeted to the organizations with a proven track record of delivering results, and not to sustaining organizations lacking the capacity, resources, or programs to provide a demonstrable return on investment. CDBG funds should be a bridge that allows organizations to deliver services and programs, and not as a fund to continually pay for staff salaries. One strategy for realizing this change in investment practice is for DCD to more precisely prescribe the programs and initiatives in which the city will invest and to more clearly define the outcomes the city intends to receive in return for investments.

## Education and Youth Services

One of the ongoing challenges identified by community residents and service providers is the underperformance of City schools. Improvement in the school system is necessary to provide the City's youth with quality education. Events of youth violence in 2013 reignited community discussions about the importance of summer jobs programs, summer learning programs to minimize learning loss, and enhanced sports, recreation, and arts programs for youth to provide them with safe activities during the evening hours and develop pro-social behaviors and attitudes. Mentorship and afterschool programs, sports and recreation programs, nonviolence training, and arts and music education were all identified as necessary to supplement a child's education and provide for additional support for those struggling academically and socially. Parent engagement in their child's education was also seen as vitally important.



## Senior Services

With the aging population in the City, additional recreation and socialization programs for the City's senior population were highlighted in community meetings and through online surveys. Some of the City's senior residency towers have limited opportunities for residents to engage in physical and mental activities that are often beneficial to residents. These services and activities often allow the City's senior population to be more independent, encourage community involvement, and empower seniors to age with dignity. There is a need for additional recreational programming for seniors Citywide and the reliable transportation to take seniors from their homes to outdoor or offsite locations for additional activities.

## Health & Mental Health Services

The expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had a profoundly positive impact on the health and well-being of homeless and low-income individuals. Primary health care for Providence residents who are unable to afford healthcare, or who are uninsured is an additional need in the community, as are obesity and diabetes prevention, smoking cessation, chronic disease health screening, non-acute walk-in clinics, etc. Additionally, multilingual and multicultural healthcare provision delivered to the increasingly diverse communities in the City is also needed. The elderly population has additional unique challenges that come with age, including chronic medical conditions, increase in physical and mental disabilities, limited mobility, and high health care costs. Comprehensive mental health services for those that suffer from mental illness are needed to facilitate independent living.

The State of Rhode Island is currently engaged in a comprehensive effort to "reinvent Medicaid." One of the major reforms identified by the task force appointed by Governor Raimondo is reducing Medicaid spending on long-term care in nursing homes and offering more opportunities for senior to "age in place." This goal will create need and opportunity for future community development investments. There will need to be an increase in the supply of housing that is amenable to seniors living independently and an increase in community-based services that support independent living by seniors. Given the scale of savings that can be realized through this change, there is a high likelihood the State will provide funds to spur the creation and expansion of these resources - housing stock, services, community resources, etc.

The State is exploring the degree to which Medicaid funds can be spent on non-traditional ways that ultimately are more efficient, cost-effective, and which support great independence by seniors. City community development funding can play an important role in assisting in this transition and in helping community-based organizations prepare to benefit from and provide benefit under this forthcoming change in the nature of caring for seniors.

## Legal Services

The nature and extent of legal services is very broad; however, a few standout issues of primary importance to low- and moderate-income residents are related to utility shut offs, particularly now that the moratorium on utility shut offs ended; protection against wage theft among low-wage tipped workers; legal assistance for unaccompanied migrant children; foreclosure prevention; eviction prevention, particularly stemming from retaliation for reporting code violations; federal and state taxes; and immigration issues.

## Transportation

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) operates public transit services throughout the State. The main bus terminal is Kennedy Plaza in downtown Providence. There are 3,159 daily trips on 57 fixed bus routes that serve 34 of the state's 39 communities. RIPTA also operates the ADA Paratransit Service statewide and administers the statewide Ride program for seniors and persons with disabilities. For FY 2014, RIPTA had a total ridership of over 20.5 million. Additional cross-town and inter-neighborhood connections were identified by community members. Further, there is an effort to develop a streetcar system in the City of Providence, to be expanded to serve other communities throughout the State. This is a long-term project that will improve the lives of low- and moderate-income Providence residents by providing more transportation options, creating opportunities for future development and jobs, and building a more sustainable City.

## Substance Abuse Prevention

Case management services for teens involved with the Rhode Island Juvenile Drug Court and adults with drug and alcohol dependency, on an inpatient or outpatient basis.

## Services for Battered/Abused Spouses

Comprehensive domestic violence services are needed including emergency shelters, helpline support, court advocacy, support groups, programs for children, community nonviolence education and training, and public awareness campaigns to reduce the incidence of domestic violence.

## Housing Counseling

Homebuyer education is required for HOME-assisted housing units and would be beneficial in conjunction with landlord training for those purchasing homes with a rental unit. Educating prospective homeowners about being a good homeowner prior to purchasing a home and counseling and education assistance, especially concerning foreclosures in Providence, was identified as a need.

## Childcare Services

The cost of child care can be a disincentive for employment. Subsidized child care is necessary for low-income families, particularly single parents, to allow them to enter the labor force and maintain employment. The state of Rhode Island offers some assistance; however, it is much narrower than in previous years due to significant cuts and targets only extremely low-income parents.

## Financial Literacy

Appropriately contextualized and relevant financial literacy training for low-income individuals was identified as a need in the City to protect residents from predatory lending. The state of Rhode Island is the only New England state that allows for high interest rate “payday loans” with interest rates of up to 260%. While there have been efforts at the state level for the past few years to cap interest rates at 36%, there has been no definitive action.

### Workforce Readiness and Employment Training

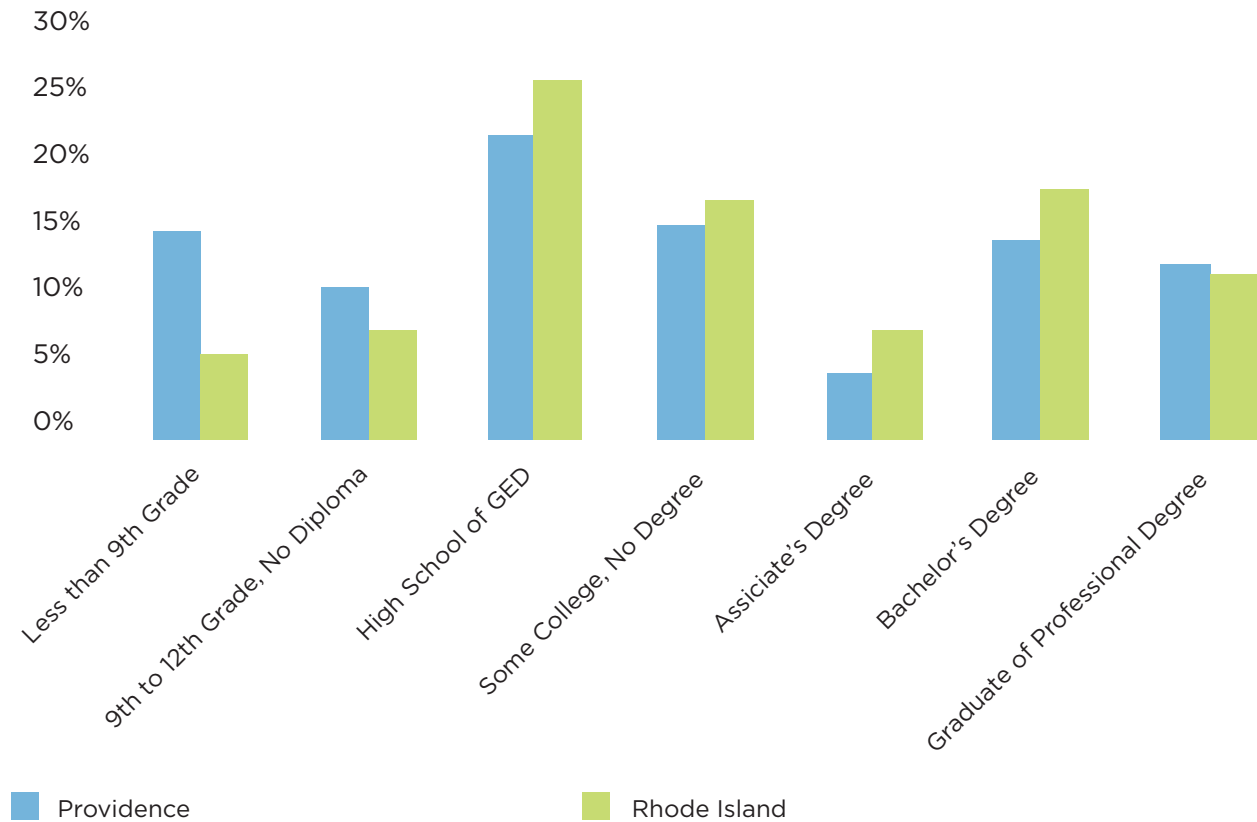
As detailed in section MA-45, workforce readiness and employment training that targets the City’s low-skilled, low-income population to connect them to employment opportunities is of critical importance to improving the economic conditions of the City’s most economically vulnerable. Job training programs must align with the market realities in the City and State, and must be intentionally focused on connecting economically marginalized populations to entry-level positions with a pathway for career advancement and wage enhancement. Leveraging the market demand of the City’s largest economic sectors, the hospitality and food service, health care, and educational sectors, will position the City to connect low-skilled and low-income workers to job opportunities as the economy continues to improve.

## Adult Basic Education

Providence is home to many adults who lack a high school education. Over 27% of the City’s population aged 25 and older has less than a high school education (approximately 27,000 adults). This is a significantly higher percentage of adults without a high school education than the state average. Those who lack a high school education are placed at a severe disadvantage in the local and regional job market, particularly as the City and State slowly recover from the Great Recession. For every post-secondary education level, the City lags the state in educational attainment except for graduate and professional degree holders.

The main Providence Public Library and the various branches of the Providence Community Library offer several adult learning and literacy classes, including the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative’s free, nationally recognized English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, citizenship preparation, workforce development, small business assistance and entrepreneurship training, computer instruction, children’s programming, student resource

## Educational Attainment, Population 25+, 2013



Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

support, and family literacy programs for adults. While many services are available at neighborhood libraries, there are gaps in the system and significantly more demand for these services than are currently available. As quality employment and family supporting wages are the critical keys to lift people out of poverty and improve neighborhoods, there needs to be more focused effort on providing the training and skills necessary to facilitate employment. Further, direct connections to job opportunities are just as critical as the training itself.

It was this collection of needs that inspired the City, with funding and leadership from DCD, to invest in the creation of the Family Opportunity Centers described earlier in this report. This successful project can serve as a prototype for future catalytic investments yielding lasting impact. The City identified a strong community-based partner to implement the initiative, built on existing capacity, and provided financial support and technical assistance required to launch a proven, evidence-based program to the City.

## Newly Arriving Immigrants

The City is seeing a growing immigrant population that should be encouraged and supported; however, newly arriving immigrants may need particular services to acclimate to their new host environment, particularly newly arriving refugees.

## Additional Special Needs Populations

There are two additional population groups that experience disproportionate challenges: the formerly incarcerated and young adults who have aged out of the foster care system. These individuals are often ill-prepared to live independently and often lack the educational foundation or stable job history to secure employment, can experience severe discrimination in the job market, and often need supportive services.

## Healthy Communities Assessment Tool

The Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) provides a cumulative ranking of each neighborhood in Providence based on the Healthy Community Index (HCI) core indicators of 37 social, economic, and physical factors important to community health. These indicators are representative of the myriad issues that are important for community healthy and are derived from a broad set of publicly available data sources. By examining these factors, we can learn how specific neighborhoods perform compared to other neighborhoods. This allows the City to understand what, if any, geographical disparities exist in Providence on any number of specific demographic or contextual factors, or in any of the primary domains: Economic Health; Educational Opportunities; Employment Opportunities; Environmental Hazards; Health Systems and Public Safety; Housing; Natural Areas; Neighborhood Characteristics; Social Cohesion; and Transportation.

The tool is still in development phase and is being piloted in Providence along with Albuquerque, NM; Minneapolis, MN; and San Diego, CA, through a contract led by Healthy Housing Solutions and funded by HUD's office of Healthy Housing and Lead Hazard Control. Currently, Providence has collected values for 30 of the 37 indicators. Another two are not appropriate for Providence (for instance, one indicator measures neighborhood proximity to Superfund sites, but there are no active Superfund sites in Providence). We are working on obtaining and analyzing the final 5 indicators from relevant state agencies or other sources. The overall picture of how each neighborhood fares in terms of social determinants of health is incomplete, but within those indicators we have collected, data shows very clear disparities that future community development investments and strategies for the city can address. For instance, the median neighborhood value among Providence's 25 neighborhoods for the percentage of adults 25 and older who have a high school degree or the equivalent is 71.3% - but in eight neighborhoods, less than two-thirds of adults have a high school education, and the lowest value is 56% in Olneyville. To look more in-depth at the indicators that have been collected so far and the in-progress overall neighborhood rankings, go to <https://hci-providence.icfwebservices.com/>.

Rank	Neighborhood	Tier
1	Blackstone	Top
2	Wayland	Top
3	College Hill	Top
4	Fox Point	Top
5	Hope	Top
6	Mount Pleasant	Top
7	Mount Hope	Top
8	Wanskuck	Top
9	Elmhurst	Middle
10	Charles	Middle
11	Federal Hill	Middle
12	Manton	Middle
13	Valley	Middle
14	Silver Lake	Middle
15	Smith Hill	Middle
16	Reservoir	Middle
17	West End	Middle
18	Hartford	Bottom
19	South Elmwood	Bottom
20	Downtown	Bottom
21	Elmwood	Bottom
22	Olneyville	Bottom
23	Washington Park	Bottom
24	Lower South Providence	Bottom
25	Upper South Providence	Bottom

Source: Healthy Communities Assessment Tool

Once our data collection is completed, we also plan to share the tool with neighborhood organizations, CDCs, and other stakeholders in and outside of City government to solicit their input on how to utilize the data moving forward and ways we might strengthen the index to better understand the various determinants of health in the City that can be continually updated so that the City can monitor its progress over time.

### How were these needs determined?

These needs were determined from the community meetings conducted as part of the Consolidated Plan process, previous planning studies, in consultation with community organizations and service providers, and through analysis of public data.

# Housing Market Analysis

## MA-05 Overview

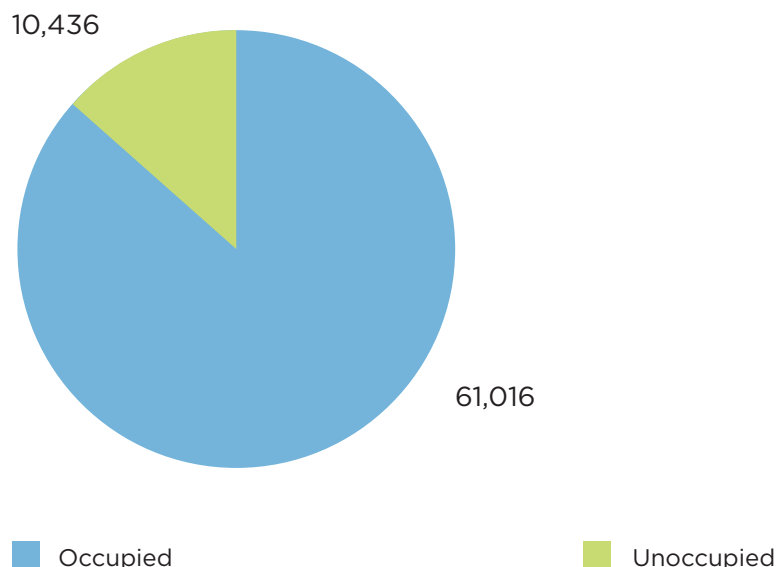
*Housing Market Analysis Overview:*

### Market Rate Housing

According to the 2013 American Community Survey 5 year estimate, there are 71,452 housing units in the City. Among these units, 10,436 are vacant. This leaves Providence with an overall occupancy rate of 85.4% (61,016 units), slightly less than the state's occupancy rate of 88.7%.

The table below describes the age of the City's housing stock in relation to the State. As previously discussed, Providence has a much older housing stock, with 56% built before 1940 compared to only 33% in the state. Similarly, while almost one-quarter of the housing stock throughout the state was built since 1980, only 14% of the City's housing stock was.

### Providence Housing Units



Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

## Age of Housing, Providence and Rhode Island, 2013

Years Structure Built	Providence		Rhode Island	
	Number of Units	As % of Total Units	Number of Units	As % of Total Units
Total housing units	71,452	100%	462,516	100%
Built 2010 or later	39	0.1%	1,002	0.2%
Built 2000 to 2009	3,438	4.8%	28,719	6.2%
Built 1990 to 1999	2,690	3.8%	32,974	7.1%
Built 1980 to 1989	3,878	5.4%	48,708	10.5%
Built 1970 to 1979	5,294	7.4%	56,014	12.1%
Built 1960 to 1969	4,299	6.0%	51,450	11.1%
Built 1950 to 1959	6,423	9.0%	57,777	12.5%
Built 1940 to 1949	5,141	7.2%	33,416	7.2%
Built 1939 or earlier	40,250	56.3%	152,456	33.0%

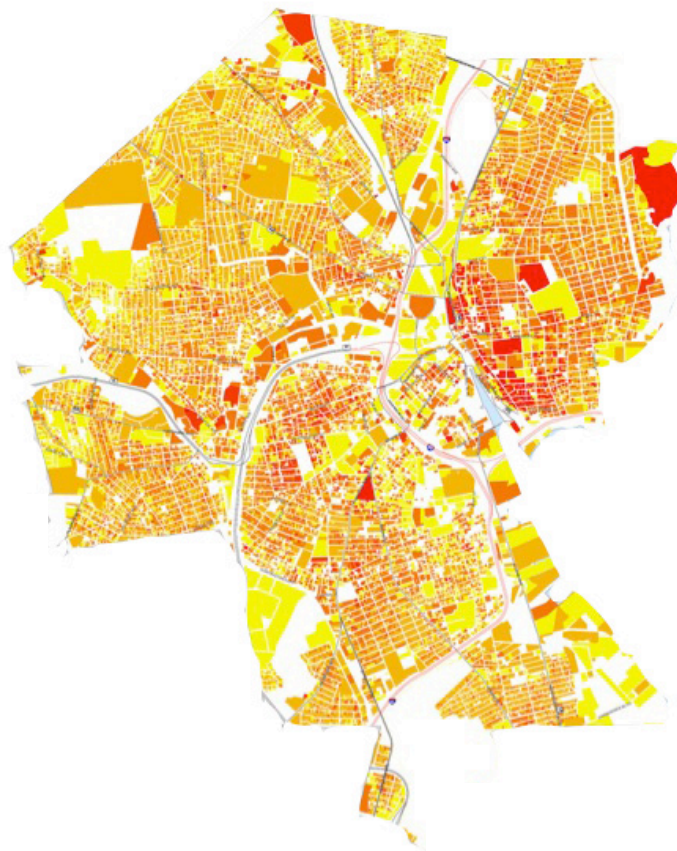
Table 32- Age of Housing Stock

**Data Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

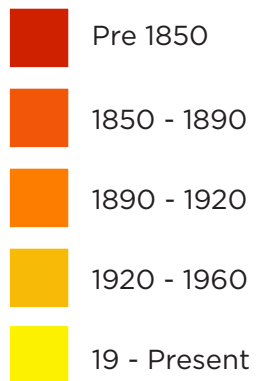
Over the past three decades, the City's population has grown from 156,804 in 1980 to 178,056 in 2013, roughly 13.5% or an annualized growth rate of 0.4%. While population growth has been relatively flat since 2010, there has been significant demand for housing in the downtown area and in the East Side neighborhoods of College Hill, Fox Point, and Wayland.



# Age of Providence Housing Stock



Structure - Year Built



Providence is generally a City of renters. Slightly over 64% of the occupied housing units in the City are rental units (39,195 units) compared to 35.8% owner-occupied (21,821 units). In the most recent study by HousingWorks RI, they calculated the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment and the typical monthly housing payment in Providence. The City was segmented into two sections, the East Side neighborhoods of Blackstone, Hope, Mount Hope, College Hill, Wayland and Fox Point (these are the neighborhoods with significantly higher value property rates) and the rest of Providence. There is a vast difference in property values between the East Side of Providence and the rest of the City causing both rental prices and mortgage costs to be significantly higher in the East Side. The median home price in the East Side neighborhoods as of 2013 stood at \$439,500 compared to \$105,000 in the rest of the City. Similarly, the average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment in the East Side was \$1,408 compared to \$1,100 in the rest of the City. These factors place a significant price burden on low-income households in the City as discussed above.

### Age of Housing, Providence and Rhode Island, 2013

	<b>Providence (Excluding East Side)</b>	<b>East Side of Providence</b>
Median Home Price	\$105,000	\$439,500
Monthly Housing Payment	\$866	\$3,336
Income Needed to Afford Housing Payment	\$34,625	\$133,438
Average 2 Bedroom Rent	\$1,100	\$1,408
Income Needed to Afford Rent	\$44,000	\$56,320

Table 33- Providence Housing Costs

**Data Source:** HousingWorks RI, 2014 Housing Fact Book

## Public Housing

Additionally, the Providence Housing Authority manages nine public housing development groupings including 244 units of Scattered Site housing throughout the City. Its portfolio consists of 2,601 units of public housing, which currently houses 5,612 residents. Further, it provides housing assistance to an additional 6,431 individuals as the contract administrator for 2,569 units of Section 8 housing. These Section 8 market rent units are spread across the City of Providence.

PHA Public Housing Developments	Total Units	Total Residents
<b>Family Sites</b>		
Hartford Park and Hartford Park Tower*	507	1,345
Chad Brown, Admiral Terrace and Sunset Village**	375	1,102
Codding Court and Roger Williams	166	609
Manton Heights and Scattered Sites	564	1,469
<b>Elder Only Sites</b>		
Carroll Tower	194	205
Dominica Manor	204	227
<b>Elderly/Disabled</b>		
Parenti Villa	194	205
Dexter Manor	291	340
Kilmartin Plaza	106	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>5,612</b>

\*Hartford Park includes the Hartford Park Tower with 120 units of elderly /disabled housing

\*\*Chad Brown includes Sunset Village with 24 units of elderly/disabled housing

Table 34- Providence Housing Developments

## Affordable Housing

There are approximately 10,500 housing unit in the City of Providence that qualify as long-term affordable, or approximately 15% of the total supply of housing units. Among those homes, there are 4,360 reserved for the elderly, another 5,153 reserved for families, and another 987 reserved for the special needs population.

## Facilities, Housing, and Services for the Homeless

The State of Rhode Island has 699 year-round emergency shelter beds as of the February 2015 Housing Inventory Count. Of these, 339 are for households with children, 352 are for households and individuals without children, and 8 are for unaccompanied youth. Additionally, there are another 80 overflow beds for adults and children. Among the total number of Transitional Housing beds, 297 are for households with adults and children, 146 are for adults only, and 77 are designated for veterans and their families.

In recent years, the State has more fully embraced the Housing First model to address homelessness, providing permanent housing as quickly as possible along with the appropriate wraparound services to homeless individuals and families to maintain their housing. As such, the number of permanent supportive housing beds has grown over the past several years. As of February 2015, there were 965 beds for adults and their children, 737 for adults only, 57 for the chronically homeless, and 152 for veterans and their families.

The various types of services that are offered to the homeless population include 24-hour drop-in shelters for men, women, families, couples; facilities for the homeless to meet their basic needs including showers, laundry, meals, clothing, transportation, toiletries, and other daily essentials; workforce development and vocational job training; health care and mental health treatment and counseling; substance abuse recovery; relocation and placement services; and case management and planning services for ending a household's homeless status.

## Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing

Fire codes and historic preservation requirements are often identified as contributing to significant cost increases, development delays and design challenges for affordable housing providers.

Due to the limited availability of land in Providence for new residential development of any type, affordable housing providers use state-initiated land bank programs to acquire properties and hold them while financing is secured. The carrying costs of holding the land while financing is secured increases the cost of affordable housing.

The costs associated with purchasing a new home can be extensive for low-income homebuyers, even when down-payment requirements are as low as 3% to 5% of the total mortgage.

The City has a large non-native population whose first language is something other than English. Literacy and language barriers can be an impediment to affordable housing, particularly due to the complexity of loan and mortgage documents and lease agreements. Further, non-English speakers may be reluctant to report code violations or unfair treatment by their landlord.

Discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, and insurance of housing is believed to be an ongoing impediment, making it difficult for people of color and immigrants to rent or purchase housing in the areas of their choice in the City.

## Significant Characteristics of the Jurisdiction's Economy

As the State's capital city, the City of Providence houses many of the government functions of the State. Further, the City is home to world-class higher education institutions, one of only two deep water ports in the entire Northeast, vibrant arts and cultural amenities, and is located between the dynamic regional economies of Boston, MA and New York City. The two largest sectors for the City's economy are educational services and health care. The City is home to 8 colleges and universities including Brown University, Johnson & Wales University, Providence College, Rhode Island School of Design, and Roger Williams University. The state's health care industry is highly concentrated in and around the City of Providence. The largest health systems in the City are Lifespan, Care New England, and Charter-CARE Health Partners.

## *MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)*

### **Introduction**

The City of Providence has 71,542 housing units, according to the 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate. Of these units, 61,016 are occupied or 85% of the total number of units. There are 39,195 renters (64% of occupied units) and 21,821 owners (36% of occupied units). Homeownership units tend to be larger than rental units, with 68% of all owner units having three or more bedrooms compared to 33% of rental units. Virtually all the units without bedrooms are rental units.

While Providence has suffered from a fairly weak real estate market since the foreclosure crisis of 2007 with limited redevelopment or new construction, the City has seen increased demand for new market-rate, affordable and student housing in the past several years. Since April 2013, there have been 30 new building permits pulled for new construction of single family and two and three unit homes. Downtown continues to be transformed into a mixed-use neighborhood, with offices, housing, retail, and institutional uses. Development opportunities include several large undeveloped parcels in Capital Center, smaller infill lots in DOWncity and the Jewelry District, and 19 acres of vacant I-195 relocation surplus land. While the office market is relatively static, with no new space projected to come online, there has been significant growth in housing and institutional uses.

The market in Downtown includes much affordable housing, and market and high end housing for professionals and retirees, and will continue to serve young professionals and students affiliated with the several colleges in the area. Outside of Downtown, more housing is coming online as well, with several notable affordable projects. Most non-residential development is related to university expansion, with some growth in healthcare-related uses in the vicinity of the hospitals. Land available for development is primarily in the Valley neighborhood and in the hospital district. The following is a list of several projects that should be completed within the coming years.

# Providence Real Estate Development Projects

Project	Description
<p><b>Commons at Providence Station (Building B)</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>Parcel 6 - Building B - Phase II of Capital Cove, now “The Commons at Providence Station” - 6 stories with 169 new market-rate units.</p>
<p><b>44 Hospital Street</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>New 6-story mixed-use building has one lower level for below grade parking, 5 rental spaces for commercial uses on the ground floor, and 6 market-rate residential units on each of the upper floors (2-5) for a total of 30 units. Units range in size from 571-sf to 1,144-sf, and consist of loft, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units.</p>
<p><b>South Street Landing</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p><b>1)</b> Renovation of former Power Station: 130,000 square feet of space for Rhode Island College/University of Rhode Island’s nursing education center, plus 135,000 square feet of space for Brown University administrative offices  <b>2)</b> 250,000 sf 8-story 488-car parking structure  <b>3)</b> River House: two new connected student housing buildings totaling 150,000 gsf (Point Street Residential Building will be 7 stories with 95 units, Providence River Residential Building will be 7 stories with 76 units), mix of studio, 1 and 2 bedroom units.</p>
<p><b>Johnson &amp; Wales University academic building at 75 Chestnut Street</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>New, 3-story academic building at the corner of Chestnut and Friendship Street, adjacent to Johnson Hall, a 3-story brick building at 258 Pine Street. Will serve the School of Engineering and Design and College of Arts and Sciences’ new biology program.</p>
<p><b>One Empire Plaza</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>New, 3-story academic building at the corner of Chestnut and Friendship Street, adjacent to Johnson Hall, a 3-story brick building at 258 Pine Street. Will serve the School of Engineering and Design and College of Arts and Sciences’ new biology program.</p>
<p><b>One Empire Plaza</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>Roger Williams Law School and School of Continuing Education will lease approximately 75 percent of the building’s available office and retail space.</p>

<p><b>Parcel 28 (The Link)</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>6-story building- student housing apartments with 20,000 square feet ground level commercial space. Apartments geared toward college and university students will accommodate 500 residents.</p>
<p><b>Kinsley Building (334 Westminster St)</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>Workforce rental housing plus 7,000 sf of 1st floor commercial space.</p>
<p><b>Sharpe Building at the Foundry (and 35 Holden Street Parking Deck)</b>  <b>Location:</b> Smith Hill</p>	<p>The renovated 6-story Sharpe Building will contain 197 luxury apartments, along with a gymnasium, reflecting pool, rooftop viewing deck, and structured parking.</p>
<p><b>Parcel 12 (5 Exchange St)</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>Proposed six-story extended stay hotel building with 120 suites.</p>
<p><b>32 Custom House Street</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>Market-rate residential with ground floor retail/restaurant.</p>
<p><b>Lapham Building/Aurora</b>  <b>Location:</b> Downtown</p>	<p>Plans to convert vacant nine-story office building at 290 Westminster St. into market-rate rental apartments with commercial office space and first floor commercial space.</p>
<p><b>Parcel 8 (The LINK)</b>  <b>Location:</b> Fox Point</p>	<p>The Link/City property joint development: 40 Tockwotton St. – 7 stories, 30,000 sf office, 4,000 sf retail, 46 market-rate apartments.</p>
<p><b>Flynn School Redevelopment</b>  <b>Location:</b> Upper South Providece</p>	<p>220,000sf, 3 buildings – RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School + 2 buildings mixed-use/medical office.</p>
<p><b>Sankofa Apartments</b>  <b>Location:</b> West End</p>	<p>Proposed 50-unit new construction affordable housing project. The project will include the construction of a community building that will house the management office, a community room, and support an urban agricultural component. Developed by West Elmwood Housing.</p>
<p><b>Phoenix Apartments</b>  <b>Location:</b> West End</p>	<p>83-unit scattered site affordable rental housing development that consists of 26 multifamily walk-up buildings spread out across five blocks. Developed by Omni Development Corp.</p>

**Olney Village**

**Location:** Olneyville

Olneyville Housing Corporation transformed 12 formerly foreclosed properties and several vacant lots into 40 affordable homes and 3 community spaces for area nonprofits. The entire development is spread throughout 16 buildings along six residential blocks.

**Olney Garden**

**Location:** Olneyville

Scattered site development by Olneyville Housing on 14 lots with 36 affordable housing units.

**Trinity Place**

**Location:** West End

New construction of 22 new affordable rental units and 11 new-construction, three-bedroom townhouses. Developed by SWAP.

**All residential properties by number of units**

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	16,947	23.7%
1-unit, attached structure	2,744	3.8%
2-4 units	36,112	50.5%
5-19 units	7,079	9.9%
20 or more units	8,379	11.7%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc.	191	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,452</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 35- Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2009-2013 ACS

**Unit Size by Tenure**

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	68	0.3%	2,300	5.9%
1 bedroom	910	4.2%	8,607	22.0%
2 bedrooms	6,120	28%	15,271	39.0%
3 or more bedrooms	14,732	67.5%	13,017	33.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,657</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39,195</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 36- Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2009-2013 ACS



**Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.**

The City of Providence has over 10,500 affordable housing units. These units are detailed in the table to the right. The majority of the units are for low- to moderate-income families; 5,158 units are for families. Another 4,360 units are for the City’s elderly population. The remaining units are for those living with disabilities, those with special needs, group home settings, and supportive units.

The income levels for these units are generally 60-80% area median income. The City has a shortage of affordable units for those that are extremely low-income.

Project Type	# of Units
Group Home Beds	347
HUD 202 (Elderly)	609
HUD 811 (Disabled)	98
HUD Section 8-Elderly	520
HUD Section 8-Family	809
Other-Family	381
Public Housing-Elderly	1,133
Public Housing-Family	1,473
RIH Elderly	2,098
RIH Family	2,495
RIH Special Needs	404
Supportive Units	157

**Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.**

Unknown.

**Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?**

While not perfect, the City’s current housing stock appears to fairly adequately suit the needs of the City’s population with some exceptions. First, there are 300 renter households and 15 owner households that are severely overcrowded with more than 1.51 persons per room. Additionally, 1,155 renter households and 270 owner households are overcrowded with between 1.01 and 1.5 persons per room.

Overcrowding can suggest a need for more housing units, but given the high percentage of households with >30% and >50% cost burdens this can be a manifestation of unaffordability rather than a housing shortage. Further supporting this theory is the City’s occupancy rate of 85%, which is slightly less than the state’s occupancy rate of 89%. While there are 1,740 households that experience overcrowding, there are an additional unoccupied 10,436 housing units which could be used to accommodate them.

**Describe the need for specific types of housing:**

As discussed above, Providence is in need of more affordable housing units to reduce the

cost burden on the City’s residents, particularly those spending more than 50% of their annual income on housing. The City also needs to ensure that it has enough housing to accommodate those living with physical and cognitive disabilities, those experiencing self-care and independent living challenges, and those that may have additional mobility challenges as the City is expected to see its elderly population grow over the next several decades.

One theme the City heard during the series of Community Conversation meetings is a desire for a wider availability of senior housing in the neighborhood rather than senior high-rise apartment towers. There is an emerging market opportunity to integrate scattered site senior housing in mixed-income, mixed-use, and mixed-age communities. As the condition of some abandoned housing stock has deteriorated to a point where rehab is not economically feasible, this may present an opportunity to replace housing types no longer suited to the city with new housing options that meet the needs of the city today and in the foreseeable future. Related to this is a need to increase the availability of Supportive Housing, affordable housing with necessary support services on site, in the neighborhood, or otherwise provided in a coordinated way.

**Discussion**

The City is identifying specific key targeted neighborhoods that are suitable for additional housing options, specifically focusing on those areas most in need of new affordable housing development and property rehabilitation that are in close proximity to neighborhood hubs and commercial corridors hosting localized and neighborhood-based businesses and near high-service public transportation routes. The City will explore opportunities to further incorporate affordable housing developers into the receivership program to redevelop vacant and abandoned property into new owner occupant units. The City will also explore building the capacity of CDCs to also provide Supportive Housing services in projects to develop partnerships with existing community-based service providers. This is an opportunity to strengthen proven service and development entities. With policy and funding leadership from DCD this presents an opportunity to foster collaboration and efficiency, and avoid costly and ineffective competition among agencies and organizations.

## MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

### Introduction

As shown in the tables below, the cost for housing in the City has grown significantly between 2000 and 2013 (the last year data is available). The median rental housing cost in the City grew at an unsustainable rate of 70% from 2000 to 2011, rising from \$437 in 2000 to \$744 in 2013. Similarly, the median home value saw a 93% increase over the same period, increasing from \$101,700 in 2000 to \$196,300 in 2013. It is worth noting that this occurred even though the country experienced an unprecedented foreclosure crisis and the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Among those who rent, over 55% of the housing units cost between \$500 and \$999 per month in 2011, while another 26% cost under \$500 per month. Another 13.8% of the units charged a monthly rate of between \$1,000 and \$1,499, with the remaining approximately 5% charging \$1,500 or more per month.

While the total number of rental housing units increased by almost 7% between 2009 and 2013, the expansion occurred in higher-priced units while the number of lower-cost rental units remained fairly stable. Units priced at less than \$500 per month decreased by 0.5%, and units priced between \$500 and \$999 per month increased by less than 1%. The supply of moderately priced rental units costing between \$1,000 and \$1,499 per month grew by 16%, while more expensive rental units saw more rapid growth. Units priced between \$1,500 and \$1,999 grew by 27% and units priced at \$2,000 or more grew by 26%.

The number of units that are considered to be affordable at each income level is also shown in the tables below. For the most economically disadvantaged population, those households earning up to 30% of the area median income, there are only 5,905 rental units that are considered to be affordable (where the tenant would spend less than 30% of their annual income on rent). For those households earning 50% of the area median income, there are 12,380 rental units that are considered to be affordable. Finally, for those households earning 80% of the area median income, there are 27,275 rental units considered to be affordable.

### Cost of Housing

	<b>Base year: 2000</b>	<b>Most Recent Year: 2013</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Median Home Value	101,700	196,300	93%
Median Contract Rent	437	744	70%

Table 38- Cost of Housing

**Data Source:** 2000 Census (Base Year), 2009-2013 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	8,278	21.1%
\$500-999	15,805	40.3%
\$1,000-1,499	11,745	30.0%
\$1,500-1,999	2,615	6.7%
\$2,000 or more	752	1.9%
Total	39,195	100.0%

Table 39- Rent Paid, 2013

Data Source: 2009-2013 ACS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change, 2009-2013
Less than \$500	8,323	8,776	8,357	8,329	8,278	-0.5%
\$500-999	15,667	16,141	15,434	15,609	15,805	0.9%
\$1,000-1,499	10,099	11,191	11,987	12,189	11,745	16.3%
\$1,500-1,999	2,052	2,295	2,726	2,680	2,615	27.4%
\$2,000 or more	597	658	636	623	752	26.0%
Total Rental Households	36,738	39,061	39,140	39,430	39,195	6.7%

Table 40- Total Rental Units by Cost

Data Source: 2009 – 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

## Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	5,905	No Data
50% HAMFI	12,380	895
80% HAMFI	27,275	3,750
100% HAMFI	No Data	6,610
Total	45,560	11,255

Table 41- Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

## Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no Bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	686	773	944	1,176	1,407
High HOME Rent	686	773	944	1,176	1,385
Low HOME Rent	662	709	851	983	1,096

Table 42- Monthly Rent

**Data Source:** HUD FMR and HOME Rents

As a supplement to the CHAS data, the most recent data from HousingWorks RI is included. This data shows that the rental price of a two-bedroom apartment in Providence rose by 15%, from \$960 in 2003 to \$1,100 in 2013. An annual household income of \$44,000 is required for that rental payment to be considered affordable. This is approximately 17% more than the annual median household income of \$37,632 (as of the 2009-2013 American Community Survey). HousingWorks RI used a methodology that segmented the City into two markets, the East Side neighborhoods of Blackstone, Hope, Mount Hope, College Hill, Wayland and Fox Point (these are the neighborhoods with significantly higher value property rates) and the rest of Providence.

## Providence Housing Costs, 2013

	Providence (Excluding East Side)	East Side of Providence
Median Home Price	\$105,000	\$439,500
Monthly Housing Payment	\$866	\$3,336
Income Needed to Afford Housing Payment	\$34,625	\$133,438
Average 2 Bedroom Rent	\$1,100	\$1,408
Income Needed to Afford Rent	\$44,000	\$56,320

Table 42- Providence Housing Costs

**Data Source:** HousingWorks RI, 2014 Housing Fact Book

## Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

No. It is a common refrain throughout most neighborhoods in the City that the cost of housing is burdensome for far too many Providence residents and households. While housing cost does not appear to be overly burdensome for the City's higher-income population, there are limited options for low-income residents. Many of these low-income residents spend over 30% and 50% of their income for housing, have limited if any savings, and are at risk of losing their homes in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as job loss, large medical bill, or other financial emergency.

From section NA-10, the median household income was just under \$39,000 for 2011. At 30% median income, a household would earn approximately \$11,700 annually. These are the most economically distressed households in the City which experience disproportionately higher cost burdens. While these households are the primary beneficiaries of public housing and housing choice vouchers, there is still insufficient housing stock priced at a level which is affordable for them. There are 16,225 households that earn at most this much annually and only 5,905 rental units considered affordable at the 30% area median income level.

There are 8,905 households earning between 30% and 50% the area median income (see NA-10), and a total of 13,275 households (12,380 renter and 895 owner) that would be affordable at 50% area median. While this is a better alignment between market supply and demand for this price point of housing, there is still a mismatch in that the surplus 10,000 households in the 0% to 30% income group also competes for these units.

There are a total of 10,830 households that earn between 50% and 80% the area median income and over 31,000 units that are affordable for those households earning 80% of the area median income. At this income level, the City’s housing market is in much better equilibrium for the price of units and the income levels of the City’s households.

**Providence Households by Annual Household Income, 2013**

Annual Household Income	Total # of Households	As % of Total Households
Total households	61,016	100%
Less than \$10,000	9,480	15.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5,539	9.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7,885	12.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6,088	10.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7,730	12.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	9,583	15.7%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	5,599	9.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	4,953	8.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,899	3.1%
\$200,000 or more	2,260	3.7%

Table 44- Providence Households by Annual Household Income  
**Data Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimate

**How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?**

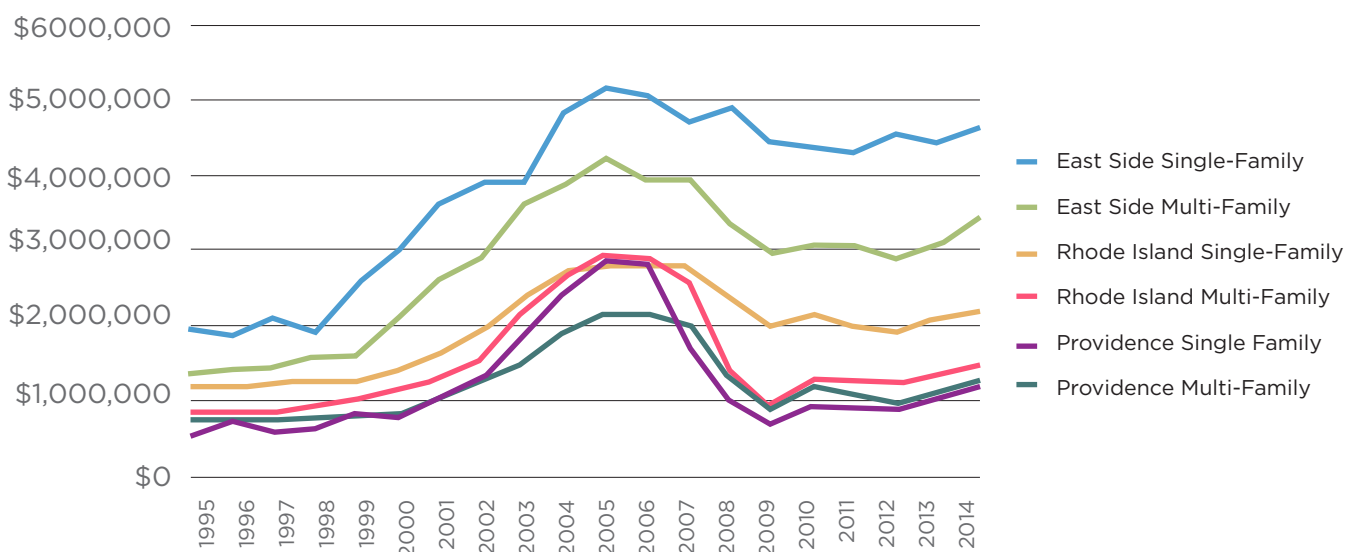
Over the past two decades Providence has dramatically changed from a city abundant in housing throughout the City that was affordable to lower-income individuals and house-

holds to one in which housing has become much more expensive and unaffordable to many. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, the City experienced a massive influx of investment into its housing stock which greatly improved the condition of the City’s housing stock in many neighborhoods; however, the new investments dramatically increased the cost of housing and began pricing many individuals and families out of the City. While that trend has started to slow and stabilize, rental prices remain high.

The Rhode Island Association of Realtors aggregates home sale prices for single-family and multi-family homes on a quarterly and annually basis for every City in the State. As can be seen by the graph below, single-family and multi-family homes on the East Side of Providence and single-family homes in Rhode Island have retained much of their value after the housing bubble of early to mid-2000s. Single-family and multi-family homes in the rest of Providence and multi-family homes in the state saw a dramatic spike in prices during the housing bubble, followed by a startling crash.

When the housing market saw rising home prices from the early 2000s to 2007, the number of multi-family homes being purchased in Providence averaged around 700-900 a year meaning that between 10,000 to 19,000 housing units in multi-family homes had these escalating home prices essentially locked in to their rental costs. While some of these homes were lost to foreclosure and abandonment, the increase in rental prices that came with the increase in home values largely remains at the 2007 level. This largely explains why it is less expensive to own a home in Providence (excluding the East Side) than to rent.

## Median Home Sale Prices, 1995 - 2014



Median Home Sale Prices						
Year	Single-Family Homes			Multi-Family Homes		
	Providence	East Side of Providence	Rhode Island	Providence	East Side of Providence	Rhode Island
2014	\$122,750	\$460,000	\$215,000	\$115,000	\$340,000	\$145,750
2013	\$105,000	\$439,500	\$205,000	\$106,000	\$304,500	\$130,000
2012	\$92,000	\$449,100	\$190,000	\$88,000	\$285,000	\$120,000
2011	\$100,000	\$426,000	\$195,000	\$84,500	\$300,000	\$119,900
2010	\$115,000	\$432,000	\$210,000	\$88,000	\$302,500	\$121,900
2009	\$85,000	\$440,000	\$199,900	\$66,000	\$293,750	\$90,000
2008	\$124,200	\$486,000	\$234,700	\$95,950	\$332,500	\$135,000
2007	\$197,000	\$468,075	\$275,000	\$168,950	\$390,000	\$255,000
2006	\$212,475	\$502,000	\$282,500	\$277,575	\$391,000	\$285,000
2005	\$210,000	\$510,000	\$282,900	\$278,000	\$420,750	\$290,000
2004	\$185,000	\$475,000	\$264,700	\$245,000	\$385,000	\$260,000
2003	\$147,750	\$392,625	\$230,000	\$185,000	\$360,000	\$209,000
2002	\$121,354	\$385,000	\$188,150	\$129,000	\$286,000	\$153,000
2001	\$97,925	\$359,500	\$156,000	\$100,000	\$255,000	\$125,000
2000	\$83,000	\$294,000	\$135,976	\$80,000	\$203,000	\$108,000
1999	\$75,000	\$248,500	\$126,000	\$74,000	\$160,000	\$96,000
1998	\$72,000	\$190,000	\$122,600	\$63,500	\$150,950	\$90,000
1997	\$69,000	\$205,000	\$118,000	\$60,000	\$140,000	\$82,650
1996	\$68,500	\$185,000	\$116,600	\$69,900	\$137,000	\$82,000
1995	\$69,000	\$190,000	\$115,000	\$53,000	\$132,450	\$85,000

Table 45- Providence Median Home Sale Prices by Year

**How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?**

The data provided shows that the HOME and Fair Market Rents are higher than the Median Contract Rent of \$744. Although the data collected by HousingWork RI shows that the average rent for Providence is \$1,100 for 2013. Using the High HOME Rent figures as a guide, the minimum annual income required for the household to not spend more than 30% of their income on rent is as follows:



- Efficiency (no bedroom): \$27,440
- 1 Bedroom: \$30,920
- 2 Bedroom: \$37,760
- 3 Bedroom: \$47,040
- 4 Bedroom: \$55,400

With a median household income of \$39,000 (80% AMI = \$31,200) in the City, the HOME and Fair Market Rent units would only be truly affordable for smaller moderate-income households that don't need more than one or two bedrooms. For lower-income households that are below 50% to 80% of the household area income, the cost burden even for Low HOME Rent units is substantial. Additional mixed-income developments with larger set-asides for low and extremely low income households are required.

## **Discussion**

The primary takeaway from the data above is that the City is in short supply of affordable housing. The home values and rentals prices have grown considerably over the past 10 to 15 years, without any substantial increase in income levels for the residents of Providence. The City is also still struggling from the legacy of the Great Recession, with unemployment rates higher than the State and national averages. The City's allocation of HOME funds has been severely cut over the past several years making it difficult for nonprofit Community Development Corporations to access the additional public supports required to make it financially viable to develop income restricted housing.

## MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

### Introduction

The City of Providence has a much older housing stock than the rest of the state, with 56% of the total existing housing units built before 1940 compared to 33% for the state. The lower proportion of housing units built after the 1940s highlights the weak market for new construction in the City of Providence during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s when the state saw significant growth in its housing stock while the City experience much less new housing construction. This is reflective of the larger anti-urban phenomenon experienced by much of the nation during this period of time. Since the 2000s, the housing units built in Providence as a percentage of the total housing stock generally matches the state’s housing expansion; however, only 14% of the City’s housing stock has been built since 1980 (10,045 units) compared to 24% of the state’s (111,403 units).

	Age of Housing Units			
	Providence		Rhode Island	
	# of Housing Units	As % of Total	# of Housing Units	As % of Total
Total:	71,452	100%	462,516	100%
Built 2010 or later	39	0%	1,002	0%
Built 2000 to 2009	3,438	5%	28,719	6%
Built 1990 to 1999	2,690	4%	32,974	7%
Built 1980 to 1989	3,878	5%	48,708	11%
Built 1970 to 1979	5,294	7%	56,014	12%
Built 1960 to 1969	4,299	6%	51,450	11%
Built 1950 to 1959	6,423	9%	57,777	12%
Built 1940 to 1949	5,141	7%	33,416	7%
Built 1939 or earlier	40,250	56%	152,456	33%

Table 46- Age of Housing Stock, Providence and Rhode Island

Data Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

This Condition of Units table below displays the number of housing units, by tenure, based on the number of “conditions” the units has. These conditions are similar to housing problems in the Needs Assessment: (1) lacks complete plumbing facilities, (2) lacks complete kitchen facilities, (3) more than one person per room, and (4) cost burden greater than 30%. Half of the City’s rental housing stock has at least one of these housing conditions, a total of 19,515 units. Among the owner-occupied units, 44% or 9,978 units have at least one housing condition.

As previously detailed, the primary concern for Providence housing units is cost burden. This is the housing condition of much greater magnitude compared to any other condi-

tion. The City’s housing stock only has a small percentage of units that would be considered substandard regarding the conditions related to lack of plumbing (1%), lack of kitchen facilities (1.3%), and overcrowding (3.8%). The 617 units lacking complete plumbing facilities and the 819 units that lack complete kitchen facilities are distinct problems for the households living in these units; however, when compared to the entire housing stock in the City of Providence, this is a relatively minor problem.

Selected Housing Characteristics	# of Units	# of Units
Occupied housing units	61,016	100%
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	617	1.0%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	819	1.3%
No telephone service available	1,950	3.2%
Occupants Per Room		
1.00 or less	58,683	96.2%
1.01 to 1.50	1,762	2.9%
1.51 or more	571	0.9%

Table 47- Housing Conditions in Providence  
**Data Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

**Definitions**

For this ConPlan, the City of Providence defines a housing unit as standard if meets all HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and all state and local building codes, including the State of Rhode Island’s Property Maintenance Code. A housing unit would be considered substandard if it is not of suitable condition to provide safe and adequate housing, has one or more major defects, or a combination of minor defects to require extensive rehabilitation or repair. Further, any unit that does not have complete plumbing and kitchen facilities for use by the occupant(s) is considered to be substandard.

**Condition of Units**

	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	9,978	44%	19,515	50%
With two selected Conditions	337	1%	1,359	3%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	111	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	12,342	54%	18,155	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,657</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>39,140</b>	<b>99%</b>

Table 48- Condition of Units **Data Source:** 2007-2011 ACS

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	9,978	44%	19,515	50%
With two selected Conditions	337	1%	1,359	3%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	111	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	12,342	54%	18,155	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,657</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>39,140</b>	<b>99%</b>

Table 49- Year Unit Built **Data Source:** 2007-2011 CHAS

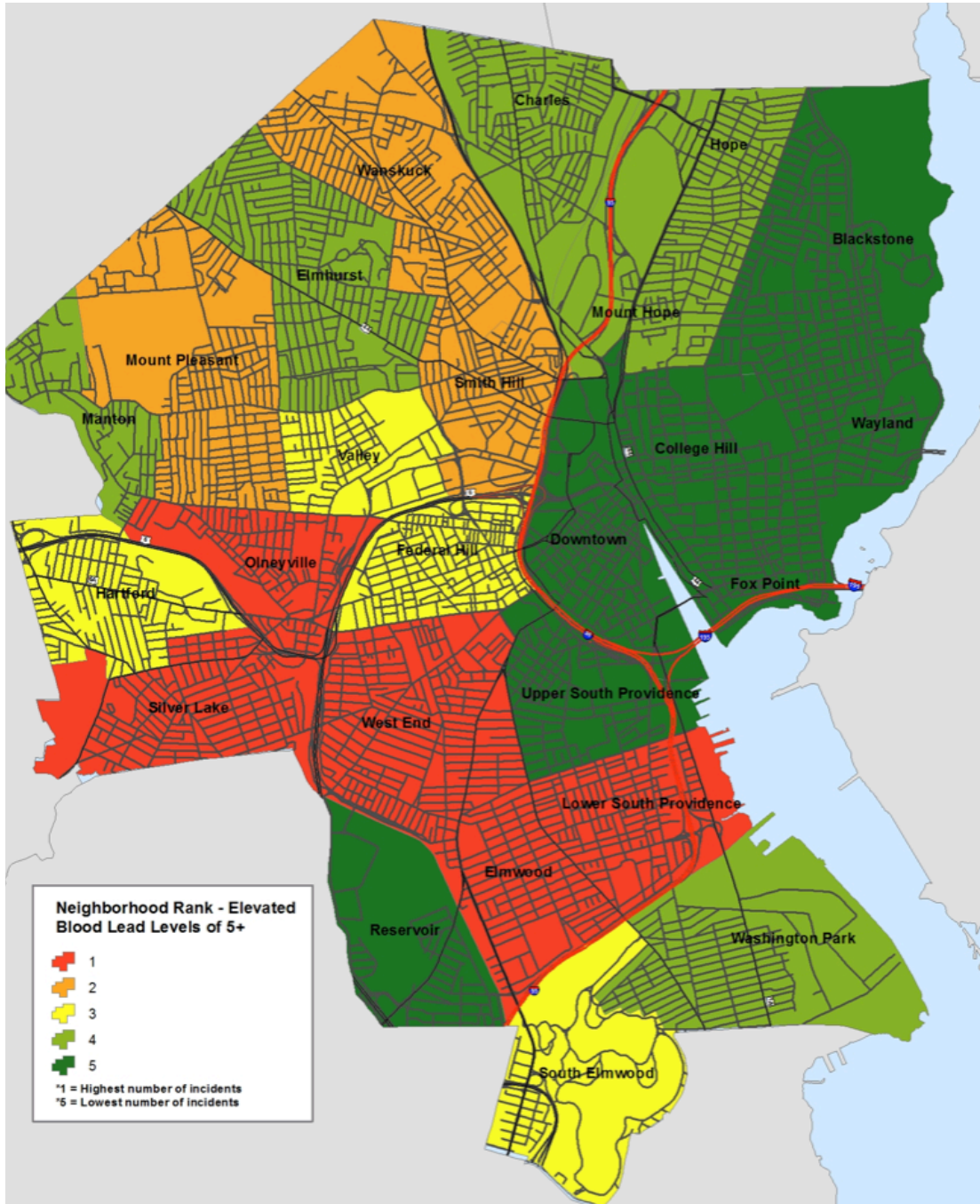
### Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

The age of the City’s housing stock places its housing units at a greater risk of potential lead exposure. Lead-based paint was banned for residential use in the United States in 1978 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. In the City of Providence approximately 86% of all the housing units were built before 1980 (note: 1980 is the closest year available for analysis due to the way federal data aggregates housing units by year built). The City has been diligent in its lead abatement programs to remediate homes that have lead hazards, particularly those homes built before 1980 occupied by children.

The City does not have an accurate accounting of the total number of units with lead-based paint; however, based on the total number of units built prior to 1980, we can calculate that there are almost 20,000 owner-occupied units and almost 34,000 rental units that are at risk of lead-based paint hazard. Among these units, we can eliminate those that have secured a certificate of conformance with the State of Rhode Island’s Lead Mitigation Act. There are a total of 8,268 homes in Providence that have received their Lead Mitigation Certificate; however, these homes are not identified as owner occupied or rental. Also, the total number of units is not readily available. Using an estimate of two units per home, there are approximately 16,500 units that have been made lead safe. Further, these certificates expire after two years, although it is likely that homes with expired certificates are still lead safe. As such, we can estimate that approximately 37,500 units of housing (rental and owner-occupied) are still at risk of lead-based paint hazard.

More concerning is the number of homes that have lead-based paint and are occupied by children under the age of 6. The toxins in lead paint are significantly more dangerous and may cause detrimental health problems to young children. It is calculated that there are 560 owner-occupied homes with children present at risk of lead-based paint hazard, and another 1,110 rental units. Further, data from the Rhode Island Department of Health for 2011 to 2013 show that there are 1,851 confirmed cases of elevated blood lead levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter in children under the age of six in Providence. It should be noted that the Centers for Disease Control has determined that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children. The level of 5 micrograms per deciliter is merely a reference level.

# Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Children under the Age of 6 by Neighborhood



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	19,975	88%	33,894	87%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	560	2%	1,110	3%

Table 50- Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Total Units) 2007-2011 CHAS (Units with Children present)

The above map shows the areas of the City, by neighborhood, where the incidence of elevated blood lead level is highest. Importantly, the map shows that there is little correlation between age of housing and the incidence of lead poisoning. Rather, the incidence of lead poisoning is related to the physical condition of the home, with higher levels of incidence resulting from a lack of maintenance.

The City’s Division of Community Development has developed a comprehensive and cohesive Lead Safe Providence Program (LSPP) plan to coordinate lead hazard reduction into its existing housing programs. By integrating HUD-funded lead poisoning prevention with “Healthy Homes” interventions and weatherization and energy efficiency programs provided by partner organizations, the City aligns multiple resources and delivers them to the City’s most at-risk, low income communities. The program model is designed to streamline the multiple housing rehab programs that address health, safety, lead hazard reduction, energy efficiency, and weatherization into a comprehensive “whole house” approach to better serve low and moderate income populations at the local level. By addressing lead contamination, asthma triggers, mold, asbestos, environmental hazards, energy efficiency, weatherization, code violations, safety, and preservation, the City can invest in the preservation, maintenance, and improvement of its existing housing stock.

### Vacant Units

The City of Providence’s Department of Inspections and Standards maintains a vacant property registration database which identifies properties throughout the City that are currently unoccupied. This list of vacant properties is maintained and continually updated as building inspectors check on suspected vacant property and new properties are reported to the Department of Inspections and Standards. As of May 2015 there are approximately 350-450 vacant properties in the City of Providence. These properties are primarily 2 or 3 family homes, with a small proportion of them as single family homes. The total number of vacant units is estimated to be between 750 and 1,100.

Among these vacant units, the vast majority are suitable for redevelopment. The City has recently started a housing receivership program based on the State’s Abandoned Property Act. This allows the City, upon documenting the abandoned status of the property, to petition the Court to appoint an individual (the receiver) who will be tasked with rehabilitating the property. This appointment grants the receiver the legal authority to rehabilitate an abandoned property and claim title of the property after previous owners and interested parties have been notified and fail to rehabilitate the property within a specific, mandated period of time. The City has had early success with this program.

Estimates of real estate owned or bank owned property are challenging to calculate. There are vacant properties throughout the City that are still legally owned by the individuals who took out the mortgages; however, banks will pay the property taxes and the vacant property registration fee to protect their interest in the asset. Even though the occupant has walked away from the home, banks choose not to foreclose on the property so they are not responsible for the additional insurance liability or building code violations that come along with foreclosure.

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units*	850	150	1,000
Abandoned Vacant Units	775	125	900
REO Properties	N/A	N/A	N/A
Abandoned REO Properties	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 51- Vacant Units

Data Source: 2 City of Providence Department of Inspections and Standards

Note: \* Includes abandoned vacant units.

**Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation**

There is a direct correlation between the age of a home and the need for rehabilitation. Typically, after a home reaches 30 or 40 years old it begins to require significant repairs and/or major rehabilitation. This becomes even more problematic if the home wasn’t well-maintained throughout. Further, homes in the northeast suffer from additional weather-related problems due to icy weather, heavy snow, and frigid temperatures.

In 2012, the City of Providence created the Nuisance Task Force to identify and address nuisance properties in the City of Providence in a systematic and collaborative way among various departments. The Task Force includes representatives from the Mayor’s Office, the City Council, the City Solicitor’s Office, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Inspection and Standards, the Center for City Services, Planning and Development, and Tax Collection. The goal of the Task Force is to resolve current and long-standing nuisance properties throughout the City and to educate individuals and communities to prevent new nuisances.

The types of properties that are reviewed by the Nuisance Task Force are those that, by virtue of condition, activity, or situation, poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the community or that otherwise interferes with the quiet use and enjoyment of nearby properties. These often include code violations, as well as properties that are loci of criminal activity. The Task Force is adept at working with owners and interested parties of nuisance properties in abating the nuisances, and developing and implementing strategies for nuisance abatement that are individually tailored to targeted nuisance property.

At several of the Community Conversations hosted by the Division of Community Development, many City residents commented on the need for better code enforcement regarding absentee landlords letting their properties fall into disrepair. The City's Department of Inspections and Standards (DIS) is responsible for ensuring the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Providence through the enforcement of adopted codes relating to buildings and properties. DIS works to assure adequate housing, towards eliminating blight, and with applicants in the permitting process to promote economic development and retain businesses. The Code Enforcement Division is charged with enforcing the Property Maintenance Code. Inspectors respond to complaints by tenants, emergency responders, neighbors, and elected officials, and perform routine inspections.

DIS also manages an ongoing portfolio of code violations which has averaged between 80 and 90 per month for the period between January 2015 and March 2015. This list is constantly in flux as violations are sent to property owners and code violations are corrected. When property owners fail to comply voluntarily with violation notifications issued by DIS, the matter is referred to the Prosecution Division to process through the City's Housing Court. Violations generally occur because of complaints by the tenants or neighbors. The 10 most common code violations are: rodent infestations; trash and debris; stove or oven does not work; broken windows or door doesn't lock; paint; no water, heat or electricity; leaking pipes or faucets; mold; lead; and cars parking on grass. Many of these issues were also expressed as community concerns in the City's series of Community Conversation meetings.

### **Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards**

We estimated approximately 37,500 units of housing in the City of Providence to have a lead-based paint hazard. It is likely that many of these units are of lower quality in the City, charge lower rents than average, and are occupied by a higher proportion of the City's low- and moderate-income families and households. If we were to assume that 60-70 percent of these units are occupied by LMI families, it would mean they occupy approximately 22,500 to 26,250 housing units with a lead-based paint hazard; however, this is purely speculative.



## **Discussion**

The City is developing a program called “Every Block” which seeks to transition privately-owned vacant and abandoned property and lots, City-owned lots, PRA-owned property, and tax reverted property back to productive use. A myriad of strategies are being developed to facilitate program goals based on the particular circumstances of the property or lot, and the available stakeholder partners. The use of CDBG funds for eligible activities when appropriate will be one of the tools used for this program; however, the specific nature and extent of the investment(s) is still to be determined.

## MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

### Introduction

The Providence Housing Authority (PHA) is the sole agency in the City tasked with the administration of public housing. The most recent data provided by PHA show that it manages nine public housing development groupings including 244 units of Scattered Site housing throughout the City. Its portfolio consists of 2,601 units of public housing, which currently houses 5,612 residents. Further, it provides housing assistance to an additional 6,431 individuals as the contract administrator for 2,569 units of Section 8 housing. These Section 8 market rent units are spread across the City of Providence. The PHA ended FY 2014 with a 98.4% occupancy rate in the units under its administration, with a turnaround time of 8.4 days to lease units as they become available.

PHA Public Housing Developments	Total	Total Residents
<b>Family Sites</b>		
Hartford Park and Hartford Park Tower*	507	1,345
Chad Brown, Admiral Terrace and Sunset Village**	375	1,102
Codding Court and Roger Williams	166	609
Manton Heights and Scattered Sites	564	1,469
<b>Elder Only Sites</b>		
Carroll Tower	194	205
Dominica Manor	204	227
<b>Elderly/Disabled</b>		
Parenti Villa	194	205
Dexter Manor	291	340
Kilmartin Plaza	106	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>5,612</b>

\*Hartford Park includes the Hartford Park Tower with 120 units of elderly /disabled housing

\*\*Chad Brown includes Sunset Village with 24 units of elderly/disabled housing

Twenty percent of the total residents are considered elderly and 80% are families. Of the total population, 1,116 or 20% of public housing residents have a disability. There are 1,482 children under the age of 17 years while 69% of the entire population is Hispanic. The average yearly income for the public housing household is \$10,529.

The current Section 8 data shows that there are 6,431 residents housed in 2,569 Section 8 market rent units spread across the City of Providence. Of the total population, 19% have disabilities and 3,505 or 55% are Hispanic. The average Section 8 household is 2.3 persons while the average annual income is \$12,661.

## Totals Number of Units

	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Vouchers			Vererans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
				Total	Project Based	Tenant Based		
# of units vouchers available	95	250	2,606	2,240	0	2,240	512	0
# of accessible units	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 52- Total Number of Units by Program Type

**Data Source:** PIC (PIH Information Center)

The total number of accessible units is not tracked by the Providence Housing Authority.

### Describe the supply of public housing developments:

See introduction above.

### Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

The recent inspection status for the PHA's family developments and high-rises has been determined to be good to very good. This takes into consideration that the average age of PHA's family developments is 67.5 years and the average age of PHA's high-rises is 45.5 years. The public housing portfolio in the City of Providence is obsolete in many ways as the unit size is considered small with typically no dining rooms, small bedrooms and limited closets and storage space. The 244 scattered site public housing units, built in 1997, are in fair condition. They are in need of a wide variety of improvements.

**Public Housing Condition**

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Hartford Park and Hartford Park Tower	63
Chad Brown, Admiral Terrace and Sunset Village	86
Codding Court and Roger Williams	68
Manton Heights and Scattered Sites	97
Carroll Tower	98
Dominica Manor	99
Parenti Villa	85
Dexter Manor	96
Kilmartin Plaza	99

Table 53- Public Housing Condition

**Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:**

There are several restoration and revitalization needs in the portfolio of public housing throughout the City as described in the PHA’s capital plan. Sprinkler systems need to be replaced or installed in 5 high-rise buildings at a cost of approximately \$5 million. There are elevator modernization needs at each of the 6 high-rise buildings. At the scattered site developments, many properties require improvements and repair to the wood exterior, replacement of vinyl windows, and porch replacement and painting. At Hartford Park, there is a need for rehabilitation of the wood structure buildings and exterior concrete step repairs or replacement. At Chad Brown and Admiral Terrace, the roofs for two brick construction buildings need replacement and three electrical sub stations at Admiral Terrace need to be relocated. And there is a need for fire alarm upgrades at the Manton Heights development.

**Describe the public housing agency’s strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:**

All major modernization projects have been identified and will be addressed through PHA’s annual and five year Capital Fund Program budgets. In the past 5 years, the capital budgets awarded to the PHA have decreased by 15%, further exacerbating the challenges to address the back log of capital needs among the City’s aging public housing stock.

**Discussion**

The PHA remains diligent in (1) exploring modern day affordable housing programs and comprehensive, neighborhood revitalization strategies (recently the HUD Choice

Neighborhood Planning Program), (2) promoting healthier living and housing initiatives and (3) continuing to create and maintain partnerships that provide access or the provision of the important social needs of our residents to stimulate family self-sufficiency and economic independence and sustainability.

## MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

### Introduction

The State of Rhode Island has 699 year-round emergency shelter beds as of the February 2015 Housing Inventory Count. Of these, 339 are for households with children, 352 are for households and individuals without children, and 8 are for unaccompanied youth. Additionally, there are another 80 overflow beds for adults and children. Among the total number of Transitional Housing beds, 297 are for households with adults and children, 146 are for adults only, and 77 are designated for veterans and their families.

In recent years, the State has more fully embraced the Housing First model to address homelessness, providing permanent housing as quickly as possible along with the appropriate wraparound services for them to maintain their housing. As such, the number of permanent supportive housing beds has grown over the past several years. As of February 2015, there were 965 beds for adults and their children, 737 for adults only, 57 for the chronically homeless, and 152 for veterans and their families.

### Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds		Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)*	339	80	297	965	0
Households with Only Adults	352	0	146	737	0
Chronically Homeless Households	-	-	-	57	0
Veterans	-	-	77	152	0
Unaccompanied Youth	8	-	-	-	0

Table 54- Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

**Notes:** Households with adults and children include domestic violence shelters that accommodate single females and females with children. Veteran emergency shelter beds are included in the other household totals.

The various types of services that are offered to the homeless population include 24-hour drop-in shelters for men, women, families, couples; facilities for the homeless to meet their basic needs including showers, laundry, meals, clothing, transportation, toiletries, and other daily essentials; workforce development and vocational job training; health care and mental health treatment and counseling; substance abuse recovery; relocation and placement services; and case management and planning services for ending a household's homeless status.

**Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons**

The expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had a profoundly positive impact on the health and well-being of homeless individuals. With active support from the leadership of the City of Providence, numerous community-based organizations, both those in the field of health and mental health as well as non-health-related fields, enrolled thousands of newly eligible city residents.

Providence has a robust, though strained, foundation of health- and mental-health providers. For primary care, residents can turn to Providence Community Health Centers (PCHC) and its 10 facilities throughout the City that serve more than 40,000 residents annually. The effectiveness of PCHC is further bolstered through strategic co-locations, including one clinic at a statewide, alternative high school, The MET, a clinic at the state's primary homeless service provider, Crossroads Rhode Island, and two dual colocation arrangements with the state's largest community mental health center, The Providence Center.

In addition to PCHC, Providence is home to The Rhode Island Free Clinic and Clinica Esperanza, which provide healthcare to adults who remain uninsured or under-insured. And while the expansion of Medicaid has reduced the extent to which the homeless and other previously uninsured populations turned to hospital Emergency Departments for care, this remains a setting where many homeless individuals receive care. Providence is home to several hospitals, all of whom provide extensive services to homeless individuals and families.

The Providence Center has a program, "Home Base," which is specifically targeted at housing the long-term homeless who suffer from mental illness and providing them the mental health support and other services required to maintain independence. Additionally, The Providence Center provides mental health services to homeless and previously homeless in need of mental health and substance use disorder services wherever they are housed, sheltered, or connecting with community-based organizations.

The City of Providence has been an active partner in a collaborative effort to create an Emergency Diversion program for chronic inebriates, many of who are homeless. This

initiative has also been highlighted by the Medicaid “reinvention” project as an avenue for realizing up to \$1 million in annual savings. The collaboration includes The Providence Center; Anchor Recovery Community Center; Emmanuel House, an overnight shelter two blocks from the Rhode Island Hospital Emergency Department operated by the Catholic Diocese of Providence; Phoenix House; and Providence Public Safety. The goal is to engage chronic inebriates on the street, in shelters, and in the RI Hospital Emergency Department. Those who are not at medical risk from inebriation or other causes will be “diverted” to Emmanuel House rather than going to the emergency room at much greater expense. This day shelter will be staffed with a nurse, certified recovery coaches, security, and will include space for service and support organizations.

It is hoped that connecting with a peer in recovery will encourage individuals to agree to detox, treatment, and recovery. Currently, and historically, chronic inebriates have been driven to the RI Hospital ED where they stayed at great expense long enough for blood alcohol levels to decline to a “safe” level and were released. They received no true care and no follow up outreach regarding their underlying condition. This is poor care, very inefficient and costly, and a waste of high intensity medical resources.

Additionally, transport of chronic inebriates poses a very real financial and capacity burden on Providence Public Safety. The legislation creating the pilot allows Providence EMTs to transport inebriated individuals who present no other medical conditions to the Diversion program. It is hoped that a successful pilot will allow a full-time program to be created, one that would include services other than Providence EMTs to respond to calls and to provide transportation. This would be a significant benefit for the City.

Amos House, a well-established and strong organization, provides comprehensive services to homeless individuals. Amos House recently expanded and upgraded its facilities, in part with major financial assistance from community development funds. Community development funds were critical at several phases of fundraising, helping this project become a reality. Amos House operates shelter programs, counseling and mental health services, employment programs specifically targeted and tailored to the needs of homeless individuals and the formerly incarcerated, and is one of the Financial Opportunity Centers created in partnership with DCD. The FOC operated by Amos House is particularly distinctive, and potentially unique in the nation, due to its focus on serving ex-offenders.

In addition to housing and shelter, Crossroads Rhode Island provides a broad array of services to homeless individuals and families. This includes a Providence Community Health Center clinic at its main building on Broad Street where individuals can receive primary, mental health, and dental care. Crossroads also offers employment and training and adult education services such as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program and GED classes.

**List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families**



**with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.**

There are 41 individual agencies in the state that provide shelter and housing of various types to the homeless population. With the transient nature of the homeless, individuals frequently use services at or are transferred between multiple agencies. Among all the agencies in the state, the following operate in the City of Providence: Amos House, Crossroads Rhode Island, Emmanuel House, House of Hope, McAuley House and McAuley Village, Mental Health Association of Rhode Island (Access-RI), Nickerson Community Center, OpenDoors, Operation Stand Down, The Providence Center, Providence Housing Authority (VASH Program), Providence In-Town Churches Association, and Riverwood Mental Health Services. The majority of the shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing beds are for families and their children.

Amos House provides a clean and sober recovery-based 90-180 day shelter program in South Providence, helping (at any one point in time) 20 men and 15 women. Program clients receive comprehensive services including psychiatric assessment; intensive case management; on-site medical care by a volunteer MD twice per month; on-site legal consultation services through an affiliation with the Homeless Legal Clinic; intensive group work in the areas of independent living skills, recovery, relapse prevention, communication, anger management and parenting; comprehensive literacy training; and access to Amos House's culinary or carpentry training programs. Specialized financial services and supports are provided through the Financial Opportunity Center and all clients are required to attend work readiness sessions and to meet with employment specialists to help with finding employment.

Crossroads is the State's largest provider of shelter and services for the homeless. They provide a range of housing options, from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing, to serve individual adults, couples, seniors, and families. They also operate 24-hour emergency shelters for men, women, families, couples, and members of the LGBT community. Their education and employment assistance programs offer Certified Nursing Assistant and Janitorial training programs, pre-employment training, adult education, and GED preparation. In partnership with the Providence Community Health Centers, the Crossroads health clinic at 160 Broad St. provides access to primary care, behavioral health, and dental services. All clients have access to basic facilities, including showers and laundry, as well as meals, clothing, transportation, toiletries, and other daily essentials. Case Advocates work closely with clients to create a plan for ending their homelessness and connect clients with additional programs and services to assist them in ending their homelessness.

The House of Hope CDC operates its Operation First Step program in Providence, providing short-term shelter and intensive case management supports to stabilize clients, address

barriers to permanent housing, and begin treating any trauma issues that resulted in the clients' homelessness. The holistic services provided include a Housing Goal Plan, housing search assistance, access to mainstream resources such as SNAP and SSI/SSDI, mental health counseling, employment training and job search assistance, life skills programs, Victim of Crime services, and other services. The target population for this program is unaccompanied adult homeless men, particularly those who have experienced chronic or long-term homelessness and have several barriers to housing such as disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse histories, and/or involvement with the criminal justice system. McAuley House offers breakfast and lunch every weekday and one Saturday per month; rental voucher assistance to pay a portion of a guest's rent in times of financial difficulty; prescription assistance for those without medical coverage; budgetary assistance for guests receiving disability payments but who are unable to manage their own finances; transportation assistance for homeless individuals to get to meal sites, shelters, and medical appointments; and counseling and crisis intervention.

McAuley Village is a two-year transitional housing program that assists low-income single parent families, the homeless, or those threatened with homelessness to gain economic stability. They have one, two and three bedroom, fully-applianced apartments, and daily 24-hour security guards with security cameras and monitors that are currently serving 23 families. While families live at McAuley Village, they are required to participate in a case management plan under the supervision of a Resident Service Coordinator and they must utilize supportive services, including housing advocate, financial counselors, youth enrichment programs, mentorship and professional guidance, literacy and GED prep programs, and childcare support.

Nickerson Community Center's Gateway to Independence and Gateway II programs provide homeless veterans housing for up to two years along with access to case management services, health services and substance abuse intervention, PTSD counseling and mental health services, assistance with benefits and legal services, and basic level skills training. All residents of the Gateway program must enroll in a training program, pursue higher education, or secure employment. Once the program is successfully completed, veterans either move into a semi-independent housing program or live in one of Nickerson's permanent housing rental units.

OpenDoors operates a program called 9 Yards, a prisoner reentry program that works with clients recently released from prison to ultimately place them into permanent employment and housing. In the first phase of the program, clients participate in 7 months of classes while in prison. These classes include college education, cognitive self-change, and vocational training. If they pass an initial screening test, they are moved into a second phase of the program after their release. Phase 2 includes subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment, employment placement, and case management services. This model helps successfully transition clients who would otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) operates and provides supportive services for 59 units of permanent supportive housing for low-income disabled combat veterans and their families, with 20 of these units located in the City of Providence. OSD's Veteran Case Manager conducts outreach in the City's shelters, food pantries, the VA Medical Center and other locations where homeless and at-risk veterans gather. Once identified as a veteran in need, the Veteran Case Manager will determine eligibility for OSDRI's \$1 million Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant which provides for temporary financial assistance in the form of security deposits, up to 6 months of temporary rental payments or rent arrearages, moving costs, and childcare. When stable housing has been achieved the case manager coordinates employment training and placement through the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program and assist veterans in applying for service connected disability benefits and other social services.

The Providence In-town Churches Association (PICA) offers intensive, holistic case management for the most marginalized people in the City: the newly and chronically homeless; prisoners upon re-entry; those in recovery and/or struggling with addictions; and those who suffer from physical and mental illnesses. PICA's SOAR program (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Access to Recovery) works with chronically homeless, disabled individuals to access SSI/SSDI benefits in an expedited manner. Their Downtown Food Pantry is the largest provider of food security in the state, serving 8,000 people 25 tons of food each month, including home delivery to over 300 elderly and disabled shut-ins each month.

## MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

### Introduction

The City of Providence is an entitlement community of HOPWA funding which provides housing assistance and supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Providence is the sole recipient of HOPWA funding in the state of Rhode Island and funds organizations in the Providence – Fall River – New Bedford Metropolitan Statistical Area. This MSA covers the entire state of Rhode Island (excluding Westerly) and Bristol County, MA. Service providers are encouraged to develop partnerships to ensure that a Housing Stability Plan is in place. The table below details types of assistance provided to persons with HIV/AIDS.

There are 27 permanent housing units available for those living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Permanent housing units available for those living with HIV/AIDS have been identified for those living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Additionally, nine units are supported with Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) which continues to be successful in maintaining stability for households and linking to community resources and primary medical care.

Additionally, 40 Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility assistance (STRMU) units assist low-income people living with HIV/AIDS with obtaining and maintaining stable and affordable housing. The major housing provider, Aids Care Ocean State continues to provide quality housing in which clients may live with housing security. Housing continues to be a challenge for those living with HIV/AIDS particularly due to discrimination once their medical condition becomes known.

### HOPWA Assistance Baseline Table

Type of HOPWA Assistance	Number of Units Designated or Available for People with HIV/AIDS and their families
TBRA	9
PH in facilities	27
STRMU	40
ST or TH facilities	0
PH placement	0

Table 55 - HOPWA Assistance Baseline

**Data Source:** HOPWA CAPER and HOPWA Beneficiary Verification Worksheet

**Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs**

## Elderly & Frail Elderly

The City of Providence has 15,540 persons aged 65 and older, according to the 2013 American Community Survey, 8.7% of the total City population. Among these seniors, 59% live in family households, 33% live in nonfamily households, and 7% live in group homes. The median age for the population of seniors ages 65 and older is 74.1 years. The growth in the City's population of elderly persons with mental health and addiction needs will have a major impact on health service utilization and costs, highlighting the need to integrate mental health into an affordable and accessible continuum of community-based health and long-term care.

Generally, the elderly population has more limited fixed incomes than the average population, primarily Social Security and other retirement income. Many seniors also lack their own transportation and are often subject to social isolation when they have limited opportunities to leave their homes and engage in beneficial socializing and recreational activities. In the City of Providence, there are 11 Senior Centers that provide entertainment, recreation, and various case management services to the elderly population; however, many seniors are unable to benefit due to lack of transportation.

The elderly and frail elderly populations have additional unique challenges that come with age, including chronic medical conditions, increase in physical and mental disabilities, limited mobility, and high health care costs. According to the 2013 American Community Survey, 40% of the elderly population aged 65 and over in Providence experiences at least one mental or physical disability. Among the most common are ambulatory and independent living difficulties, 62% and 47% of the elderly disabled population respectively. While these are the most common disabilities among the elderly population in the City, other disabilities also greatly impact their housing choice. Seniors are often in need of supportive housing, such as intermediate care facilities and group homes that include a planned service component to care for seniors when independent living and mobility issues become a challenge.

## Persons with Disabilities

Among the City's population, there are 20,962 residents with a disability, approximately 12% of the total population. The largest group of the City's disabled population is adults between 18 and 64 years of age. It is estimated that 13,329 residents between 18 and 64 have at least one physical or cognitive disability, approximately 64% of the total disabled population and 11% of the total population in that age range. Residents that are physically or cognitively disabled have special housing needs to accommodate their specific conditions. Ambulatory difficulty inhibits an individual's ability to walk or climb stairs. Due to the na-

ture of the City's housing stock with many multi-family homes, a primary concern is providing housing options for the 10,000 Providence residents that experience ambulatory difficulty. Particular construction features and accessibility modifications are often required for those with mobility challenges, depending on the type and severity of these challenges (i.e., handrails, ramps, wider doorways, grab-bars).

Stable housing for persons with mental illness is hugely beneficial as their mental health care and support network is directly linked to their residence. Those living with a mental or developmental disability can find it difficult to retain housing and often their disability prevents them from finding suitable employment or earning an adequate wage that allows for independent living. Many individuals with mental illness are dependent solely on Supplemental Security Income as their primary source of income. Affordability issues become even more challenging for this population as there are few options in the private housing market and their disability leaves them at greater risk of homelessness and ill-equipped to navigate the public support system without substantial assistance. These individuals, however, benefit from the strong collaboration built and maintained by the COC, the City, and others in the housing and supportive housing fields. With federal funding (SAMSHA) and with the expansion of Medicaid, many SMI/SPMI individuals now have the steady, reliable supports they need to maintain independence and live successfully in the community.

Additionally, the City of Providence benefits from a partnership between the Providence Police Department and The Providence Center that provides, at no expense to the City, a full-time clinician who is embedded with the Police Department. This clinician assists officers across the city responding to incidents where mental illness and substance use are suspected factors.

The clinician assists at the scene, helps officer de-escalate situations, identifies when mental illness, as opposed to criminal intent, is the controlling factor, and diverts individuals from the criminal justice system to treatment and care. The clinician also assists family members of those suffering from mental illness and can assist in responding to trauma that may follow a violent incident.

## Persons with Alcohol or Other Drug Addiction

A key principle to reduce substance abuse is to treat alcohol and drug addiction as a medical issue rather than a criminal issue. The state of Rhode Island created an Adult Drug Court within its Superior Court in order to more efficiently divert certain drug cases from the criminal justice system.

In addition to diversion, specific treatment can manifest in a variety of forms depending on the specific acuity of the circumstance. A continuum of services ranging from in-patient hospitalization, residential sobriety treatment in a supportive and structured environment, long-term outpatient treatment, relapse prevention programs, regular toxicology screening, medication management, and other programs could be necessary to increase the likelihood

of future abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Often times, there are contributing or concurrent conditions that result in alcohol or drug abuse which need to be addressed in order to assist the individual from dependence on alcohol or drugs.

## Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families

HIV positive persons face critically important medication management regimens depending on the stage of the disease and any additional infections that can present as a result of their deficient immune systems. Because of advances in HIV medications, infected patients are surviving longer and having fewer immune-deficiency complications; however, managing the disease requires the patient taking multiple antiretroviral drugs to minimize HIV replication. In addition to the medical treatment necessary for the disease, depression among people infected with HIV/AIDS is common.

Due to the stigma associated with HIV infection, persons living with the disease may be at risk of housing discrimination. While exact figures are unavailable, anecdotally people face illegal eviction when their medical condition becomes known. Housing instability is a greater challenge for HIV/AIDS patients as stable housing is important for the regular delivery of consistent medical treatment to manage the disease.

Additional services required by persons living with HIV/AIDS are transportation to and from medical appointments; mental health and psychiatric support; medical treatment adherence programs; continuation of health insurance; financial assistance for housing costs, heat, and other utility expenses; eviction prevention services; clinical counseling; drug treatment for IV drug users; nutrition and medication support; respite care; and palliative and end-of-life care.

## Public Housing Residents

Supportive services to address resident needs are provided by PHA's Department of Resident Services through partnerships with community organizations such as the Providence Boys and Girls Club, the Providence After School Alliance, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The primary focus of these services and partnerships is to address the education, economic, and healthcare needs of youth, adults, and the elderly/disabled populations in public housing. Due to diminished funding over the last 5 years, the PHA's programs for youth recreational programs and after school and summer programs have decreased substantially. Additionally, other service programs needed are: adult education (ABE, ESL, GED, and NEDP); computer education and access to technology; job skills training; work readiness training; job placement assistance; financial literacy and counseling; tax preparation assistance; after school and summer youth programming; homeownership counseling; health and wellness education; substance abuse counseling; and direct social services provision.

## **Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing**

As discussed above, the City of Providence provides funding to several agencies and other service providers that work in collaboration for those returning from mental and physical health institutions. Agencies providing services to persons with special needs have indicated that the greatest service needs for those with mental illness include maintaining affordable housing units and consistent mental health treatment.

**Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)**

The City of Providence will continue provide funding to support the provisions of basic needs provided through the network of community center and to provide descent, safe and affordable housing to low-income residents through the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs.

Various supportive housing needs of non-homeless have been identified by service providers who were present during the community engagement meetings for the Consolidated Plan. The needs include home-repair, senior services for the elderly and disabled; referrals to drug and alcohol treatment programs, accessibility improvements housing for the mentally disable and affordable for all sub-populations.

The City of Providence will consider requests from agencies of permanent supportive housing particularly those that address the gap identified by the Continuum of Care. The City also provides certifications of consistency for HUD and other funders as required expanding choice and assisting the homeless to make the transition to permanent housing. The City of Providence will continue to administer the HOPWA program in order to serve low-income persons with HIV/AIDS.

**For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))**

See above.



## *MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)*

### **Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment**

Fire codes and historic preservation requirements in particular are often identified as contributing to significant cost increases, development delays and design challenges for affordable housing providers. The State has taken steps to reduce barriers to affordable housing development by revising its building code language regarding housing rehabilitation to allow developers to rehabilitate older buildings without having to meet all currently mandated fire and building safety codes. The State is currently in the process of adopting the International Rehabilitation Code.

Due to the limited availability of land in Providence for new residential development of any type, it is important for affordable housing providers to maintain their focus on rehabilitation and infill development. The Rhode Island Housing Land Bank program acquires and retains properties on behalf of nonprofit developers, while they obtain the funds to develop the properties as affordable homes. However, any costs incurred by Rhode Island Housing and a 6% holding fee are due upon take out from the Land Bank. These carrying costs can make certain affordable housing developments unviable.

The City has a dual tier property tax system. For owner-occupied residential property, the tax rate is currently \$19.25 per \$1,000 of value. For non-owner-occupied residential property, the tax rate is currently \$33.10 per \$1,000 of value, approximately 72% higher. For market rate rental housing the property tax burden is merely passed on to tenants. This is seen by many as an additional burden on renters that contributes to an increased affordability concern for low- and moderate-income renters.

Participants at the community meetings identified the need for a down payment assistance program to alleviate the burden of new homeownership for many members of the low to moderate income community. Lack of available loan products to assist with the purchase of homes by low- and moderate-income households due to the tightening of credit standards after the foreclosure crisis of 2007 is also a barrier to affordable housing.

Providence has a large immigrant population whose English language skills may be limited and who may be unfamiliar with formal financial transactions. This makes them vulnerable to predatory lending practices and exorbitant interest rates that financially burden them. These individuals may also not understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants and/or landlords. Literacy and language barriers can be an impediment to affordable housing, particularly due to the complexity of loan and mortgage documents and lease agreements.

Unhealthy and unsafe housing disproportionately affects low income communities and communities of color. Healthy housing is a fair housing issue as it relates to families with children, as children are most likely to suffer irreversible damage as a result of lead-based

paint poisoning. However, the protections found in the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (Title 34-18-64) which prevents landlords from evicting or raising the rent on tenants that report code violations to local Departments of Inspections and Standards are not well known or understood. Retaliation against renters who report unsafe or unhealthy housing is still common in Providence.

Discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, and insurance of housing is believed to be an ongoing impediment, making it difficult for people of color and immigrants to rent or purchase housing in the areas of their choice in the City. While the collapse of the housing market, the foreclosure crisis, and the recession minimized predatory lending, obtaining a mortgage became more challenging for low- and moderate-income people and families. Neighborhoods in Providence with concentrations of low-income people have higher insurance rates, and property and liability insurance for homeowners or renters is not always available.

## MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

### Introduction

The information in the following tables describes the City's community and economic development assets. As the State's capital city, the City of Providence houses many of the government functions of the State. Further, the City is home to world-class higher education institutions, one of only two deep water ports in the entire Northeast, vibrant arts and cultural amenities, and is located between the dynamic regional economies of Boston, MA and New York City.

However, while Providence was an industrial powerhouse in the early 1900s, the City and the State did not manage well the global economic transition that began in the 1970s. While the City's assets are important contributors to the City's local economy, Providence still suffers from a higher than average unemployment rate, tepid new business creation, and higher than average property taxes that are often seen as inhibiting new real estate and commercial development.

In order for the City to develop long-term sustainable growth and provide the family-supporting employment opportunities for its residents, it must leverage its assets in new and innovative ways, identify new supports for the existing businesses, develop strategies to lure new businesses to the City, and create the partnerships necessary to catalyze growth.

### Economic Development Market Analysis

#### Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less Workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	57	10	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	5,505	9,632	12	10	-2
Construction	962	1,960	2	2	0
Education and Health Care Services	13,184	37,755	29	39	10
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	2,754	6,730	6	7	1
Information	1,106	3,860	2	4	2
Manufacturing	5,198	5,059	11	5	-6
Other Services	2,238	4,752	5	5	0
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	2,809	8,510	6	9	3
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	4,849	7,103	11	7	-3
Transportation and Warehousing	815	776	2	1	-1
Wholesale Trade	1,406	2,433	3	3	-1
Total	40,883	88,580	--	--	--

Table 56 -- Business Activity

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 ACS (Workers), 2011 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

## Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	91,520
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	78,535
Unemployment Rate	14.19%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	30.17%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	8.79%

Table 57 - Labor Force

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	16,577
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	3,324
Service	10,439
Sales and office	17,184
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	4,222
Production, transportation and material moving	4,956

Table 58 - Occupations by Sector

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 ACS

## Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	55,297	76%
30-59 Minutes	13,199	18%
60 or More Minutes	4,419	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,915</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 59 - Occupations by Sector

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 ACS

## Educational

### Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not In Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Employed	
Less than high school graduate	10,215	2,982	7,014
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	13,108	1,967	4,875
Some college or Associate's degree	13,844	1,483	3,463
Bachelor's degree or higher	21,277	1,026	3,464

Table 60 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

### Educational Attainment by Age

	Age (years)				
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-65	65+
Less than 9th grade	1,034	2,668	2,490	5,683	4,033
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,229	3,077	2,584	3,709	2,497
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	7,449	6,089	5,370	8,491	3,331
Some college, no degree	18,621	5,267	3,240	5,404	1,688
Associate's degree	1,945	1,885	1,013	1,998	329
Bachelor's degree	3,469	6,401	3,558	4,653	1,372
Graduate or professional degree	266	3,826	2,632	4,797	1,883

Table 61 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	20,550
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	24,815
Some college or Associate's degree	28,949
Bachelor's degree	39,349
Graduate or professional degree	57,287

Table 62 - Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

**Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?**

The two largest sectors for the City's economy are educational services and health care. The City is home to Brown University, Johnson & Wales University, Providence College, Rhode Island School of Design, and Roger Williams University. Over the past several years, the City has benefitted from the growing presence of each of these universities. The footprints of several of these universities are scheduled to increase in the coming years. Brown University is building out 135,000 square feet of administrative office space in the South Street Landing development to allow for additional campus space in its College Hill Campus. This facility will be shared with a joint teaching space for a Rhode Island College/University of Rhode Island nursing education center. Johnson & Wales University is constructing a new \$40 million 71,000-square-foot academic facility that will house the university's School of Engineering and Design, and College of Arts and Sciences biology program. Roger Williams University is also expanding its presence in Providence through the leasing of 76,566 square feet of space in downtown, nearly doubling their existing presence. The new space will accommodate the University's School of Law, School of Continuing Studies and growing array of outreach and engagement programs, including the Latino Policy Institute, HousingWorks RI and the Community Partnerships Center. All three of the State's public higher educational institutions, Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and University of Rhode Island, have a significant presence in the City of Providence creating profound employment and economic development opportunities in the City.

The state's health care industry is highly concentrated in and around the City of Providence. The largest health systems in the City are Lifespan (with Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children's Hospital, and Miriam Hospital), Care New England (with Women and Infants Hospital, Butler Hospital, and The Providence Center), and CharterCARE Health Partners (with Roger William's Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital). Additionally, the Veterans Administration Medical Center is located in Providence. A study conducted by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island suggests that in 2013, the economic impact of the state's hospitals was \$6.9 billion and they provided direct statewide employment to 19,900 workers paying \$1.8 billion in wages.

In the data above, 13,184 Providence workers were employed in the Education and Health Care Services sectors while employers in these sectors employed a total of 37,755 workers. Put another way, there are 13,184 Providence residents employed in the Education and Health Care Services sectors regardless of location, and there are 37,755 Providence jobs in the Education and Health Care Services sectors that are held by workers regardless of where they live.

The next largest employment sectors are Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations with 5,505 workers and 9,632 jobs; Manufacturing with 5,198 workers and 5,059 jobs; Retail Trade with 4,849 workers and 7,103 jobs; Professional, Scientific, Management Services with 2,809 workers and 8,510 jobs; and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate with 2,754 workers and 6,730 jobs.

Each of these sectors of the economy with the exception of Manufacturing offer more jobs than the total number of City workers holding these jobs. This offers an opportunity to connect Providence residents to new job openings by offering the appropriate workforce development and job training programs. Looking at the Inflow/Outflow Analysis for 2011 (the most recent year available), there were 103,598 primary jobs located in the City of Providence. Among the workers of these jobs, 81,367 lived outside the City while 22,231 lived inside the City. An additional 23,650 City residents commuted outside of the City to work in jobs outside of Providence. While Providence has struggled with an above average unemployment rate, the City is still home to a large number of employers and offers more jobs than the City's total labor force.

# Inflow/ Outflow Analysis Map



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, On the Map



## **Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:**

### **Workforce Needs**

The data presented above, and as previously discussed in NA-50, the City's population has a below average educational attainment rate compared to the state. Over 27% of the City's population aged 25 and older has less than a high school education (approximately 27,000 adults) compared to 15% of the state's population aged 25 and older. Another 23% of the City's population aged 25 and older completed high school or has their GED. The City's labor force is becoming increasingly out of sync with the changing labor market that is demanding a higher level of education and technical skills.

A recent statewide economic development study, *Economic Intersections of Rhode Island*, further discusses challenges in the City's and State's "talent pipeline." Throughout the various working groups and employer partners engaged in the report, "access to talent was one of the most commonly cited barriers to business growth and innovation in Rhode Island" (*Economic Intersections of Rhode Island*, pg. 22). While the manufacturing sector was highlighted due to its particular urgency based on the age of the existing workforce in that sector, virtually every economic sector studied related concerns regarding the shortage of qualified workers. There was wide agreement regarding the need for a new model of workforce development and job skills preparation. Further, based on survey results from City and State employers, most workers are in need of work readiness skills (i.e., "soft skills" such as work behavior and personal characteristics, and higher level skills such as reading comprehension and problem solving skills). Further, as the City's population has seen significant growth of foreign language immigrants, literacy and English language skill challenges are become more common for employers.

As the economy recovers and the jobs lost during the Great Recession return, the employment situation will improve needing a new set of skills for new or returning entrants to the workforce. The 2022 Occupational Outlook distributed by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training provides data on projected job growth by occupation. Below is a table detailing the fastest growing occupational groups for the 2012-2022 decade. Employment growth will occur in occupations requiring varying degrees of education and skill level; however, almost 20,000 of the 51,000 new jobs projected to be created will require some post-secondary education, with 12,576 needing a Bachelor's degree or higher.

## Employment Projections by Major Occupational Group, Rhode Island

Table 63 - Employment Projections by Major Occupational Group, Rhode Island

Occupational Group	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Growth	Replacement	Total Openings
Total	494,130	545,550	51,420	10.4%	53,798	115,950	169,748
Food Preparation and Serving Related	46,098	51,928	5,830	12.7%	5,830	18,120	23,950
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	36,275	40,886	4,611	12.7%	4,662	7,456	12,118
Office and Administrative Support	76,016	80,393	4,377	5.8%	5,338	16,125	21,463
Healthcare Support	19,971	24,044	4,073	20.4%	4,087	3,793	7,880
Construction and Extraction	19,420	23,488	4,068	21.0%	4,082	3,047	7,129
Business and Financial Operations	23,640	27,075	3,435	14.5%	3,505	4,817	8,322
Personal Care and Service	18,846	22,271	3,425	18.2%	3,436	3,850	7,286
Sales and Related	50,222	53,319	3,097	6.2%	3,271	15,040	18,311
Production	30,927	33,576	2,649	8.6%	3,239	5,986	9,225
Management	24,287	26,930	2,643	10.9%	2,685	4,958	7,643
Transportation and Material Moving	23,757	26,245	2,488	10.5%	2,517	5,459	7,976
Computer and Mathematical	12,754	14,888	2,134	16.7%	2,140	2,114	4,254
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	18,212	20,245	2,033	11.2%	2,036	3,796	5,832
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	16,943	18,413	1,470	8.7%	1,521	3,918	5,439
Education, Training, and Library	31,806	33,234	1,428	4.5%	1,455	6,550	8,005
Community and Social Service	9,942	11,247	1,305	13.1%	1,314	2,308	3,622
Architecture and Engineering	7,560	8,326	766	10.1%	801	1,767	2,568
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	8,466	9,022	556	6.6%	614	1,964	2,578
Legal	3,965	4,382	417	10.5%	417	639	1,056
Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,645	4,019	374	10.3%	380	999	1,379
Protective Service	10,788	11,014	226	2.1%	439	3,081	3,520
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	590	605	15	2.5%	29	163	192

Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC) is the administrative entity for the state's Workforce Investment Board that covers the City of Providence. Its five year plan spanning 2012-2017 defines the services to be delivered to the residents and employers of the cities of Providence and Cranston. These services are guided by the following principles:

- Streamlined services delivered through the co-location of employment, education and job training partners at our netWORKri office in Providence;
- A system of empowerment for individuals seeking training by providing better information on the performance outcomes of training providers and by giving eligible individuals more choice through the use of individual training accounts at eligible institutions;
- Universal access for all individuals of comprehensive core and intensive services designed around a “work-first” approach;
- A system of increased accountability as evidenced by the 17 core performance measures detailed in the plan;
- Technical assistance and information for area businesses to enable them to meet their workforce needs;
- A strong role for our local Workforce Investment Board that is focused on strategic planning, policy development and oversight of our local workforce investment area;
- Direction and guidance from business and labor with respect to the identification of demand jobs, needed skills and training programs that most meet their needs;
- Youth programs that are linked more closely to local labor market needs and that focus on educational attainment.

## Infrastructure Needs

**Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.**

### I-195 Project

With the relocation of Interstate 195 through Providence, 27 acres of developable land became available for commercial development and to create open space park land in the heart of downtown Providence. This relocation has unlocked approximately 19 acres of prime land for new commercial and residential development that has the potential to physically and economically stitch back together the Jewelry District and downtown. A total of 21 parcels are available, including 17 parcels representing 19 developable acres and three parcels totaling 8 acres to be designated as park land.

One of the many goals for the planning for this area is to provide for the full development potential of this land to attract investment, which will drive long-term growth for the entire City of Providence. The plan for the area comprises Downtown Providence, including DOWNCITY and the Jewelry District, and the area of Upper South Providence around Rhode Island Hospital. Despite being bisected by Interstate 95, the two halves of the Knowledge District are intricately connected due to the presence of institutional and research facilities in the Jewelry District and in the hospital campuses.

The development of the I-195 parcels will be guided by the joint city and state I-195 Commission, which will oversee the disposition, regulation and development of the I-195 parcels. With infrastructure development as a key driver of economic development and job growth, the state approved up to \$42 million in a bond for the purchase and development of the I-195 surplus land to act as a catalyst for knowledge-based industries and jobs. The first phase of development of the district, the reconnection of city streets and infrastructure has been completed. That state has granted \$250,000 as operating funds for the Commission to complete the required engineering and environmental planning for the parcels. The Commission has successfully worked with RIDEM to receive a district-wide stormwater management plan and permit that greatly enhances the marketability and viability of the individual development parcels.

### Providence Streetcar Project

Providence was awarded a \$13 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to assist in the development of the Providence Streetcar project. The planned modern streetcar line will connect Rhode Island's two largest employment hubs and world-class institutions to the downtown core and adjacent neighborhoods, while

passing directly through the City's key redevelopment area, made available by the recent relocation of Interstate 195. The project connects three Providence neighborhoods, Downtown Providence, Upper South Providence, and College Hill, and will enhance access to jobs, education, and services, improve multimodal connectivity, spark value creation and job growth, and contribute to the City's quality of life and quality of place. Based on a detailed economic development analysis conducted as part of the federally-required Alternatives Analysis, the full streetcar project will spur 3.6 million square feet in new development, equating to nearly \$1.1 billion in additional property value over 20 years, and will generate over 250 construction jobs and over 6,000 permanent jobs.

The Providence Streetcar emerged from a robust planning process as a key tool to strategically use infrastructure to promote sustainable urban growth and increased transportation choices. The project embodies the livability principles established by federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The development of a true multi-modal transit network in the Capital City will attract new transit users, reducing the reliance on single-occupancy vehicles for daily use. In addition to decreasing household transportation costs, the shift to greater transit use will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and promote public health. The benefits of a strong transit system to our community are well recognized. Transit helps protect our environment by providing an alternative to auto use, which diverts cars from our city streets and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It provides an alternative to auto ownership while preserving mobility options and reducing household expenses. Neighborhoods with increased transit choices promote walking and overall public health.

The streetcar creates an urban circulator network that will provide improved access to more than 53,000 existing jobs and numerous educational opportunities, services and amenities for the 6,600 low-moderate income residents that live along the planned route as well as to the many people who visit and work in the area. There are well over 70 community resources along the planned route— including three hospitals, two major multi-modal transportation hubs, numerous cultural venues and libraries, colleges and universities, schools and educational/learning centers, and places of worship. A primary group of users will be those living in disenfranchised neighborhoods seeking better connections to the State's two largest employment hubs for a range of job opportunities serving a variety of skill and education levels.

## **The Downtown Circulator Project and Reinvention of Kennedy Plaza**

The Downtown Circulation Project has its genesis in the 2000 "Providence Downtown Circulation Study," by Wilbur Smith Associates and from study completed by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company in 2004, "Connecting and Completing Downcity Providence." The goals of the project are to: (1) improve street connectivity and legibility by converting streets from one-way to two-way; (2) improve circulation for multiple modes of transportation, including vehicles, pedestrians, bikes, buses, etc.; and (3) improve the aesthetics

and function of the Downtown public realm through widening sidewalks, increasing landscaping, and introducing decorative lights.

Phase I and Phase II of the project are complete. Some of the changes implemented have been the conversion of several portions of one-way streets to two-way: Washington between Service Road and Dorrance, Empire for its entire length, Weybosset between Dorrance and Empire, and Dorrance between Fulton and Washington. In addition, the Providence Performing Arts Center Square was reconfigured to create a more interesting and comfortable pedestrian experience and to provide a high-quality urban design experience to enhance the attractiveness and marketability of nearby development parcels. The City is in Phase III of the project. The project design features include:

- Repaving and addition of decorative lights on lower Weybosset and Westminster Streets.
- The reconfiguration of LaSalle Square to narrow the travel lanes for safer pedestrian crossings, create a new gateway into downtown, improve connectivity by converting the remaining one-way portion of Empire Street to two-way travel and converting a portion of Greene Street to two way travel.
- Widening sidewalks and adding decorative lights on Fountain Street to enhance the pedestrian realm and create space for outdoor seating, streetscape amenities and landscaping to enhance the redevelopment potential along the street. A bike path will be added to the street as well.
- The reconfiguration of Emmett Square to narrow the intersection for safer pedestrian crossings and create a new gateway into the downtown area.
- Convert Exchange Terrace and Dorrance Street between Emmett Square and Washington Street to two-way travel.
- To advance the unified vision for Kennedy Plaza, the City will be raising a portion of Washington Street in Kennedy Plaza and filling in the inner bus berths, in order to allow for greater programming and beautification of the area.
- These efforts will greatly enhance downtown and significantly improve the public realm. The investment will help to spur economic growth and the redevelopment of downtown.

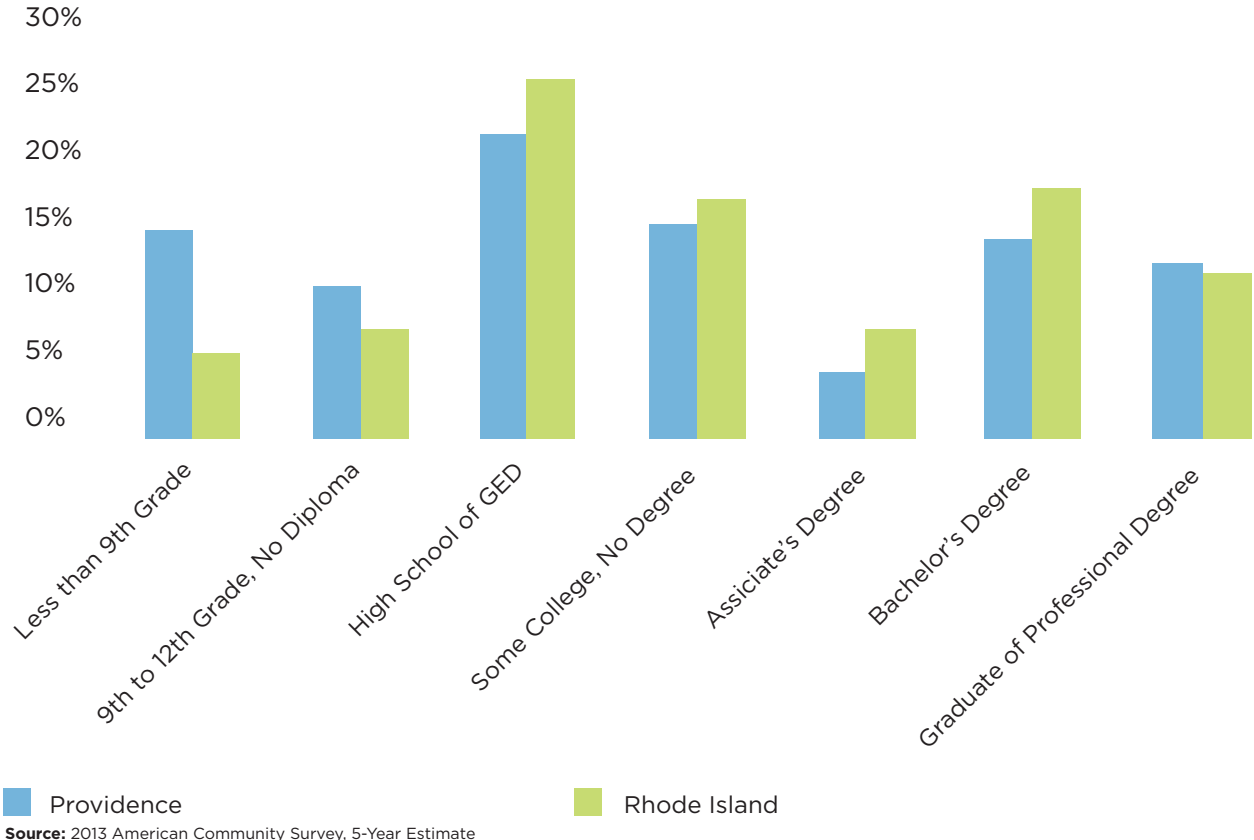
The reinvention of Kennedy Plaza is designed to improve the pedestrian and bus passenger experience, boost safety in the area and transform the Plaza into a lively destination for residents, commuters and visitors to the Capital City. The redesign of Kennedy Plaza has been several years in the making and is the result of a collaborative planning and input process between the Providence Department of Planning + Development,RIPTA, Downtown Providence Parks Conservancy, the Providence Foundation, the Kennedy Plaza Working Group, and other community stakeholders.

The renovation of Kennedy Plaza was recently completed to include more open space, new plantings and decorative lighting to create a vibrant public square and promote Kennedy Plaza as a public meeting space. The City is working in partnership with the Downtown Providence Parks Conservancy to bring new programming to the space. The project supports a balanced transportation system that maximizes the use of Kennedy Plaza for pedestrians, bicyclists, passengers, and motorists. The redesign includes new berths for buses and covered wait stations for passengers, enhancing the experience for bus passengers.

### **How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?**

Workforce readiness and employment training that targets the City's low-skilled, low-income population to connect them to employment opportunities is of critical importance to improving the economic conditions of the City's most economically vulnerable. Job training programs must align with the market realities in the City and State, and must be intentionally focused on connecting economically marginalized populations to entry-level positions with a pathway for career advancement and wage enhancement. Leveraging the market demand of the City's largest economic sectors, the hospitality and food service, health care, and educational sectors, will position the City to connect low-skilled and low-income workers to job opportunities as the economy continues to improve.

# Educational Attainment, Population 25+, 2013



In relation to the potential employment opportunities, the City’s population overall seems ill-suited to meet employer needs without significant investment in education and skills. This is particularly due to the large population with less than a high school education. Over 27% of the City’s population aged 25 and older has less than a high school education (approximately 27,000 adults). These individuals are placed at a severe disadvantage in the local and regional job market, particularly as the City and State slowly recover from the Great Recession. To a large degree, these individual will likely be relegated to entry level employment in hospitality, accommodation, food service, and janitorial service, and without enhanced skills will likely remain there for most of their career. Many administrative and direct patient care positions in health care and social service require some college but not necessarily a degree. Taking a career ladder approach, these jobs could lead to higher-skilled and higher-wage jobs in health care; similarly for administrative positions within the education sector.



As the economy recovers and the jobs lost during the Great Recession return, the employment situation will improve needing a new set of skills for new or returning entrants to the workforce. The 2022 Occupational Outlook distributed by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training provides data on projected job growth by occupation. Information detailing the fastest growing occupational groups for the 2012-2022 decade show that employment growth will occur in occupations requiring varying degrees of education and skill level; however, almost 20,000 of the 51,000 new jobs projected to be created will require some post-secondary education, with 12,576 needing a Bachelor's degree or higher.

**Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.**

The following workforce training initiatives all support the Consolidated Plan by providing Providence job seekers with the skills, training, access and support needed to be successful in the workplace. Additionally, they create pipelines of skilled, job-ready residents to meet the demand of the employer base in Providence and the rest of the state. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

**Stepping Up** – This program helps unemployed and underemployed Providence residents begin and advance long-term careers in healthcare through a top-quality program offering internships, training, certifications, and college opportunities. It is a partnership between the United Nurses and Allied Professionals Union, Rhode Island Hospital Education Fund, Women and Infants Hospital, Rhode Island-based hospitals and other healthcare providers, education and training providers, and private funders. This employer-driven approach works to meet employer workforce shortages and promotes responsiveness to community needs. Stepping Up has two program tracks: the community pipeline track and the incumbent employee track. As a healthcare workforce collaborative, Stepping Up partners with employers in the healthcare industry to develop and implement strategies that reduce skill gaps in high-growth, high demand healthcare occupations. Stepping Up is the designated healthcare industry partner of the Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island.

**Ready to Work** – Rhode Island received \$7.5 million in federal funding to address the state's unemployment and workforce development needs. These funds were awarded to Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. They will work collaboratively with Tech Collective, a Providence based intermediary and the designated information technology industry partner of the Governor's Workforce Board. This initiative will deliver programs and services to develop an IT workforce pipeline. Funding comes from federal H1-B Visa program revenues. It will serve Providence residents as well as the state's unemployed and under-employed individuals for training strategies, providing assessments, career coaching, technical training, business/soft skills training, and employment services to enter or re-enter the IT workforce and fill open IT positions across Rhode Island.

Employers will have the opportunity to hire program participants to fill their outstanding IT talent needs and On-the-Job Training (OJT) funding is also available to employers through this grant. The planning phase of the Grant is underway and services will begin in May 2015. Rhode Island employs approximately 13,500 IT professionals, with half working in “core” IT industry sectors (i.e., IT services, software development, networking, hardware, etc.) and the other half work across industries as varied as financial services, healthcare, education, and professional services.

**Apprenticeship Rhode Island** – In partnership with the RI State Department of Labor & Training, the City of Providence is an active member of the planning team currently pursuing federal resources to expand the use of Registered Apprenticeships with key employers in the state. These resources will be used to create a statewide apprenticeship system for occupations outside of the construction trades. As of this writing, healthcare employer meetings are underway where the planning team is exploring incumbent and new workforce training needs in healthcare. Providence has engaged several healthcare employers who have received tax benefits from the City in this effort. Covering a 5-year grant period, this initiative will invest in the first statewide “apprenticeship system” for occupations outside of construction and the trades. The initiative “Apprenticeship Rhode Island” will assist healthcare employers with professional staff development and workforce training through Apprenticeship. Occupations where an Apprenticeship can be established and/or where existing workforce development programs already exist that can be converted to Apprenticeship will be funded through this 5-year federal grant. Other employment sectors are also being identified to also be included in this federal grant application (i.e., advanced manufacturing).

**First Source Providence** – The City of Providence’s First Source program is designed to leverage the economic incentives granted to companies and organizations to create more jobs and access to those jobs for Providence residents. First Source requires companies doing business in Providence that receive special tax considerations, grants-in-aid and/or are engaged in City construction projects, to partner with First Source on recruitment of open positions. First Source acts as an intermediary between employers covered by First Source and unemployed Providence residents and assists Providence residents in connecting to job openings made available by First Source employers. The majority of reported job openings in First Source are in Education, Social/Human Services and Administration / Management. Clerical, Food Service and Hospitality, and Information Technology jobs also comprised a notable percentage of all available job openings. Minimum education requirements for the positions ranged from a high school diploma or equivalent to a post-secondary or graduate degree.

**Building Futures** – a Providence-based program which helps the commercial construction industry meet its current and future needs for a skilled construction workforce, and creates career opportunities for residents in low-income neighborhoods for successful careers in the building trades by providing training and other forms of services and supports.

Successful program graduates gain a career through employment as registered apprentices in many of the building trades.

**On-Ramps to Career Pathways** – Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston is a partner in a US Department of Labor Innovations Grant designed to undertake systems reform in two main areas: 1) establishment of career pathways in four industry sectors and align and integrate a range of public funding streams and programs along those pathways; and 2) create an on-ramps system to those pathways to enable low-skilled, low-literacy, and long-term unemployed workers to successfully access those pathways and in turn, access the private-sector training and experience needed to gain greater economic stability. On Ramps also addresses the employers’ need for work ready candidates by offering work readiness training which results in a nationally-recognized certificate.

**National Emergency Grants** – The State of Rhode Island has received two federal grants to provide training and educational services to the long-term unemployed impacted by the recent recession. The Providence career one-stop center has an active role in preparing dislocated workers for employment in high wage-high demand occupations.

**On-the-Job-Training** – On-the-Job-Training (OJT) is training conducted by an employer that occurs while an individual working and learning the necessary skills to perform the job. OJT is directed at employers who are not able to meet their workforce needs with qualified and experienced workers. Wage reimbursement of up to 50% is provided to Providence employers to subsidize the costs of such training. OJT is designed to provide an opportunity for an individual who would not normally be considered for the job to receive the training necessary to acquire the skills and knowledge that will enable them to maintain employment and compete for job advancement.

**Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?**

Yes.

**If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.**

In early 2015, the City of Providence engaged a consultant to conduct the Providence Cluster Development Strategy, an analysis of the City’s competitive strengths and priority market opportunities based on quantitative and qualitative research. The research study was one of the recommendations from the City’s Task Force on Economic Development Final Report.

A Steering Committee will guide the work of the consultant team and will build on previous work in the City and for the State. The Steering Committee is composed of a wide cross-section of stakeholders and includes representatives from the Department of Planning and

Development and the Division of Community Development.

The goal of this study is to identify a few key high-impact market opportunities for business development where Providence's strengths and assets intersect with market trends. The strategy will identify ways to foster these market opportunities through targeted programs, tools, and services to support business development and growth, real estate needs, workforce needs, etc. The recommendations developed from the study will be specific to the identified market opportunities. This will be an action-oriented strategy, providing clear recommendations for implementation; however, it will be up to the City, the Steering Committee, and the community stakeholders to implement those recommendations.

## **Discussion**

The City faces a racial and ethnic disparity of income and economic opportunity. Providence's people of color face disproportionately higher levels of unemployment and poverty, and long-standing inequalities in wealth and income. Communities of color are driving population growth at the City and State level. Engaging these growing communities into broader regional economic growth will be absolutely critical to secure a more prosperous future for the City and all of its residents. In its economic and community development strategies, the City needs to be intentional about providing opportunities for people who have been historically marginalized, making strong linkages that connect communities of color – those that are most in need of skills training and workforce development – and employment opportunities that provide jobs long-term family supporting wages.

Additionally, businesses owned by people of color and women often need additional supports to overcome barriers. Technical assistance and capacity building programs, linked to additional revenue generation opportunities are helpful for all small businesses, but particularly for businesses owned by people of color and women. Additionally, difficulties accessing growth capital further impedes the success of these firms. A 2015 analysis of Rhode Island SBA loan data shows that of the 167 business loan provided in FY 2015, only 10 were secured by persons of color, less than 6%.

Finally, neighborhood-based economic revitalization is a central component of the City's community development efforts. As the broader economy improves, part of the City's economic development strategy will be to leverage broader statewide and regional economic growth to catalyze growth in the myriad neighborhoods throughout the City. One element of this is facilitating the reinvestment into low-income neighborhoods in the City. As of July 2015, the Providence City Council is engaged in public hearings regarding the Providence Neighborhood Revitalization Act. This ordinance would provide a 6-year tax stabilization for projects in select neighborhoods (Charles, Elmwood, Federal Hill, Fox Point, Hartford, Lower South Providence, Manton, Mount Hope, Mount Pleasant, Olneyville, Reservoir, Silver Lake, Smith Hill, South Elmwood, Upper South Providence, Valley, Wanskuck, Washington Park, and West End).

The City recognizes that in order to stabilize neighborhoods, vacant and/or underutilized properties must be returned to productive use. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide a tool to promote and encourage the use of vacant and/or underutilized property through new construction or rehabilitation of qualifying properties for residential and commercial purposes. In order to advance investment in identified neighborhoods, it is vital that the city provide property developers, entrepreneurs and investors with a predictable tax phase-in plan. Eligible properties would include the rehabilitation or new construction of commercial, mixed-use, or multi-family residential property of between \$250,000 and \$3,000,000. While this ordinance is still being negotiated as of the writing of this Consolidated Plan, upon its likely passage it will be the first neighborhood focused incentive tool in the City's history.

## MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

### Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of “concentration”)

No. The residents of the City of Providence primarily experience housing cost burden due to the lack of affordable housing throughout the City. There are only a small number of housing units that experience more than one housing problem, less than 3% of the total number of occupied units. These units are dispersed throughout the western and southern parts of the City, with additional units in parts of the North End.

### Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of “concentration”)

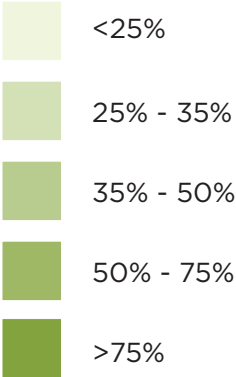
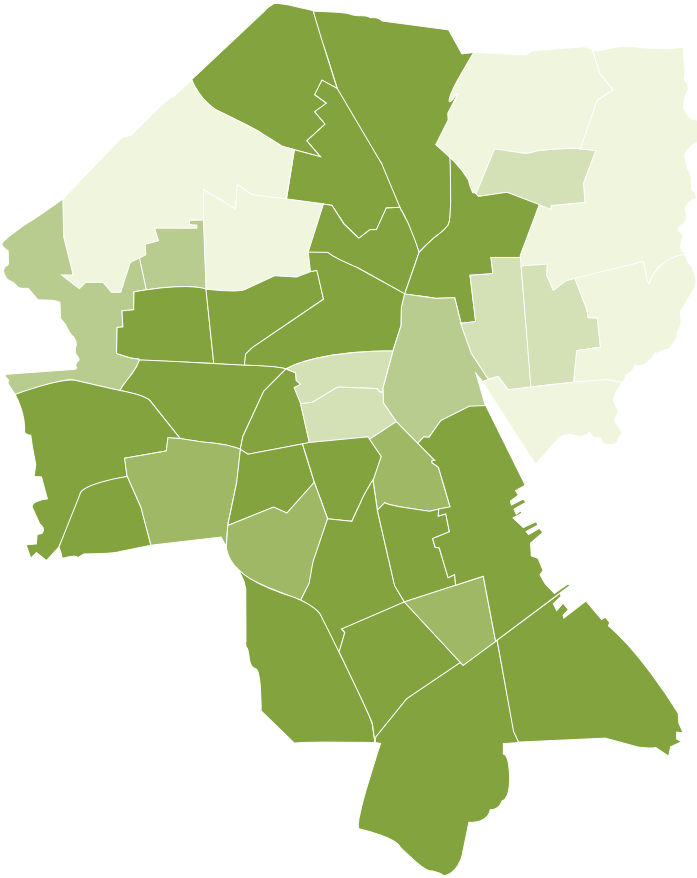
Race by Ethnicity	Estimate	Percent
Total population	178,056	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	70,784	39.8%
Not Hispanic or Latino	107,272	60.2%
White alone	65,284	36.7%
Black or African American alone	23,322	13.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1,177	0.7%
Asian alone	11,810	6.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	80	0.0%
Some other race alone	1,221	0.7%
Two or more races	4,378	2.5%

Table 64 - Providence Population, Race by Ethnicity, 2013

**Data Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimate

For the purposes of this section, “areas of concentration of persons of color” include Census Tracts with non-White, non-Hispanic populations of 75% or greater, identified in the map below as the darkest shade of blue. The areas of concentration for persons of color are located in the Upper South Providence, Lower South Providence, West End and Olneyville neighborhoods. The City used this threshold because Providence has a rich diversity in its population. Communities of color in the City of Providence are the majority, with the White, non-Hispanic/Latino population only comprising 36.7% of the population.

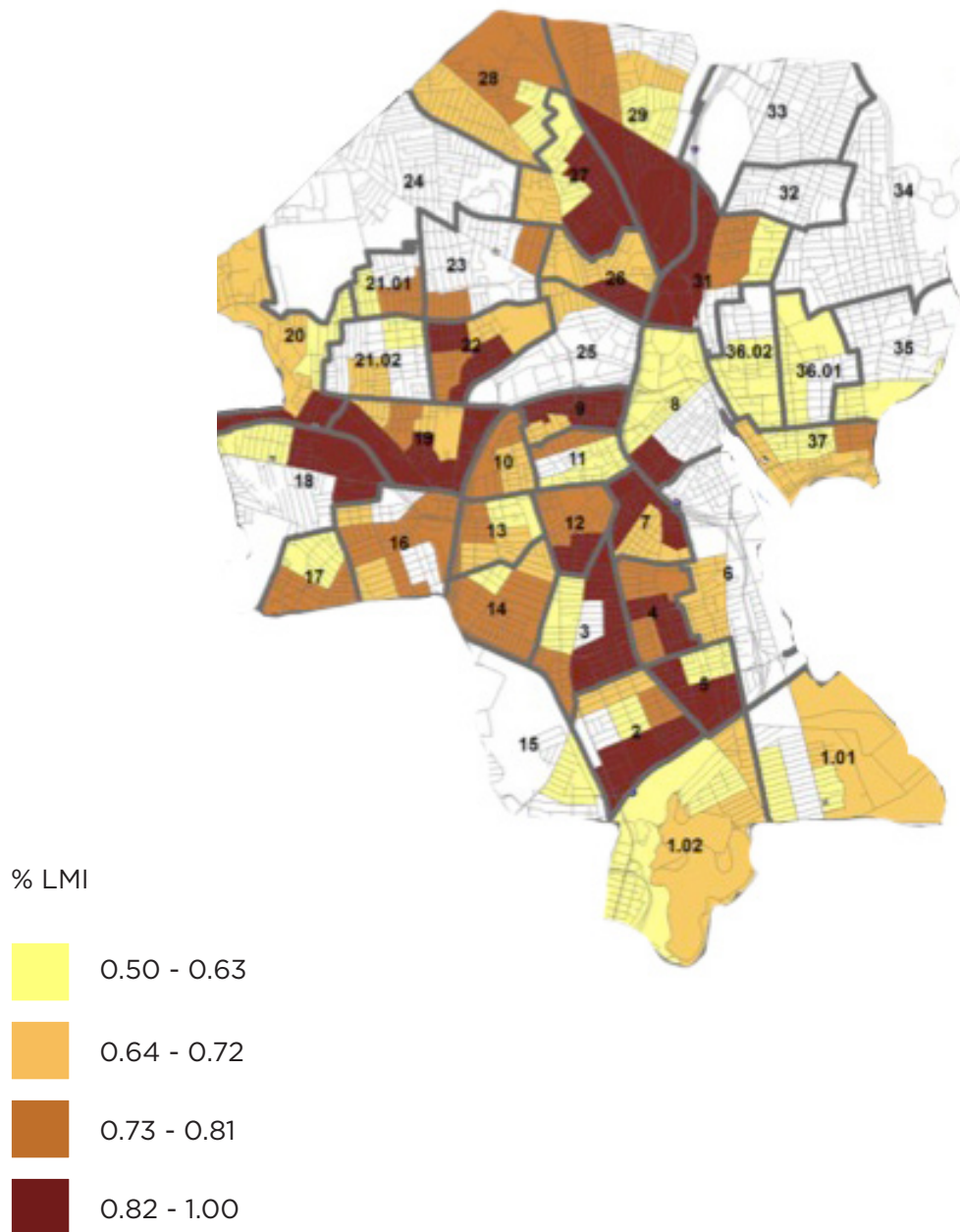
# Percent Non-White and/or Hispanic Population by Census Tract, 2013



**Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

The “areas of low-income concentration” include areas where 82% to 100% of the population is considered low- to moderate-income, identified in the map below as the darkest shade of orange. The areas of LMI concentration are located in the Elmwood, Lower South Providence, Upper South Providence, West End, Olneyville, Hartford, Valley, Federal Hill, Smith Hill, Charles, Mount Hope and Wanskuck neighborhoods.

## Percentage LMI by Block Group within Census Tract, 2010



**Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate



### **What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?**

In general, these neighborhoods are characterized by some of the lowest housing values and median family incomes in the city. These neighborhoods also suffer from higher levels of poverty relative to other areas of the City, and higher percentages of households on public assistance than other areas of the City. Historically, employment in many of these neighborhoods was supported by the manufacturing industry, which has suffered from large declines in employment over the past several decades. Because these large employers have yet to be replaced by other industries, there remains a short supply of employment opportunities for residents in these communities. Moreover, many residents in these neighborhoods have limited, if any, access to personal vehicles, generating a higher reliance on public transportation and a lower range of mobility.

### **Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?**

Each of these neighborhoods has access to nearby parks, schools and libraries; however, the conditions of these facilities are fair to poor, due to inadequate funding for ongoing maintenance and needed repair work. Several of these neighborhoods are served by recreation and community centers that provide afterschool care for children, as well as educational and exercise classes for adults and children. Additionally, there are many community development corporations and non-profit organizations in these neighborhoods that provide financial support, resources and assistance for homeownership, business entrepreneurship, mother-child reunification, workforce training, literacy training, substance abuse rehabilitation, employment and apprenticeship programs to residents.

### **Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?**

Because these areas have lower property values, higher concentrations of vacant and abandoned property, and higher than average commercial vacancy rates, they also present market opportunities for redevelopment and leveraging existing partnerships between community organizations and the City to improve conditions. Many of the non-profits in these communities are providing support services for which the City lacks adequate funding or labor to operate. Building stronger relationships with these organizations, and encouraging and facilitating coordination of services between these organizations, can enhance the existing network and eliminate areas of duplication.

# Strategic Plan

## SP-05 Overview

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### *Strategic Plan Overview*

The Community Development Block Grant program was established by Congress with three specific statutory objectives to create viable urban communities.

1. Provide Decent Housing
2. Create a Suitable Living Environment
3. Expand Economic Opportunities

There is a great amount of flexibility within each of these objectives for the City to identify particular eligible activities that are most relevant to the specific conditions and needs that exist in Providence. In addition to the eligibility requirement, all activities must meet one of three national objectives: benefit to low- to moderate-income individuals, elimination of slums or blight, or responding to an urgent need. The primary goal of the CDBG program is to benefit low- to moderate-income individuals. As such, the City of Providence focuses much of its annual allocations to improving the lives and living conditions of the City's low- and moderate-income residents.

**Geographic Priorities:** The City of Providence does not target specific geographic areas to meet priority needs. Virtually every neighborhood in the City has areas designated as low- and moderate-income Census tracts, with the exception of the Blackstone and Hope neighborhoods. Rather, the City's focus through these entitlement grants is on the improvement of the quality of life and living standards of the City's low- and moderate- income residents regardless of where they live.

**Priority Needs:** Providence's top housing and community development needs as described throughout this Consolidated Plan were identified through community meetings, focus groups, one-on-one conversations, previous planning studies, online surveys, and analysis of publicly available data from multiple sources. Further detailed in section SP-25, the City's priority needs are highlighted here.

- Housing: Acquisition of Existing Units; Production of New Units; CHDO Units; Homeownership Assistance and Housing Counseling; Rehabilitation; Residential Historic Preservation; and Slum/Blight Clearance
- Homelessness: Outreach; Emergency Shelters; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-Housing; and Permanent Supportive Housing

- HOPWA: Housing for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS; Support Services for PLWHA
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements; Improved Education System
- Public Services
- Economic Development; Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support Services; Access to Capital for Small Businesses; Storefront Improvement Program
- Repayment of Section 108 loan; Planning; Program Administration

**Influence of Market Conditions:** Primarily, the level of market-rate housing costs (owner and rental), the physical condition of housing units, and the availability of land for development are the primary drivers for the allocation of funds for particular housing types. The aging of the population, changing household characteristics, and mobility challenges of those wishing to live independently also influence the demand for specific types of housing units.

**Anticipated Resources:** Over the 5-year period of this Consolidated Plan, the City anticipates allocating approximately \$45 million to meet the priority needs detailed throughout. These resources will be awarded through Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, Emergency Solutions Grants, Section 108 loan program income, and Lead Hazard Reduction grant. Institutional Delivery Structure: The City of Providence has a very robust network of public service providers, not-for-profit community development corporations, government agencies, and other community partners. The City, through its partnerships with community based organizations, will be able to carry out the priority projects detailed in this Strategic Plan.

Goals: Further detailed in section SP-45, the City's goals are highlighted here:

- Housing: Increase the availability of affordable homeownership and rental housing units, as well as supportive services for extremely low-income and/or special needs populations; Increase the supply of lead safe housing; Reduction of blighted properties; Improve the quality of occupied private housing stock; Return abandoned property to productive use; Maintain habitability for elderly homeowners; Support

independent living for the elderly and disabled; Increase energy efficiency of housing stock; Preservation of historic buildings; Reduce housing discrimination

- Homelessness: Provide emergency shelter to the homeless; Provide transitional housing and related supportive services to the homeless; Rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; Reduce the incidence and duration of Veteran homelessness
- HOPWA: Reduce homelessness among low-income PLWHA; Increase housing stability among low-income PLWHA; Promote access to care among low-income PLWHA
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements: Eliminate accessibility barriers to public buildings; Provide safe learning environment in City schools; Improve physical condition of public service agencies' buildings; Street, sidewalk, and crosswalk improvements; Make the City more accessible for persons with disabilities; Create more pedestrian and bicycle friendly neighborhoods; Increase access to community gardens and urban farming; Improve access to and condition of parks, open space, and sports fields; Improved tree cover and canopy shading; Provide support for the creation of a streetcar system
- Public Service: Provide for the basic needs of the City's low-income population; Provide for the health and wellness needs of low-income and uninsured residents; Improve job skills and workforce readiness of City's unemployed workers; Improve literacy and education level of low-skilled adults; Provide youth enrichment and educational programs; Provide sports and recreational activities for low/mod persons; Provide services for elderly population; Provide day care services to low/mod households; Provide public services to persons of color and newly arriving immigrants; Increase capacity of local arts organizations and public service agencies; Provide reentry services for those exiting the criminal justice system
- Economic Development: Facilitate small business development and growth, including nonprofit social enterprises; Provide access to capital for small businesses; Increase the

number of living wage employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents; Improve the economic condition of low- and moderate-income residents; Revitalize commercial districts in low/mod areas; Improve physical condition of commercial façades

- Planning and Administration: Promote efficiency in community development through research and planning; Repayment of Section 108 Loan; Administer Programs; Rapidly award projects and commit funds for program delivery; Monitor all projects, activities, and organizations annually, and conduct proper evaluations of all programs; Meet all timeliness tests

**Public Housing:** The PHA is diligent in complying with the construction and progress of the accessible units schedule through their agreement with HUD as well as associated activities such as the marketing plan, transition plan and maintaining the requests from residents for reasonable accommodations for residents with disabilities.

**Barriers to Affordable Housing:** Fire codes and historic preservation requirements are burdensome; The City has limited availability of land; The costs associated with purchasing a new home can be extensive for low-income homebuyers; The City has a large non-native population whose first language is something other than English; Lack of available loan products to assist with the purchase of homes by low- and moderate-income households; Discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, and insurance of housing is believed to be an ongoing impediment; and the incompatibility of the HOME Program and FHA mortgages.

**Homelessness Strategy:** There are several agencies that conduct outreach efforts in the City of Providence. In collaboration with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, the City uses its Federal Emergency Shelter Grants to support outreach efforts and case management services to connect the unsheltered homeless population with emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, and the supportive services necessary to maintain their housing.

**Lead-based Paint Hazards:** The City's Division of Community Development has developed a comprehensive and cohesive Lead Safe Providence Program (LSPP) to coordinate lead hazard reduction with existing housing programs and integrates HUD funded lead poisoning prevention and "Healthy Homes" interventions.

**Anti-Poverty Strategy:** The City's anti-poverty strategy is rooted in the market dynamics of the City, State, and Region's economy and is built upon the following: Adult Basic Education, Literacy, and GED Training; Job Training and Skill Development; First Source Providence; Youth Training and Summer Youth Employment; Increase Access to Work Supports;

**Support for New and Existing Businesses;** Expand Procurement Opportunities for Businesses Owned by Persons of Color and Women; Financial Literacy and Economic Empowerment; Expand Business at the Port of Providence.

**Monitoring:** Monitoring shall concentrate on the programmatic, financial, and regulatory performance of the subrecipients. In conducting a monitoring review, the program staff will primarily rely on information obtained from the subrecipient's performance reports, records, audits, allowed cost, review of financial reports, eligibility and number of beneficiaries served, compliance with federal regulations and City program requirements. DCD staff may also consider relevant information pertaining to a recipient's performance gained from other sources including litigation, citizen comments and other information provided by or concerning the subrecipient.

## *SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)*

### **Geographic Area**

## **1. Community Wide – Entire City Geographic Area**

**Area Type:** Comprehensive

**Other Target Area Description:** Comprehensive

**HUD Approval Date:** N/A

**% of Low/ Mod:** 62.75%

**Revitalization Type:** Comprehensive

**Other Revitalization Description:**

**Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.**

The entire jurisdiction of the City of Providence is the target area.

**Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.**

**Housing:** Most of the City's housing was built before 1980 (86%), and slightly over half are multi-unit (2-4 unit) structures. The majority of City residents are renters, with almost 2/3 of the occupied housing units in the City as rental units. The City's housing stock is expensive relative to the income of City residents.

**Commercial:** Providence is a post-industrial legacy city that has only begun to transition to the new economic realities. Previously a powerhouse in textiles and manufacturing, the two largest sectors for the City's economy are educational services and health care, representing almost 40% of the total number of jobs in the City.

**How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?**

Common themes emerged throughout the City's citizen participation process, from the Community Conversation meetings, the online surveys, and in consultation with community organizations throughout the City. The high priority concerns identified are fairly dispersed throughout many of the City's neighborhoods rather than isolated in a narrowly defined geographic area.

**Identify the needs in this target area.**

Fully described below in Section SP-25: Priority Needs

**What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?**

Fundamentally, the opportunities are to improve the condition of the existing housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, create more job opportunities, reduce the incidence and duration of homelessness, provide public services to meet the needs of the population, improve the existing infrastructure, increase transportation options, and create a more sustainable City.

**Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?**

Some of the most significant barriers to improvement are the age of the City’s housing stock and infrastructure, the limited nature of available land for new housing construction, the cost of market rate housing, the large portion of adult City residents with less than a high school diploma or just a high school education, a higher than average unemployment rate, and physical decay of the City’s public schools and other facilities.

## 2. Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA

**Area Type:** Comprehensive

**Other Target Area Description:** Comprehensive

**HUD Approval Date:** N/A

**% of Low/ Mod:**

**Revitalization Type:** Comprehensive

**Other Revitalization Description:**

**Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.**

The boundaries are the Providence - Fall River - New Bedford Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes 38 of the 39 municipalities in Rhode Island (excludes Westerly) and 20 towns in Massachusetts that comprise Bristol County.

**Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.**

Not relevant.

**How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?**

Not relevant. HOPWA funding is based on eligible MSA.

**Identify the needs in this target area.**

See NA-45.

**What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?**

Not relevant.

**Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?**

Not relevant.

Table 65 - Geographic Priority Areas



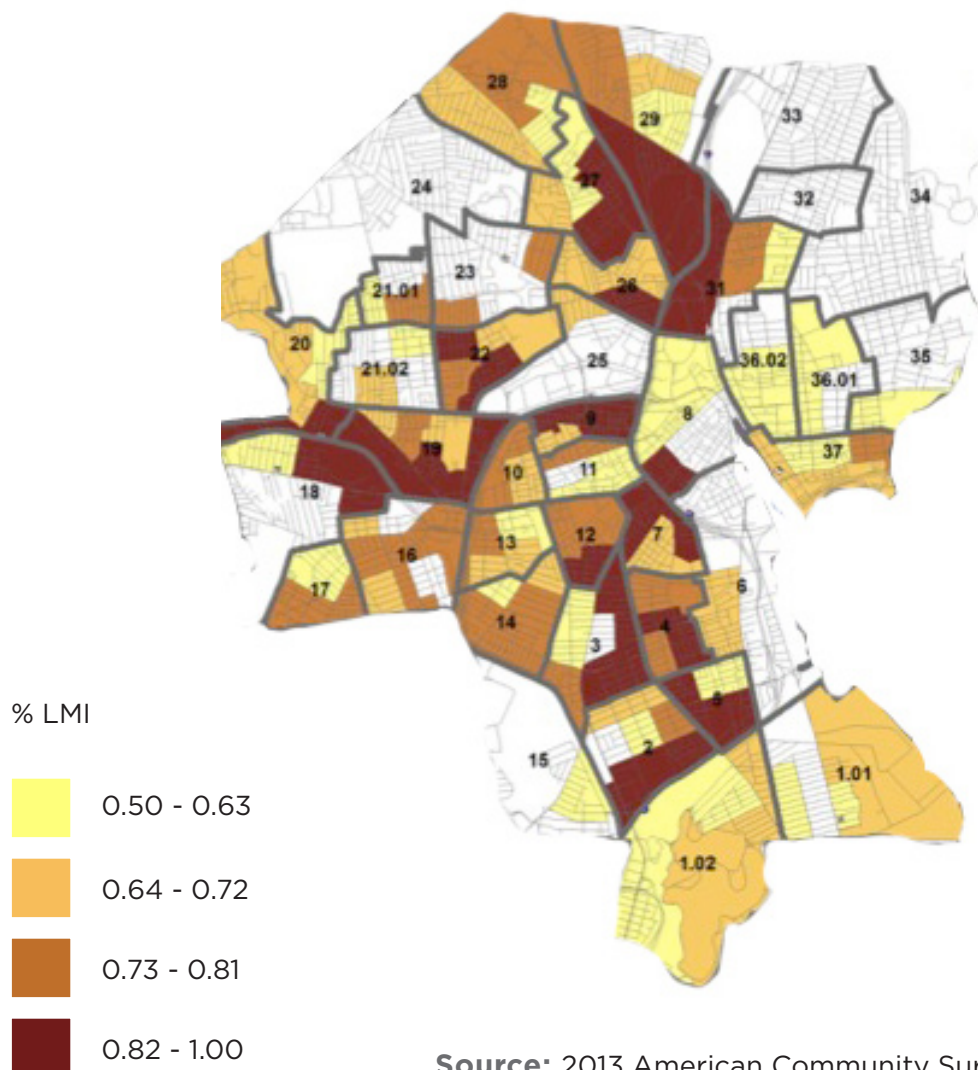
## General Allocation Priorities

With limited exception, most neighborhoods throughout the City of Providence have areas with low- to moderate-income populations. As such, the geographic allocation of resources will be fairly dispersed throughout the City, albeit targeting the most economically distressed areas of the City's neighborhoods while also assisting low- to moderate-income residents regardless of where they live.

There are approximately 3,198 people living with HIV/AIDS in the state of Rhode Island, with the majority living in Providence. There are another 1,088 people living with HIV/AIDS in Bristol County, MA. The allocation of HOPWA funds will be representative of the geographic dispersion of the population living with HIV/AIDS.

## Percentage LMI by Block Group

within Census Tract, 2010



Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

## *SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)*

### **Priority Needs**

**1. Priority Need Name:** Affordable Housing

**Priority Level:** High

#### **Population:**

Extremely Low

Low

Moderate

Large Families

Families with Children

Elderly

Public Housing Residents

Individuals

Families with Children

Mentally Ill

Chronic Substance Abuse

veterans

Persons with HIV/AIDS

Victims of Domestic Violence

Elderly

Frail Elderly

Persons with Mental Disabilities

Persons with Physical Disabilities

Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions

Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families

Victims of Domestic Violence

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

#### **Associated Goals:**

Increase Availability of Affordable Housing

Eliminate Blighted Property

Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use

Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled

Reduce Homelessness

Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA

**Description:**

There are many residents of the City who have stable low-to moderate incomes; however, these incomes are not sufficient to afford market-rate housing costs in the City. Increasing the availability of affordable housing (both homeownership and rental units) would alleviate the housing burden of City residents and households. The City will work in partnership with affordable housing developers to provide resources in the form of grants and loans for purchase, new construction, rehabilitation, and/or conversion of market-rate units to expand the availability of affordable homeownership and rental housing units. This includes setting aside at least 15% of each annual allocation of HOME funds to support projects by qualified local Community Housing Development Organizations.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Needs Assessment and Market Analysis both demonstrate that cost burden is of primary concern in the City. Additionally, focus groups with CDCs, community meetings, and online surveys all demonstrate that additional affordable housing is a priority. There is an abundance of unoccupied units, vacant and abandoned property, and vacant lots in the City that can be used to expand access to affordable housing. Further, more accessible units for the elderly and those living with disabilities would allow for more opportunities for independent living.

**2. Priority Need Name:** Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

- Extremely Low
- Low
- Moderate
- Large Families
- Families with Children
- Elderly
- Elderly
- Frail Elderly
- Persons with Mental Disabilities
- Persons with Physical Disabilities
- Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families
- Victims of Domestic Violence

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

- Eliminate Blighted Property
- Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units
- Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use
- Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled

**Description:**

Provide resources in the form of grants or loans to low- and moderate-income owner occupants or property owners renting to low- and moderate-income tenants to conduct physical improvements to existing structures, including but not limited to exterior paint; structural improvements to porches, stairs and railings; environmental hazard remediation including lead, asbestos, mold, etc.; weatherization and energy efficiency improvements; remediation of code violations; etc.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Throughout much of the City, occupied housing units are in need of substantial rehabilitation. Residents have consistently expressed interest in a home improvement program and stricter enforcement of the City’s building codes to improve the quality of the housing stock. Additionally, the Department of Inspections and Standards has a consistent caseload of properties that have received notices of violation.

**3. Priority Need Name:** Slum/Blight Clearance

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

- Extremely Low
- Low
- Moderate
- Middle
- Large Families
- Families with Children
- Elderly
- Non-housing Community Development

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

- Eliminate Blighted Property
- Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use

**Description:**

The City contains several hundred vacant and abandoned homes. As part of a broad initiative to rehabilitate these houses and put that back into productive use, several homes

will be beyond repair. The City need to provide resources for the demolition of structurally hazardous buildings and blighted property not suitable for redevelopment.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Protects the health and safety of the residents of Providence, creates opportunities for new infill development, and eliminates neighborhood blight.

**4. Priority Need Name:** Homelessness Prevention

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

Extremely Low

Low

Large Families

Families with Children

Elderly

Chronic Homelessness

Individuals

Families with Children

Mentally Ill

Chronic Substance Abuse

veterans

Persons with HIV/AIDS

Victims of Domestic Violence

Unaccompanied Youth

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:** Reduce Homelessness

**Description:**

As of the 2015 point in time survey, there were 1,326 households with 1,609 total homeless persons. The State's Continuum of Care, the Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the City are continuing to expand efforts to end chronic homelessness by connecting the chronically homeless living on the street to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing with the appropriate supports to maintain their housing. The City uses its ESG funds in coordination with other funds to reduce the number of persons and families experiencing homelessness, to assist those that fall into homelessness, and to reduce the duration of homelessness.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

The City of Providence is fully supportive of the goals of Opening Doors Rhode Island, the

statewide plan to end chronic and veteran homelessness. Point-in-time data and the Vulnerability Assessment also inform relative priority.

**5. Priority Need Name:** Housing and Supportive Services for PLWHA

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

Extremely Low

Low

Moderate

Large Families

Families with Children

Elderly

Public Housing Residents

Persons with HIV/AIDS

Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions

Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families

Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA

Reduce Homelessness

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA

**Associated Goals:**

Reduce Homelessness

Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA

**Description:**

In Rhode Island, there is an active waitlist of 195 persons living with HIV/AIDS in need of HIV housing. This is a significant increase from the 60 waitlist applications from June 2011. Justice Resource Institute maintains the TBRA/AIDS program waitlist for Bristol County. As of March 2015, there are 250 applicants on this HIV housing waitlist. The pressing need for PLWHAs is for safe, affordable and secure permanent housing with supportive services. Due to the stigma associated with HIV infection, persons living with the disease may be at risk of housing discrimination. Housing instability is a greater challenge for HIV/AIDS patients as stable housing is important for the regular delivery of consistent medical treatment to manage the disease.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Consultation with AIDS Care Ocean State, AIDS Action Committee, Family Service of Rhode Island, Justice Resource Institute, and Stanley Street Treatment and Resources as well as data from the Rhode Island Department of Health was used to determine the priority level.

## **6. Priority Need Name:** Public Facilities Improvements

**Priority Level:** High

### **Population:**

High  
Extremely Low  
Low  
Moderate  
Large Families  
Families with Children  
Elderly  
Public Housing Residents  
Chronic Homelessness  
Individuals  
Families with Children  
Mentally Ill  
Chronic Substance Abuse  
veterans  
Persons with HIV/AIDS  
Victims of Domestic Violence  
Unaccompanied Youth  
Elderly  
Frail Elderly  
Persons with Mental Disabilities  
Persons with Physical Disabilities  
Persons with Developmental Disabilities  
Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions  
Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families  
Victims of Domestic Violence  
Non-housing Community Development

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Associated Goals:**

Eliminate Accessibility Barriers  
Provide Safe Learning Environment in City Schools  
Improve Condition of Public Service Facilities

### **Description:**

The physical condition of many of the structures which community organizations and social service agencies use are in significant disrepair, have multiple code violations, or have repair needs so extreme that portions of the building cannot be used. Additionally, publicly-owned buildings such as schools, fire stations, and other government building are in disre-

pair and are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Conduct physical improvements to structures in which public service agencies are providing services to low- and moderate-income community residents so that organizations can provide services in clean, safe, and welcoming environments. Alternatively, if rehabilitation costs make facility improvements unviable, the City can locate alternative space and possibly consolidate organizations in fewer structures. Provide resources to make public buildings ADA compliant.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

In focus groups with Community Centers and Public Service agencies, and site visits to CDBG funded organizations, the adverse physical condition and state of disrepair is abundantly clear. Additionally, to be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to provide better accessibility and dignity to those with physical disabilities, publicly-owned buildings and organizations providing public services need to remove mobility and accessibility barriers.

**7. Priority Need Name:** Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

- Extremely Low
- Low
- Moderate
- Middle
- Large Families
- Families with Children
- Elderly
- Public Housing Residents
- Non-housing Community Development

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

- Eliminate Accessibility Barriers
- Improve Street, Sidewalk and Public Infrastructure
- Increase Access to Community Gardens / Urban Farms
- Improve Parks, Open Space, and Sports Fields
- Support Creation of a Streetcar System

**Description:**

Improvements at the City's parks and recreation fields will create more opportunities for neighborhoods to be engaged in physical outdoor activities and lead to improved individual and social health and wellness. Improvements to the streets and sidewalks will allow for better transportation and mobility throughout the City while expanded infrastructure im-



provements for walking, running, and cycling will provide for a wider array of transportation options which will benefit those without cars and improve the City's air quality by reducing the reliance on automobiles. A new streetcar system will provide for additional transportation options and generate robust economic growth along streetcar route.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Parks, sports, and recreation activities were of primary importance at community meetings and through online survey responses. Many of the City's parks are in a state of disrepair or lack the appropriate amenities to be of value to the neighborhood residents. City residents have expressed strong desire to use even the parks that need major improvements, and do use them in many cases. The City's Sustainability Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, and community members throughout the City have all expressed a strong desire for infrastructure improvements that would provide for additional transportation options, make the City safer and more accessible to everyone, and allow for cycling and walking to be a safe and attractive transportation options.

**8. Priority Need Name:** Public Services

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

- Extremely Low
- Low
- Moderate
- Middle
- Large Families
- Families with Children
- Elderly
- Public Housing Residents
- Chronic Homelessness
- Individuals
- Families with Children
- Mentally Ill
- Chronic Substance Abuse
- veterans
- Persons with HIV/AIDS
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Unaccompanied Youth
- Elderly
- Frail Elderly
- Persons with Mental Disabilities
- Persons with Physical Disabilities
- Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions

Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families  
Victims of Domestic Violence  
Non-housing Community Development

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons  
Provide Healthcare for LMI Persons  
Increase Workforce Readiness and Job Skills  
Provide Youth Enrichment and Educational Programs  
Provide Sports and Recreational Activities  
Provide Services for the Elderly  
Provide Day Care Services to LMI Persons  
Reintegrate the Formerly Incarcerated  
Provide Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

**Description:**

The City aims to provide comprehensive community services to meet the basic subsistence, health and wellness, recreational, artistic, cultural, and developmental needs of individuals and families to improve and enrich their lives, move them out of economically vulnerable situations, and promote self-sufficiency. The goals will depend on the public service provided but could include: providing enrichment activities to low- and moderate-income areas; improving literacy of low-skilled adults; reducing discrimination and promoting diversity; providing recreational activities for low/mod people; providing day care services to low/moderate-income households; providing afterschool and summer enrichment programs to school-age youth; providing recreational activities and social services to seniors; minimizing foreclosures and tenant displacement; reducing incidence of crime; etc. Resources for public services will be broadly distributed to meet the needs of the community including but not limited to youth and afterschool programs; services for adults and seniors; job training and work readiness programs; childcare; transportation; food assistance; arts and cultural programs; adult education, literacy, and GED programs; financial empowerment; homebuyer and homeowner education; tax preparation and enrollment in EITC; health, mental health, and nutrition services; crime prevention; and legal services. The nature, extent, and location of the public services to be provided will be based on need for services.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Comments from community meetings and focus groups with community centers and public service agencies are the basis for relative priority and for the selection of specific public services.

**9. Priority Need Name:** Economic Development

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

Extremely Low

Low

Moderate

Middle

Large Families

Families with Children

Elderly

Public Housing Residents

Non-housing Community Development

Other

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

Support Creation of a Streetcar System

Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth

Revitalize Commercial Districts in LMI Areas

**Description:**

With the City of Providence still struggling from the effects of the Great Recession, and with low- and moderate-income residents bearing a disproportionate burden of unemployment, underemployment, and low-wage jobs, there is a critical need to provide economic and employment opportunities to low- and moderate-income individuals that will provide family supporting wages.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Public data on unemployment and wages, labor market trends, interviews with employers, unemployed job seekers, and individuals in the public workforce system provided the basis for this priority area.

**10. Priority Need Name:** Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

Extremely Low

Low

Moderate

Middle

Non-housing Community Development  
Other

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth  
Revitalize Commercial Districts in LMI Areas

**Description:**

With the City of Providence still struggling from the effects of the Great Recession, and with low- and moderate-income residents bearing a disproportionate burden of unemployment, underemployment, and low-wage jobs, there is a critical need to provide economic and employment opportunities to low- and moderate-income individuals that will provide family supporting wages. These supports include programming to facilitate the creation and growth of small businesses and microenterprises through technical assistance and business consultation as well as small business financing in order for the City's businesses to grow and expand.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Public data on unemployment and wages, labor market trends, interviews with employers, unemployed job seekers, and individuals in the public workforce system provided the basis for this priority area.

**11. Priority Need Name:** Planning

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:**

Extremely Low  
Low  
Moderate  
Large Families  
Families with Children  
Elderly  
Public Housing Residents  
Chronic Homelessness  
Individuals  
Families with Children  
Mentally Ill  
Chronic Substance Abuse  
veterans  
Persons with HIV/AIDS

Victims of Domestic Violence  
Unaccompanied Youth  
Elderly  
Frail Elderly  
Persons with Mental Disabilities  
Persons with Physical Disabilities  
Persons with Developmental Disabilities  
Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions  
Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families  
Victims of Domestic Violence  
Non-housing Community Development

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

Promote Efficiency through Research and Planning  
Effectively Administer Programs

**Description:**

In order to increase efficiency and impact for programs and projects to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, the City will conduct research studies and provide accurate and detailed information, research findings, and reports with which to properly allocate CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

In an environment of reduced Federal and State funding, identifying the most appropriate, efficient, and impactful ways to allocate resources in critical.

**12. Priority Need Name:** Repayment of Section 108 Loan

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:** Other

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

Repay Section 108 Loan  
Effectively Administer Programs

**Description:** Repayment of Section 108 loan

**Basis for Relative Priority:** Required

**13. Priority Need Name:** Program Administration

**Priority Level:** High

**Population:** Other

**Geographic Areas Affected:** Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Associated Goals:**

Repay Section 108 Loan  
Effectively Administer Programs

**Description:**

Provide administrative and support services for the planning, management, and citizen participation necessary to properly formulate, implement, and rigorously evaluate the City’s various Community Development programs.

**Basis for Relative Priority:**

Must properly administer and critically evaluate all programs aimed at benefiting low- and moderate-income people to direct limited resources to the most impactful projects.

Table 66 - Priority Needs Summary

**Narrative (Optional)**

During the development of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the City of Providence held focus groups and community meetings, conducted one-on-one interviews, and solicited input from the community, stakeholder organizations, and community groups to identify priority needs. This input serves as the foundation for the development of the Consolidated Plan and guides the Strategic Plan.

The City of Providence defines “high priority need” to include activities, projects, and programs that will be funded with federal funds, either alone or in combination with other public or private investments, to address the described needs during the Strategic Plan program years. Regarding “low priority needs,” these are activities, projects, or programs that may be funded with federal funds, either alone or in combination with other public or private investments, if additional federal funding becomes available during the strategic plan program years.

## *SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)*

### **Influence of Market Conditions**

#### **Affordable Housing Type**

#### **Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type**

Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

High market-rate rents in many neighborhoods throughout the City combined with Fair Market Rents that are lower than actual rents will limit the ability of Housing Choice Voucher holders, HOPWA TBRA programs, and holders of other forms of TBRA successfully obtain rental housing. The level of support for TBRA from the state is also a factor.

TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs

High market-rate rents in many neighborhoods throughout the City combined with Fair Market Rents that are lower than actual rents will limit the ability of Housing Choice Voucher holders, HOPWA TBRA programs, and holders of other forms of TBRA successfully obtain rental housing. The level of support for TBRA from the state is also a factor.

New Unit Production

As the private housing market continues to recover, additional housing units (both rental and homeownership) will be created throughout the City, creating additional competition in the private market for housing. New market-rate unit production will influence the availability and prices of market rate units, likely creating some (albeit minimal) downward pressure on the price of existing market-rate units. The high cost burden of market rate units will create demand for new affordable housing units; some will be met with new unit production. The current occupants of affordable rental units held by Community Development Corporations in the City creates its own market demand for homeownership units that could be met with new unit production based on the current availability. The aging of the population, changing household characteristics, and mobility challenges of those wishing to live independently also influence the demand for new unit production if the availability of existing units does not meet their needs. Voters in Rhode Island have supported affordable housing development by approving two affordable housing bond initiatives that have

provided \$75 million since 2006 for the development of affordable housing rental and homeownership units. Availability of additional resources at the state level would facilitate the development of new affordable housing units through new unit production, rehabilitation, and acquisition.

#### Rehabilitation

The age and physical condition of the City's housing stock will be the primary influencing factor of unit rehabilitation. As the City of Providence is fairly "built-out" there is limited available land for new construction. The number of abandoned properties, historic preservation requirements, aggressive code enforcement activities, and the identification of lead paint hazards will influence the use of funds for rehabilitation. Voters in Rhode Island have supported affordable housing development by approving two affordable housing bond initiatives that have provided \$75 million since 2006 for the development of affordable housing rental and homeownership units. Availability of additional resources at the state level would facilitate the development of new affordable housing units through new unit production, rehabilitation, and acquisition.

#### Acquisition, including preservation

The acquisition cost is the primary market factor for the viability of converting existing market-rate units to affordable housing units. As the City of Providence is fairly "built-out" there is limited available land for new construction. The number of abandoned properties in the City provides for an opportunity to acquire them through the receivership program at little cost and convert them to affordable units. Voters in Rhode Island have supported affordable housing development by approving two affordable housing bond initiatives that have provided \$75 million since 2006 for the development of affordable housing rental and homeownership units. Availability of additional resources at the state level would facilitate the development of new affordable housing units through new unit production, rehabilitation, and acquisition.

Table 67 – Influence of Market Conditions



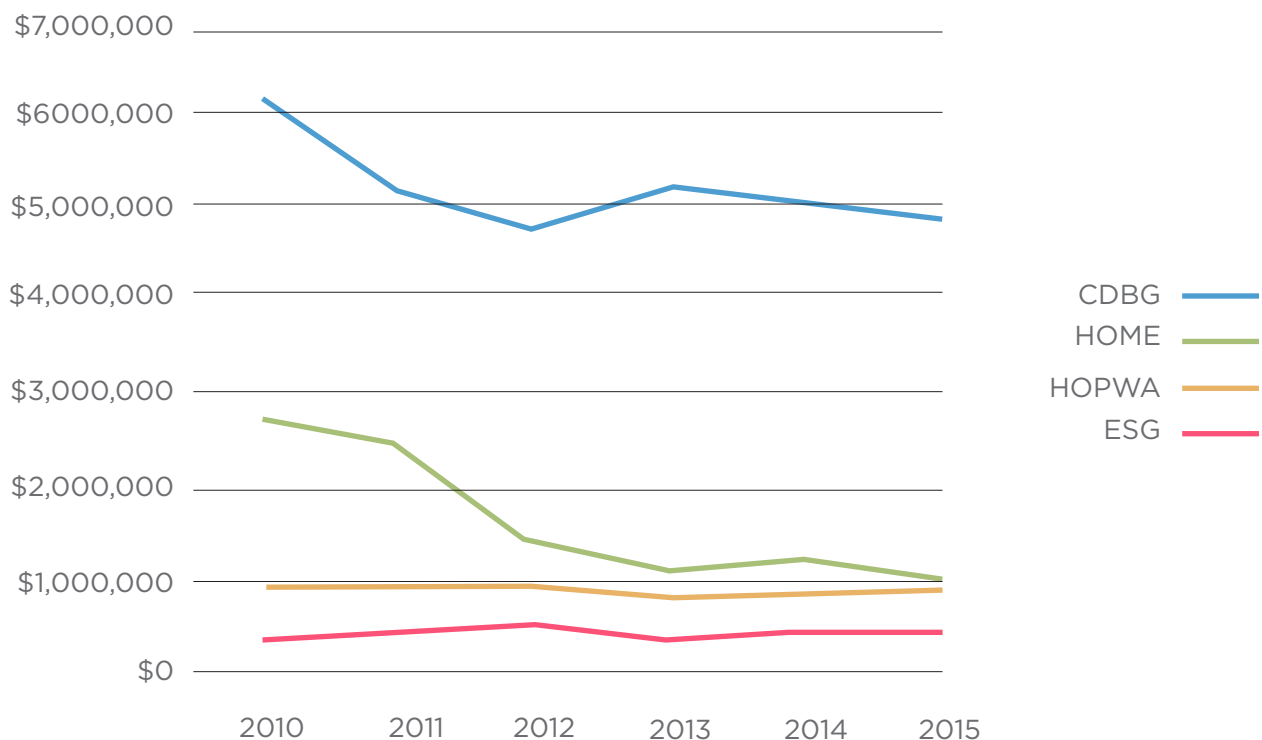
## SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

### Introduction

It is challenging to anticipate future Federal resources based on Congressional appropriations. Predicting the level of resources and basing accomplishments on these unknown Federal monies is not the most judicious approach. Congress may reduce its appropriation to HUD in any one or every program year covered by this Consolidated Plan. For instance, as of the writing of this ConPlan, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) approved HOME funding at only \$66 million, from \$900 million in the previous year, a reduction of 93%.

This is another manifestation of the partisan politics and political dysfunction that have been the norm at the Federal level which has all but paralyzed Congress from taking any but the most routine actions. As a result, the City's projected goals described in section SP-45: Goals Summary may not be accomplished. Further, while the City has made substantial progress in addressing community needs, the sheer magnitude of these problems makes it unlikely that existing needs will ever be remedied without a substantial *increase* in the Federal government's commitment.

### Providence Formula Allocations, 2010 - 2015



Based on previous annual allocations and assumptions on future allocations, the City of Providence has estimated its five year Anticipated Resources projections as follows:

**CDBG:** The City has seen an average annual reduction in CDBG funding of 1.22% between 2011 and 2015. It is expected that the City will see further reductions in CDBG of between 1% and 2% per year during the 2015 to 2019 program years. Using the same 1.22% reduction, the City estimates that CDBG funding will decrease from \$4.89 million in 2015 to \$4.66 million in 2019, totaling \$23.87 million for the 2015-2019 program years. Added to this would be future program income from an existing Section 108 economic development loan. We estimate that approximately \$2.5 million in program income over the next 5 years will be available. Annually, 15% of this program income is used to increase the level of public service programs the City is able to fund. We can estimate approximately \$75,000 annually can supplement public service programs through this portion of program income. Finally, this ConPlan accounts for a \$6.4 million conversion and reallocation of a \$10 million Section 108 line of credit balance that the City received in 2010.

**HOME:** The City's FY 2015 HOME funding is the final year (of three) of a voluntary grant reduction to rectify previous ineligible and unsupported expenditures. This VGR has reduced the City's HOME allocation by \$239,856.55 annually over the last three years which has only exacerbated a severe reduction in HOME funding. Excluding the VGR, the City saw a 55% reduction of HOME funds from 2010 to 2015, dropping from \$2.69 million in 2010 to \$1.22 million in 2015 (excluding the VGR). Since 2012, the City has seen an average annual reduction of its HOME allocation of 3.5%. Notwithstanding the political brinksmanship discussed above, the City is estimating that further reductions in HOME funding will continue at the rate of 3% to 5% per year; however, with the fulfillment of its VGR obligation the City will be able to allocate additional HOME funds to projects than it has been able to in previous years. The City estimates that HOME funding will change from \$1.22 million in 2015 (less the VGR) to \$1.05 million in 2019, totaling \$5.43 million for the 2015-2019 program years.

**HOPWA:** The City's HOPWA funding has been relatively stable since 2010, averaging \$865 thousand annually. The City expects funding to remain stable for the five years of the Consolidated Plan, totaling \$4.33 million for the 2015-2019 program years.

**ESG:** The City's ESG funding had been consistently funded at approximately \$250,000 for most of the decade between 2000 and 2010. Since the passage of the Hearth Act, the City's ESG funding grew considerably, but has varied greatly and unpredictably between 2011 and 2015. As such, the City has averaged the past five years of funding to estimate its future allocations. The City anticipates receiving \$2.08 million for the 2015-2019 program years.

# Anticipated Resources

**Program: CDBG**

**Source of Funds:** public - federal

**Uses of Funds** Acquisition  
Admin and Planning  
Economic Development  
Housing  
Public Improvements  
Public Services

**Expected Amount Available Year 1** **Annual Allocation:** \$4,892,198  
**Program Income:** \$700,000  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$9,754,269  
**Total:** \$15,346,467

**Expected Amount Available  
Reminder of ConPlan** \$20,797,548

**Narrative Description** The City will undertake activities and projects using CDBG funds including housing development and rehabilitation, facilities improvements, public infrastructure improvements, economic development, public services, planning and administration, and Section 108 repayment. Prior year resources accounts for a \$6.4 million reallocation of a \$10 million Section 108 loan that the City received in 2010.

**Program: HOME**

**Source of Funds:** public - federal

**Uses of Funds** Acquisition  
Homebuyer assistance  
Homeowner rehab  
Multifamily rental new construction  
Multifamily rental rehab  
New construction for ownership  
TBRA

**Expected Amount Available Year 1**    **Annual Allocation:** \$975,686  
**Program Income:** \$0  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$3,295,473  
**Total:** \$4,271,159

**Expected Amount Available  
Reminder of ConPlan**    \$4,450,265

**Narrative Description**    The City will undertake activities and projects using HOME funds including new housing development, rehabilitation of existing units, and homebuyer assistance programs

**Program:**    **HOPWA**

**Source of Funds:**    public - federal

**Uses of Funds**    Permanent housing in facilities  
Permanent housing placement  
Short term or transitional housing facilities  
STRMU  
Supportive services  
TBRA

**Expected Amount Available Year 1**    **Annual Allocation:** \$ 869,967  
**Program Income:** \$0  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$0  
**Total:** \$ 869,967

**Expected Amount Available  
Reminder of ConPlan**    \$3,461,508

**Narrative Description**    The City will undertake activities and projects using HOPWA funds including acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; short-term payments to prevent homelessness; and case management services for those living with HIV/AIDS

**Program:**    **ESG**

**Source of Funds:**    public - federal

**Uses of Funds**    Conversion and rehab for transitional housing  
Financial Assistance

Overnight shelter  
 Rapid re-housing (rental assistance)  
 Rental Assistance  
 Services  
 Transitional housing

**Expected Amount Available Year 1**    **Annual Allocation:** \$448,242  
**Program Income:** \$0  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$0  
**Total:** \$448,242

**Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan**    \$1,636,484

**Narrative Description**    The City will undertake activities and projects using ESG funds including shelter operations, transitional housing, rapid rehousing assistance, and supportive services for the homeless

Table 68 - Anticipated Resources

**Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied**

The City’s HOME program requires recipient organizations to contribute at least 25 percent of the value of the HOME award as a contribution match as a condition of the award in order to satisfy HUD regulations without financial impact to the City. In previous years, the State had additional affordable housing funds through the Building Homes Rhode Island program. While this funding has since been exhausted, it is possible that another round of funding could be made available through another affordable housing bond initiative. The City is a partner in the Consolidated Homeless Funds CHF Partnership which oversees a variety of homeless service funding grants including:

- City of Pawtucket ESG
- City of Providence ESG
- City of Woonsocket ESG
- State of Rhode Island ESG
- State of Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission Homeless Funds
- Social Service Block Grant Funds (from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services)

Due to this unique collaboration, the CHF Partnership is able to provide 100% matching funds without transferring the match responsibility to ESG subrecipients. The CHF Partnership uses the rules, regulations, and policies in the ESG regulations as the basis of the program design for all CHF programs (even those that are not directly funded under ESG). All activities that are funded under the ESG match allocations will be in accordance with the Interim Rule's new requirements and regulations and will be monitored by the CHF Partnership as such. Only activities eligible under and in compliance with the ESG Interim rule will receive the match resources listed above.

**If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan**

The City is developing a program called "Every Block" which seeks to transition privately-owned vacant and abandoned property and lots, City-owned lots, PRA-owned property, and tax reverted property back to productive use. A myriad of strategies are being developed to facilitate program goals based on the particular circumstances of the property or lot, and the available stakeholder partners. The use of CDBG funds for eligible activities when appropriate, including but not limited to acquisition, clearance, rehabilitation, and new construction by a CBDO will be one of the tools used for this program.

**Discussion**

In addition to these annual allocations, the City of Providence is focused on identifying new funding opportunities to support City goals. Through the Department of Planning and Development, the Division of Community Development has been working with community organizations, Federal and State officials, and not-for-profit and corporate foundations to identify additional resources to support City priorities, including those detailed in the Consolidated Plan. Similarly, through the Law Department's affirmative litigation, and through conversations with Rhode Island Housing and private financial institutions, additional private resources are being identified to meet the community development and housing needs of residents of the City of Providence in parallel and occasionally in combination with Federal funds.

## *SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)*

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

### **Responsible Entity**

#### **City of Providence**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Government</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development Homelessness
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning Rental neighborhood improvements public facilities public services

#### **AIDS Care Ocean State**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs
Geographic Area Served <b>Region</b>	

#### **Amos House**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development Homelessness
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	Non-homeless special needs Rental

#### **AS220**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development Rental public services
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Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

**Billy Taylor House**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	

**Boys & Girls Club - Providence**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	

**Building Futures**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	

**Capital City Community Center**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	



**Center for Southeast  
Asians**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

**Role**  
Economic Development  
public services

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

**Clinica Esperanza**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

**Role**  
public services

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

**Crossroads RI**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Continuum of care**

**Role**  
Homelessness

Geographic Area Served  
**State**

**DaVinci Center**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

**Role**  
public services

Geographic Area Served  
**Other**

**Dorcas International  
Institute of Rhode Island**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Non-profit organizations**

**Role**  
Economic Development  
public services

Geographic Area Served  
**State**

## Elmwood Community Center

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

Geographic Area Served  
**Other**

**Role**  
Non-homeless special needs  
public services

## Family Services of RI

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

**Role**  
Non-homeless special needs  
public services

## Federal Hill House

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

Geographic Area Served  
**Other**

**Role**  
Non-homeless special needs  
public services

## Fox Point Senior Center

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

Geographic Area Served  
**Other**

**Role**  
Non-homeless special needs  
public services

## Genesis Center

Responsible Entity Type  
**Non-profit organizations**

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

**Role**  
Economic Development  
Non-homeless special needs  
public services

## Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs Ownership
Geographic Area Served <b>State</b>	Rental public services

## Groundwork Providence

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs neighborhood improvements
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	public services

## Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	

## Joslin Community Development Corporation

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	

## Justice Resource Institute

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs public services
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Geographic Area Served  
**Other**

### **Local Initiatives Support Corporation**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development Ownership
Geographic Area Served <b>State</b>	Rental public services

### **Mount Hope Learning Center**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	

### **Nickerson Community Center**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Homelessness public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	

### **Olneyville Housing Corporation**

Responsible Entity Type <b>CHDO</b>	<b>Role</b> Ownership Rental
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	neighborhood improvements

## Open Doors

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Homelessness Rental
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	public services

## Providence After School Alliance

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	

## The Providence Center

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Homelessness Non-homeless special needs
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	public services

## Providence CityArts for Youth

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	

## Providence Community Library

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-profit organizations</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs public services
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Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

### **Providence Housing Authority**

Responsible Entity Type  
**PHA**

**Role**  
Public Housing  
public services

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

### **Providence Intown Churches Association**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Subrecipient**

**Role**  
Homelessness  
public services

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

### **Providence Revolving Fund**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Developer**

**Role**  
Ownership  
Rental  
neighborhood improvements

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

### **Riverwood Mental Health Services**

Responsible Entity Type  
**Non-Profit Organizations**

**Role**  
Homelessness  
Non-homeless special needs

Geographic Area Served  
**Jurisdiction**

## Silver Lake Community Center

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
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Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>
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## Smith Hill Community Development Corporation

Responsible Entity Type <b>Developer</b>	<b>Role</b> Non-homeless special needs Ownership
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Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	Rental public services
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## Social Enterprise Greenhouse

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development public services
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Geographic Area Served <b>Region</b>
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## Sojourner House

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Homelessness Non-homeless special needs
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Geographic Area Served <b>State</b>	public services
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## Southside Community Land Trust

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Economic Development Non-homeless special needs
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Geographic Area Served <b>Jurisdiction</b>	public facilities public services
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**Stanley Streets  
Treatment and Resources**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Homelessness Non-homeless special needs
Geographic Area Served <b>Region</b>	public facilities

**Stop Wasting  
Abandoned Properties**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Developer</b>	<b>Role</b> Ownership Rental
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	public services

**Washington Park  
Citizen's Association**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	

**West Broadway Neighborhood  
Association**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> neighborhood improvements public facilities
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	



**West Elmwood Housing  
Development Corpora-  
tion**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> Ownership Rental
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	neighborhood improvements

**West End Community  
Center**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Subrecipient</b>	<b>Role</b> public services
Geographic Area Served <b>Other</b>	

**Women’s Center of  
Rhode Island**

Responsible Entity Type <b>Non-Profit</b>	<b>Role</b> Homelessness Non-homeless special needs
Geographic Area Served <b>State</b>	

Table 69 - Institutional Delivery Structure

**Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System**

The City of Providence has a very robust network of public service providers, not-for-profit community development corporations, government agencies, and other community partners. The City, through its partnerships with community based organizations, will be able to carry out the priority projects detailed in this Strategic Plan. The primary barrier is lack of Federal resources to properly address the magnitude of challenges facing the City. Many of the organizations listed above also provided valuable insight regarding the needs in the community during the development of the Consolidated Plan. Further, stagnant economic growth puts additional pressure on the anti-poverty strategies detailed in SP-70, as there is a paucity of accessible jobs sufficient to employ those who are out of work but wish to find employment.

**Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services**

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	✓	✓	✓
Legal Assistance	✓	✓	✓
Mortgage Assistance	✓	✓	✓
Rental Assistance	✓	✓	✓
Utilities Assistance	✓	✓	✓
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	✓	✓	
Mobile Clinics	✓	✓	
Other Street Outreach Services	✓	✓	
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	✓	✓	✓
Child Care	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓
Employment and Employment Training	✓	✓	
Healthcare	✓	✓	✓
HIV/AIDS	✓	✓	✓
Life Skills	✓	✓	✓
Mental Health Counseling	✓	✓	✓
Transportation	✓	✓	✓
Other			

Other

Table 70 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

**Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)**

The level of services in the State and the City to address the needs of the homeless population is fairly strong; however, the needs of the homeless population are varied and sometimes incredibly acute. While the City's network of homeless service providers is generally cohesive, there are instances of duplication of services and lack of coordination. The various types of services that are offered to the homeless population include 24-hour drop-in shelters for men, women, families, couples; facilities for the homeless to meet their basic needs including showers, laundry, meals, clothing, transportation, toiletries, and other daily essentials; workforce development and vocational job training; health care and mental health treatment and counseling; substance abuse recovery; relocation and placement services; and case management and planning services for ending a household's homeless status.

While the service delivery system in the City of Providence is robust, the City recognizes the need for more Permanent Supportive Housing in order to better realize the goals of Opening Doors Rhode Island. In recent years, the State has more fully embraced the Housing First model to address homelessness, providing permanent housing as quickly as possible along with the appropriate wraparound services for them to maintain their housing. As such, the number of permanent supportive housing beds has grown over the past several years. As of February 2015, there were 965 beds for adults and their children, 737 for adults only, 57 for the chronically homeless, and 152 for veterans and their families. As the homeless prevention system moves further into permanent supportive housing, additional resources for rental assistance will likely be required.

The expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had a profoundly positive impact on the health and well-being of homeless individuals. With active support from the leadership of the City of Providence, numerous community-based organizations, both those in the field of health and mental health as well as non-health-related fields, enrolled thousands of newly eligible city residents.

Providence has a robust, though strained, foundation of health- and mental-health providers. For primary care, residents can turn to Providence Community Health Center (PCHC) and its 10 facilities throughout the City that serve more than 35,000 residents annually. The effectiveness of PCHC is further bolstered through strategic co-locations, including one clinic at a statewide, alternative high school, The MET, a clinic at the state's primary homeless service provider, CrossRoads Rhode Island, and two dual colocation arrangements with the state's largest community mental health center, The Providence Center.

In addition to PCHC, Providence is home to The Free Clinic and Clinica Esperanza, which provide healthcare to those who remain uninsured or under-insured. And while the expansion of Medicaid has reduced the extent to which the homeless and other previously uninsured populations turned to hospital Emergency Departments for care, this remains a setting where many homeless individuals receive care. Providence is home to several hospitals, all of whom provide extensive services to homeless individuals and families.

The Providence Center has a program, “Home Base,” which is specifically targeted at housing the long-term homeless who suffer from mental illness and providing them the mental health support and other services required to maintain independence. Additionally, The Providence Center provides mental health services to homeless and previously homeless in need of mental health and substance use disorder services wherever they are housed, sheltered, or connecting with community-based organizations.

There are 41 individual agencies in the state that provide shelter and housing of various types to the homeless population. With the transient nature of the homeless, individuals frequently use services at or are transferred between multiple agencies. Among all the agencies in the state, the following operate in the City of Providence: Amos House, Crossroads Rhode Island, Emmanuel House, House of Hope, McAuley House and McAuley Village, Mental Health Association of Rhode Island (Access-RI), Nickerson Community Center, OpenDoors, Operation Stand Down, The Providence Center, Providence Housing Authority (VASH Program), Providence In-Town Churches Association, Riverwood Mental Health Services, and YWCA of Greater RI. The majority of the shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing beds are for families and their children.

Amos House provides a clean and sober recovery-based 90-180 day shelter program in South Providence, helping (at any one point in time) 20 men and 15 women. Program clients receive comprehensive services including psychiatric assessment; intensive case management; on-site medical care by a volunteer MD twice per month; on-site legal consultation services through our affiliation and collaboration with the Homeless Legal Clinic; intensive group work in the areas of independent living skills, recovery, relapse prevention, communication, anger management and parenting; comprehensive literacy training; and access to Amos House’s culinary or carpentry training programs. Specialized financial services and supports are provided through the Financial Opportunity Center and all clients are required to attend work readiness sessions and to meet with employment specialists to help with finding employment.

Crossroads is the State’s largest provider of shelter and services for the homeless. They provide a range of housing options, from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing, to serve individual adults, couples, seniors, and families. They also operate 24-hour emergency shelters for men, women, families, couples, and members of the LGBT community. Their education and employment assistance programs offer Certified Nursing Assistant and Janitorial training programs, pre-employment training, adult education, and GED preparation. In partnership with the Providence Community Health Centers,

the Crossroads health clinic at 160 Broad St. provides access to primary care, behavioral health, and dental services. All clients have access to basic facilities, including showers and laundry, as well as meals, clothing, transportation, toiletries, and other daily essentials. Case Advocates work closely with clients to create a plan for ending homelessness and connect clients with additional programs and services to assist them in ending their homelessness.

The House of Hope CDC operates their Operation First Step program in Providence, providing short-term shelter and intensive case management supports to stabilize clients, address barriers to permanent housing, and begin treating any trauma issues that resulted in the clients' homelessness. The holistic services provided include a Housing Goal Plan, housing search assistance, access to mainstream resources such as SNAP and SSI/SSDI, mental health counseling, employment training and job search assistance, life skills programs, Victim of Crime services, and other services. The target population for this program is unaccompanied adult homeless men, particularly those who have experienced chronic or long-term homelessness and have several barriers to housing such as disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse histories, and/or involvement with the criminal justice system.

McAuley House offers breakfast and lunch every weekday and one Saturday per month; rental voucher assistance to pay a portion of a guest's rent in times of financial difficulty; prescription assistance for those without medical coverage; budgetary assistance for guests receiving disability payments but are unable to manage their own finances; transportation assistance for homeless individuals to get to meal sites, shelters, and medical appointments; and counseling and crisis intervention.

McAuley Village is a two-year transitional housing program that assists low-income single parent families, the homeless or those threatened with homelessness to gain economic stability. They have one, two and three bedroom, fully-applianced apartments, and daily 24-hour security guards with security cameras and monitors that are currently serving 23 families. While families live at McAuley Village, they are required to participate in a case management plan under the supervision of a Resident Service Coordinator and they must utilize supportive services, including housing advocate, financial counselors, youth enrichment programs, mentorship and professional guidance, literacy and GED prep programs, and childcare support.

Nickerson Community Center's Gateway to Independence and Gateway II programs provide homeless veterans housing for up to two years along with access to case management services, health services and substance abuse intervention, PTSD counseling and mental health services, assistance with benefits and legal services, and basic level skills training. All residents of the Gateway program must enroll in a training program, pursue higher education, or secure employment. Once the program is successfully completed, veterans either move into a semi-independent housing program or live in one of Nickerson's permanent housing rental units.

OpenDoors operates a program called 9 Yards, a prisoner reentry program that works with clients recently released from prison to ultimately place them into permanent employment and housing. In the first phase of the program, clients participate in 7 months of classes while in prison. These classes include college education, cognitive self-change, and vocational training. If they pass an initial screening test, they are moved into a second phase of the program after their release. Phase 2 includes subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment, employment placement, and case management services. This model helps successfully transition clients who would otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) operates and provides supportive services for 59 units of permanent supportive housing for low-income disabled veterans and their families, with 20 of these units located in the City of Providence. OSD's Veteran Case Manager conducts outreach in the City's shelters, food pantries, the VA Medical Center and other locations where homeless and at-risk veterans gather. Once identified as a veteran in need, the Veteran Case Manager will determine eligibility for OSDRI's \$1 million Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant which provides for temporary financial assistance in the form of security deposits, up to 6 months of temporary rental payments or rent arrearages, moving costs, and childcare. When stable housing has been achieved the case manager coordinates employment training and placement through the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program and assist veterans in applying for service connected disability benefits and other social services.

The Providence In-town Churches Association (PICA) offers intensive, holistic case management for the most marginalized people in the City: the newly and chronically homeless; prisoners upon re-entry; those in recovery and/or struggling with addictions; and those who suffer from physical and mental illnesses. PICA's SOAR program (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Access to Recovery) works with chronically homeless, disabled individuals to access SSI/SSDI benefits in an expedited manner. Their Downtown Food Pantry is the largest provider of food security in the state, serving 8,000 people 25 tons of food each month, including home delivery to over 300 elderly and disabled shut-ins each month.

**Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above**

The strengths of the service delivery system are detailed above. The gaps in service are primarily related to the lack of resources to scale programs to meet the level of need of the homeless population. In particular, day programming that engages homeless clients in workforce development and job preparation, GED and literacy training, substance abuse recovery programs, and mental health services, while available, can often become strained. As the homeless prevention system moves further into permanent supportive housing, additional resources for rental assistance will likely be required. Better coordination on street outreach is necessary to avoid duplication.

**Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs**

Better tracking of the number of clients served, the level, sequencing, and blending of service provided, and measurement of outcomes will allow the City, the State, and providers themselves better manage programs and prioritize services based on data-rich analysis. Constantly reviewing outcomes will improve compliance and monitoring, build capacity at providers, and facilitate the collaboration and coordination of services. Additionally, upon review of applications and before funding levels are assigned, the members of the Consolidated Homeless Fund and the Continuum of Care Evaluation Committee are ensuring that organizational roles are clearly understood and that duplication of services, particularly for street outreach, is avoided.

## SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

### Goals Summary Information

## 1. Increase Availability of Affordable Housing 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City	CDBG: \$552,982
Homeless	Geographic Area	HOME: \$8,178,829
Non-Homeless Special Needs		

### Goal Outcome Indicator

Rental units constructed: 20 Household Housing Unit

Rental units rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit

Homeowner Housing Added: 10 Household Housing Unit

## 2. Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City	CDBG: \$1,200,000
Public Housing	Geographic Area	
Private Housing		

### Goal Outcome Indicator

Rental units rehabilitated: 12 Household Housing Unit

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit

Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 60 Household Housing Unit



### 3. Eliminate Blighted Property 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing  
Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
Slum/Blight Clearance

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City	CDBG: \$310,000
Non-Housing Community Development Private Housing	Geographic Area	

**Goal Outcome Indicator**  
Buildings Demolished: 10 Buildings

### 4. Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing  
Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City	CDBG: \$500,000
Public Housing Private Housing	Geographic Area	

**Goal Outcome Indicator**  
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit

### 5. Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing, Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
Slum/Blight Clearance

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$4,181,000

**Goal Outcome Indicator**  
Rental units rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Unit  
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Unit

## 6. Reduce Homelessness 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Housing and Supportive Services for PLWHA

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Homeless	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	ESG: \$1,928,372

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 400 Persons Assisted  
Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 30 Beds  
Homelessness Prevention: 1000 Persons Assisted

## 7. Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing, Housing and Supportive Services for PLWHA

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Providence - Fall River -	HOPWA: \$4,201,531
Homeless	New Bedford EMSA	
Non-Homeless Special Needs		

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added: 200 Household Housing Unit  
HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 850 Household Housing Unit

## 8. Eliminate Accessibility Barriers 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements  
Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$563,188

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 250 Persons Assisted

## 9. Provide Safe Learning Environment in City Schools 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$2,146,394

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 15000 Persons Assisted

## 10. Improve Condition of Public Service Facilities 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$2,930,107

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 30000 Persons Assisted  
Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
60 Households Assisted

## 11. Improve Street, Sidewalk and Public Infrastructure 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$5,937,785

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 36000 Persons Assisted

## 12. Increase Access to Community Gardens / Urban Farms 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development Economic Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$200,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted  
Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted

## 13. Improve Parks, Open Space, and Sports Fields 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$3,515,627

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit:10 Persons Assisted

## 14. Support Creation of a Streetcar System 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements  
Economic Development

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$2,000,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 8500 Persons Assisted

# 15. Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$2,114,393

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 60000 Households Assisted

# 16. Provide Healthcare for LMI Persons 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$122,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 12500 Households Assisted

# 17. Increase Workforce Readiness and Job Skills 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$317,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1200 Persons Assisted

## 18. Provide Youth Enrichment and Educational Programs 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$632,722

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
7500 Persons Assisted

## 19. Provide Sports and Recreational Activities 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$147,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
150 Persons Assisted

## 20. Provide Services for the Elderly 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$150,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
800 Persons Assisted

## 21. Provide Day Care Services to LMI Persons 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$412,938

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
1250 Persons Assisted

## 22. Reintegrate the Formerly Incarcerated 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$125,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
100 Persons Assisted  
Homelessness Prevention: 50 Persons Assisted

## 23. Provide Services for Victims of Domestic Violence 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Homeless Special Needs	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$172,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
1000 Persons Assisted

## 24. Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Economic Development  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$3,700,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Jobs created/retained: 50 Jobs  
Businesses assisted: 150 Businesses Assisted

## 25. Revitalize Commercial Districts in LMI Areas 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Economic Development  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$550,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 25 Business

## 26. Promote Efficiency through Research and Planning 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Planning

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$325,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Other: 2 Other



## 27. Repay Section 108 Loan 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Repayment of Section 108 Loan  
Program Administration

**Category**

Administration

**Geographic Area**

Community Wide - Entire City  
Geographic Area

**Funding**

CDBG: \$970,000

**Goal Outcome Indicator**

Other: 1 Other

## 28. Effectively Administer Programs 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Planning, Repayment of Section 108 Loan, Program Administration

**Category**

Administration

**Geographic Area**

Community Wide - Entire City  
Geographic Area

**Funding**

CDBG: \$2,366,879

HOPWA: \$129,944

HOME: \$542,595

ESG: \$156,354

**Goal Outcome Indicator**

Other: 1 Other

Table 71 - Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

1. **Down payment and closing cost assistance**  
Providence HOME funding to facilitate homeownership among low- and moderate-income households
2. **Increase the availability of affordable homeownership housing units**  
Through new construction or conversion and rehabilitation of existing market-rate units, the City will use HOME and CDBG funds to increase the supply of affordable homeownership housing units for City residents and households earned up to 80% of the area median income.
3. **Increase the availability of affordable rental housing units**  
Through new construction or conversion and rehabilitation of existing market-rate units, the City will use HOME and CDBG funds to increase the supply of affordable rental housing units for City residents and households earned up to 80% of the area median income.
4. **Increase the availability of affordable housing with supportive services for extremely low-income and/or special needs populations**  
Through new construction or conversion and rehabilitation of existing market-rate units, the City will use HOME and CDBG funds to increase the supply of affordable rental housing units for City residents and households earned up to 50% of the area median income.
5. **Increase the supply of lead safe housing**  
The age of the City's housing stock makes many housing units at risk of lead hazards. Using a three-year lead hazard abatement grant, the City will continue its lead abatement efforts by eradicating lead hazards from up to 250 housing units throughout the City. Taking a blended "whole house" approach, these funds will be aligned with additional healthy housing funds to address other healthy housing issues including asbestos, mold, pest and rodent infestations, housing code violations, etc.
6. **Reduction of blighted properties**  
There are many houses throughout the City that are

substandard and blighted. For those that are beyond rehabilitation, the City will use CDBG funds to clear blight and prepare lots for new in-fill development.

**7. Improve the quality of occupied private housing stock**

The age of the City’s housing stock makes many housing units in need of repair and rehabilitation. Using CDBG, the City will offer grants or loans to qualifying homeowners to rehabilitate property. Taking a blended “whole house” approach, these funds will be aligned with the City’s lead grant funds when appropriate to holistically address lead, code violations, and quality of life issues in property.

**8. Return abandoned property to productive use**

There City still lives with the legacy of the foreclosure crisis and there are several hundred houses throughout the City that are vacant and abandoned. Using CDBG funds, the City will engage housing developers to conduct rehabilitation of vacant and abandoned homes for affordable homeownership or rental units.

**9. Maintain habitability for elderly homeowners**

The age of the City’s housing stock makes many housing units in need of repair and rehabilitation. Using CDBG, the City will offer grants or loans to qualifying elderly homeowners to rehabilitate property. Taking a blended “whole house” approach, these funds will be aligned with the City’s lead grant funds when appropriate to holistically address lead, code violations, and quality of life issues in property.

**10. Support independent living for the elderly and disabled**

The age of the City’s housing stock makes many housing units less than suitable for independent living for those with mobility challenges. Using CDBG, the City will offer grants or loans to qualifying elderly or disabled homeowners to remodel property to accommodate mobility devices for independent living. Additionally, promote long-term, community-based residential options with supportive services for the elderly and people with disabilities who need help with daily living activities, housekeeping, self-care, social services, and other assistance in order to

continue to live independently in the community.

**11. Increase energy efficiency of housing stock**

The City's housing stock is generally very inefficient in its energy use, with many homes with minimal insulation and drafty windows. Increasing the energy efficiency of the City's low-income multi-family housing will make it more affordable as it will lower energy costs. The City will use CDBG funds to conduct energy efficiency home assessments and for home improvements that increase energy and water efficiency.

**12. Preservation of historic buildings**

The City of Providence has a rich, diverse, and remarkably unspoiled collection of historic buildings, structures, and sites represent the full spectrum of American architectural development. Historic houses, churches, schools, public buildings, commercial blocks and factories, along with landscape features and elements of their settings, offer tangible links to the people who lived and worked here in the past and who shaped the city as it is today. The City will use CDBG funds to preserve the historic nature of its buildings and maintain the City's unique identity.

**13. Reduce housing discrimination**

Prevent discrimination in housing by providing fair housing counseling services, education, and assistance to effectuate compliance in the public and private housing markets.

**14. Provide emergency shelter to the homeless**

ESG funds will be used to support shelter operations for the immediate emergency needs of the homeless.

**15. Provide transitional housing and related supportive services to the homeless**

ESG funds will be used to provide temporary residence to families and individuals who are homeless or are at-risk of homelessness, divert them from entering shelters, and provide support services that will assist individuals and families move into permanent housing.

**16. Rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families**

ESG funds will be used to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from

becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The funds will provide for short-term or medium-term rental assistance, and housing relocation and stabilization services, including such activities as mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

**17. Reduce the incidence and duration of Veteran homelessness**

Use ESG funds to support efforts to end homelessness for Veterans.

**18. Reduce homelessness among low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)**

The City will use HOPWA funds to reduce homelessness among low-income for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) through the provision of supportive housing, rental assistance, and housing information services.

**19. Increase housing stability among low-income PLWHA**

The City will use HOPWA funds to ensure that low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) not only gain stable housing but maintain that housing stability through the provision of supportive services and housing.

**20. Promote access to care among low-income PLWHA**

The City will use HOPWA funds to ensure that low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS access and receive primary care to help improve health outcomes.

**21. Eliminate accessibility barriers to public / nonprofit buildings**

Use CDBG funds to make public and nonprofit service providers' buildings more accessible for those with physical disabilities and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**22. Provide safe learning environment in City schools**

Many of the City's public school building are in dire conditions of disrepair. Use CDBG funds for emergency repairs to public school buildings.

**23. Improve physical condition of public service agencies' buildings**

The physical condition of many of the structures which community organizations and social service agencies use are in significant disrepair, have multiple code violations, or have repair needs so extreme that portions of the building cannot be used. The City will use CDBG funds to improve these facilities.

**24. Street, sidewalk, and crosswalk improvements**

The infrastructure of the City in many neighborhoods is in significant disrepair, decayed, and unsafe. Sidewalks are often trip hazards and road conditions damage vehicles. CDBG funds will be used to improve the physical condition of the City's streets and sidewalks.

**25. Make the City more accessible for persons with disabilities**

CDBG funds will be used for various public infrastructure and accessibility improvements to ensure that those with physical disabilities are able to navigate the City safely.

**26. Create more pedestrian and bicycle friendly neighborhoods**

The infrastructure of the City in many neighborhoods is unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. CDBG funds will be used to improve the physical condition of the City's streets and sidewalks, and create more options for non-automobile transportation options for convenient access to community destinations and public places, whether walking, bicycling, skateboarding, or taking public transportation.

**27. Increase access to community gardens and urban farming**

The City will support the creation of new and expansion of existing community gardens and urban farms to provide opportunities for healthy eating and income generation for the City's newly arriving immigrant communities.

**28. Improve access to and condition of parks, open space, and sports fields**

Neighborhood parks can promote healthy lifestyles, community engagement and revitalization, economic development, environmental and social health. The City will

support the creation of new and improvement of existing parks, open space, and sports fields.

**29. Improved tree cover and canopy shading**

CDBG funds will be used to increase the number of urban trees throughout the City and the proportion of the City that has canopy shading in order to reduce air pollution, conserve water and reduce soil erosion, provide shaded areas for cooling, and reduce noise pollution.

**30. Provide support for the creation of a streetcar system**

The City will provide support for a streetcar pilot project through a Section 108 loan to pay for costs associated with the engineering, program management, and construction services for the planned streetcar line.

**31. Provide for the basic needs of the City's low-income population**

Through ongoing support of the City's network of Community Centers, CDBG funds will be used to provide for the basic needs of low-income residents.

**32. Provide for the health and wellness needs of low-income and uninsured residents**

With the expansion of health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, more individuals have access to care. However, there are many Providence residents who still do not have health insurance but require primary health care, screening of chronic diseases, and non-acute treatment.

**33. Improve job skills and workforce readiness of City's unemployed workers**

CDBG funds will be used in conjunction with the public workforce system to engage the City's unemployed and underemployed population to build higher level job skills connected to employment opportunities.

**34. Improve literacy and education level of low-skilled adults**

The City is home to a wonderfully diverse population that comes from across the globe; however, the low English literacy skills of newly arriving immigrant needs to be improved to more fully engage them in economic

opportunities. CDBG funds will be used for literacy and adult basic education training as well as GED preparation.

**35. Provide youth enrichment and educational programs**

CDBG funds will be used to provide young people with educational activities and arts and cultural programs that enhance their interest in civic life, create mutually beneficial relationships with peers and adults to promote pro-social behavior, and build their skills and abilities to be better prepared to make a positive impact in the world.

**36. Provide sports and recreational activities for low- and moderate-income persons**

In conjunction with park improvements and/or youth programs, CDBG funds will be used to promote sports and recreational activities for youth and adults throughout the City, including the support of existing sports teams.

**37. Provide services for elderly population**

The City will use CDBG funds to provide low-income and/or disabled seniors with services and programs such as basic needs and food assistance, health and wellness activities, exercise and social activities, medication set up, blood pressure screenings, transportation assistance, and assistance with Medicare and SNAP benefits.

**38. Provide day care services to low and moderate-income households**

CDBG funds will be used to provide child care and day care assistance to low- and moderate-income families and single mothers in order to prepare young children for kindergarten, teach literacy skills, provide a safe early learning environment, and facilitate parents' employment.

**39. Provide public services to persons of color, newly arriving immigrants, and refugees**

CDBG funds will be used to provide culturally and linguistically specific public services to persons of color, immigrants, and refugees.

**40. Increase capacity of local arts organizations and public service agencies**

Use CDBG funds to assist local arts organizations and public service agencies that primarily serve low- and moderate-



income people by providing targeted technical assistance to build capacity and better serve their respective communities.

**41. Provide reentry services for those exiting the criminal justice system**

CDBG funds will be used to engage those being released from prison to reduce recidivism.

**42. Facilitate small business development and growth, including nonprofit social enterprises**

As economic development and the creation of new jobs is one of the most efficient and effective ways to reduce poverty and minimize related social issues, CDBG funds will be used to promote the creation of new business enterprises in the City, including the creation of nonprofit social enterprises that would provide new employment opportunities.

**43. Provide access to capital for small businesses**

Small business, particularly businesses owned by people of color and women, often lack the same access to financial services from traditional lending institutions. Due to this, CDBG funds will be used to provide capital access programs for small businesses in the City, either through direct loans, grants, or collateral enhancement.

**44. Increase living wage employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents**

CDBG funds will be used to support the creation of job opportunities that are made available to low- and moderate-income City residents.

**45. Improve the economic condition of low- and moderate-income residents**

CDBG funds will be used to support the creation of job opportunities that are made available to low- and moderate-income City residents.

**46. Revitalize commercial districts in low- and moderate-income areas**

CDBG funds will be used to enhance neighborhood-based commercial corridors and business districts in low- to moderate-income areas of the City.

- 47. Improve physical condition and appearance of commercial façades**  
CDBG funds will be used to provide matching grants for neighborhood-based businesses to improve the appearance of exterior storefronts
- 48. Promote efficiency in community development through research and planning**  
CDBG funds will be used to fund research and planning studies in order to more fully understand the nature and extent of the ecosystem of public service agencies throughout the City as well as conduct a facility audit to better understand the condition of City-owned buildings that house public service agencies.
- 49. Repayment of Section 108 Loan**  
CDBG funds or program income will be used to repay the Section 108 loan taken out in 2010 to provide resources for economic development loans.
- 50. Administer programs**  
CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to administer these respective programs.
- 51. Rapidly award projects and commit funds for program delivery**  
CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to administer these respective programs.
- 52. Monitor all projects, activities, and organizations annually, and conduct proper evaluations of all programs**  
CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to administer these respective programs.
- 53. Meet all timeliness tests**  
CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to administer these respective programs.

**Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)**

The City estimates the following will be provided affordable housing through the allocation of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funding:

- Extremely Low-Income: 150
- Low-Income: 50
- Moderate-Income: 450

Throughout the rest of Consolidated Plan, more specific goals are highlighted. Additionally, in the Action Plan, specific affordable housing projects and activities are identified that will assist extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income households, including the homeless, non-homeless, and special needs populations.

## *SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)*

### **Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)**

The PHA is diligent in complying with the construction and progress of the accessible units schedule through their agreement with HUD as well as associated activities such as the marketing plan, transition plan and maintaining the requests from residents for reasonable accommodations for residents with disabilities.

Disabled residents account for 20% (1,116 residents) of the PHA's population. In Family Development, 13% (610) of residents are disabled, while 47% (506) of the Elderly / Disabled Development residents are disabled. Within the family developments the highest percentage of disabled residents is found in Hartford Park with 17% of the residents being disabled. This is due to the fact that the Hartford Park Tower, an elderly-disabled high-rise, is included in this total. Within the elderly developments, the highest percentage of disabled people lives in Kilmartin Plaza (66%) and Dexter Manor (60%). The smallest concentration of disabled people resides in Dominica Manor with only 17% of the population classified as disabled as this is an elderly only designated building.

On average, the PHA converts three existing units to accessible units annually to meet the VCA and annually makes an average of 10 reasonable accommodations retrofits (accommodations made in units to address resident requests that address their need without reconstructing the entire unit). In the last three years, the PHA received and approved 56 resident requests for reasonable accommodations. The strategy of the PHA is to strive to meet the VCA construction schedule and address the requests that we received from existing and entering residents in order to grow the accessible and retrofitted portfolio in order to increase capacity to serve those moving from the waiting list into PHA properties.

### **Activities to Increase Resident Involvements**

One of the goals of the Providence Housing Authority is to continue to cultivate Resident Advisory Board and Resident Association relations and communication to maintain transparency and provide a forum for valuable resident participation in planning activities guided by PHA goals and objectives. The City plans to support this goal by fully participating in these meetings to better learn about the needs and concerns of residents.

### **Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?**

No.

### **Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation**

Not applicable.

## *SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)*

### **Barriers to Affordable Housing**

As described in MA-40, the following are barriers to affordable housing in the City. Please note there are additional barriers to affordable housing that stem from state level policies. These are fully outlined in the State's Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing report.

1. Fire codes and historic preservation requirements are often identified as contributing to cost increases, development delays and design challenges for affordable housing providers. The State has taken steps to reduce barriers to affordable housing development by revising its building code language regarding housing rehabilitation to allow developers to rehabilitate older buildings without having to meet all currently mandated fire and building safety codes.
2. Due to the limited availability of land in Providence for new residential development, it is important for affordable housing providers to maintain their focus on rehabilitation and infill development. The Rhode Island Housing Land Bank program acquires and retains properties on behalf of nonprofit developers, while they obtain the funds to develop the properties as affordable homes. However, costs incurred by Rhode Island Housing and a 6% holding fee are due upon take out from the Land Bank. These carrying costs raise the costs of affordable housing developments.
3. The City has a dual tier property tax system. For owner-occupied residential property, the tax rate is currently \$19.25 per \$1,000 of value. For non-owner-occupied residential property, the tax rate is currently \$33.10 per \$1,000 of value, approximately 72% higher. For market rate rental housing the property tax burden is merely passed on to tenants. This is seen by many as an additional burden on renters that contributes to an increased affordability concern for low- and moderate-income renters.
4. Participants at the community meetings identified the need for a down payment assistance program to alleviate the burden of new homeownership for many members of the low to moderate income community. Lack of available loan products to assist with the purchase of homes by low- and moderate-income households due to the tightening of credit standards after the foreclosure crisis of 2007.
5. Providence has a large immigrant population whose English language skills may be limited and who may be unfamiliar with formal financial

transactions. This makes them vulnerable to predatory lending practices and exorbitant interest rates that financially burden them. These individuals may also not understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants and/or landlords. Literacy and language barriers can be an impediment to affordable housing, particularly due to the complexity of loan and mortgage documents and lease agreements.

6. Unhealthy and unsafe housing disproportionately affects low income communities and communities of color. Healthy housing is a fair housing issue as it relates to families with children, as children are most likely to suffer irreversible damage as a result of lead-based paint poisoning. However, the protections found in the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (Title 34-18-64) which prevents landlords from evicting or raising the rent on tenants that report code violations to local Departments of Inspections and Standards are not well known or understood. Retaliation against renters who report unsafe or unhealthy housing is still common in Providence.
7. Discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, and insurance of housing is believed to be an ongoing impediment, making it difficult for people of color and immigrants to rent or purchase housing in the areas of their choice in the City. While the collapse of the housing market, the foreclosure crisis, and the recession minimized predatory lending, obtaining a mortgage became more challenging for low- and moderate-income people and families. Neighborhoods in Providence with concentrations of low-income people have higher insurance rates, and property and liability insurance for homeowners or renters is not always available.

### **Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing**

1. With the introduction of ProvSmart, the City's Online Permitting and Plan Review system, builders have an online dashboard where they can track and keep a record of all permits submitted to the City. This has greatly reduced the length of time for the permitting and inspection process. However, the state's fire codes are still far too onerous and unnecessarily burdensome.
2. The Providence Redevelopment Agency is another entity that can land bank property to be developed later. While the PRA will also require repayment of the specific costs incurred, it does not require a 6% holding fee. Additionally, the PRA can leverage the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to provide low cost financing for acquisition and construction costs.

- 3.** The City’s Office of the Tax Assessor offers two programs for low-income households in the City: the Indigent Program and the Tax Freeze Program. The former allows those judged by the assessor unable to pay taxes due to their impoverishment to have their tax burdens reduced (per RIGL 44-3-3(16)), while the latter limits the increase of taxes to 5.5% from year to year for households that makes \$25,000 or less gross annual income per year. There are no targeted tax policies for households making more than \$25,000 annual income. A more diverse set of property tax policies targeted at helping to ease financial constraints of all low-income households could improve access to housing for this segment of the population.
- 4.** The City has partnered with the Housing Network of Rhode Island to provide a down-payment and closing cost assistance program to alleviate the significant upfront cost burden that are difficult for low-income homebuyers to incur when purchasing a new home. Through ongoing conversations with Rhode Island Housing and private lenders, the City is facilitating new loan products that would expand the opportunity of low- and moderate-income households to access homeownership.
- 5.** The City is actively looking for partner organizations that can provide housing counseling in languages other than English. Further, the City has engaged with the Roger William’s University Law Clinic and the Rhode Island Center for Justice to assist with finding support for low-income renters that have been unfairly treated in the access or retention of housing in the City.
- 6.** The DCD is working with Inspections and Standards to develop a process to notify tenants of their rights and will seek assistance from CDCs and community organizations regarding the dissemination of this information.
- 7.** The City will continue with its efforts of affirmative litigation to preserve and expand the rights of the City’s low-income population to access quality affordable housing through nondiscrimination.

## *SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)*

### **Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

There are several agencies that conduct outreach efforts in the City of Providence. In collaboration with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, the City uses its Federal Emergency Shelter Grants to support outreach efforts and case management services to connect the unsheltered homeless population with emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, and the supportive services necessary to maintain their housing. To better manage outreach efforts, the City has insisted that any agency that engages in outreach efforts coordinate those efforts with other agencies to avoid duplication and inefficiency.

As part of the broader efforts to eliminate chronic homelessness, the City supports agencies that engage hard-to-reach street homeless, individuals existing the criminal justice system or aging out of the foster care system, homeless veterans, and individuals with substance abuse or mental health issues. Through the Downtown Safety Outreach Collaboration, chronic homeless individuals are identified in order to provide this information to agencies so that services can be brought to bear to address their individual needs.

Crossroads Rhode Island, as the largest provider of services and housing to the homeless and formerly homeless in the state, are active participants in street outreach. Their outreach workers, two of whom were formerly homeless, work in early morning and evening shifts to engage clients at the places where the homeless congregate such as local parks, soup kitchens, emergency rooms, and drop-in centers. Once the team addresses the immediate safety needs of clients, they are assessed using the Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool (SPDAT) to determine the appropriate level of case management services. Outreach workers assist clients with obtaining documents needed to apply for housing, identifying available housing resources, and referring clients to Rapid Re-Housing or Housing First Case Management services. Until housing is obtained, services will be provided in the community at the locations where clients are staying.

The Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA) has been serving the needs of low-income and homeless people in Providence since 1974. PICA's Homeless Outreach program offers intensive, holistic case management for the most marginalized people in the City: the newly and chronically homeless; prisoners upon re-entry; those in recovery and/or struggling with addictions; and those who suffer from physical and mental illnesses. This outreach program was designed by a formerly homeless person who is now the Outreach Supervisor and is adapted based on the best practices he had experienced while homeless. PICA's SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Access to Recovery) program works with the chronically homeless and disabled individuals to access SSI/SSDI benefits in an expedited manner. Their Downtown Food Pantry is the largest provider of food security in the state,



serving 8,000 people 25 tons of food each month.

Amos House's Project RENEW is an innovative, collaborative project that works comprehensively to reduce prostitution in Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Providence. The target population is homeless females, with the majority of the population falling into the category of women currently engaging in, or at risk to engage in, prostitution. Three women (the outreach worker and two peer outreach workers) conduct outreach in pairs, three times weekly, for 3 to 4 hours each session. The outreach worker, a woman in recovery and formerly involved in the criminal justice system, and peer workers provide outreach services to 100 homeless women per year in the Providence area. The main goal is to support the women in getting off the street and into safe transitional or permanent supportive housing by establishing contact, building trust, and providing referrals for treatment, basic needs, and STD testing. The targeted areas include prostitution hot spots such as Elmwood/Parkis/Broad Street, Valley Street in Olneyville, Smith Street, and other high profile areas throughout the City. In addition to the condom packages that are currently given out, the outreach worker will also give out food gift cards, to try and assist with people's basic needs while talking to them about recovery and connecting them to available resources at Amos House and partner organizations.

### **Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

Crossroads provides a range of housing options, from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing, serving individual adults, couples, seniors, and families. They also operate 24-hour emergency shelters for men, women, families, couples, and members of the LGBT community. Their education and employment assistance programs offer Certified Nursing Assistant and Janitorial training programs, pre-employment training, adult education, and GED preparation. In partnership with the Providence Community Health Centers, the Crossroads health clinic at 160 Broad St. provides access to primary care, behavioral health, and dental services. All clients have access to basic facilities, including showers and laundry, as well as meals, clothing, transportation, toiletries, and other daily essentials. Case Advocates work closely with clients to create a plan for ending homelessness and connect clients with additional programs and services to assist them in ending their homelessness.

Amos House provides a clean and sober recovery-based 90-180 day shelter program in South Providence, helping (at any one point in time) 20 men and 15 women. Program clients receive comprehensive services including psychiatric assessment; intensive case management; on-site medical care by a volunteer MD twice per month; on-site legal consultation services through an affiliation with the Homeless Legal Clinic; intensive group work in the areas of independent living skills, recovery, relapse prevention, communication, anger management and parenting; comprehensive literacy training; and access to Amos House's culinary or carpentry training programs. Specialized financial services and supports are provided through the Financial Opportunity Center and all clients are required to attend work readiness sessions and to meet with employment specialists to help with finding

employment.

The House of Hope CDC operates their Operation First Step program in Providence, providing short-term shelter and intensive case management supports to stabilize clients, address barriers to permanent housing, and begin treating any trauma issues that resulted in the clients' homelessness. The holistic services provided include a Housing Goal Plan, housing search assistance, access to mainstream resources such as SNAP and SSI/SSDI, mental health counseling, employment training and job search assistance, life skills programs, Victim of Crime services, and other services. The target population for this program is unaccompanied adult homeless men, particularly those who have experienced chronic or long-term homelessness and have several barriers to housing such as disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse histories, and/or involvement with the criminal justice system.

McAuley House offers breakfast and lunch every weekday and one Saturday per month; rental voucher assistance to pay a portion of a guest's rent in times of financial difficulty; prescription assistance for those without medical coverage; budgetary assistance for guests receiving disability payments but are unable to manage their own finances; transportation assistance for homeless individuals to get to meal sites, shelters, and medical appointments; and counseling and crisis intervention.

McAuley Village is a two-year transitional housing program that assists low-income single parent families, the homeless or those threatened with homelessness to gain economic stability. They have one, two and three bedroom, fully-applianced apartments, and daily 24-hour security guards with security cameras and monitors that are currently serving 23 families. While families live at McAuley Village, they are required to participate in a case management plan under the supervision of a Resident Service Coordinator and they must utilize supportive services, including housing advocate, financial counselors, youth enrichment programs, mentorship and professional guidance, literacy and GED prep programs, and childcare support.

Nickerson Community Center's Gateway to Independence and Gateway II programs provide homeless veterans housing for up to two years along with access to case management services, health services and substance abuse intervention, PTSD counseling and mental health services, assistance with benefits and legal services, and basic level skills training. All residents of the Gateway program must enroll in a training program, pursue higher education, or secure employment. Once the program is successfully completed, veterans either move into a semi-independent housing program or live in one of Nickerson's permanent housing rental units.

OpenDoors operates a program called 9 Yards, a prisoner reentry program that works with clients recently released from prison to ultimately place them into permanent employment and housing. In the first phase of the program, clients participate in 7 months of classes while in prison. These classes include college education, cognitive self-change,

and vocational training. If they pass an initial screening test, they are moved into a second phase of the program after their release. Phase 2 includes subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment, employment placement, and case management services. This model helps successfully transition clients who would otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) operates and provides supportive services for 59 units of permanent supportive housing for low-income disabled veterans and their families, with 20 of these units located in the City of Providence. OSD's Veteran Case Manager conducts outreach in the City's shelters, food pantries, the VA Medical Center and other locations where homeless and at-risk veterans gather. Once identified as a veteran in need, the Veteran Case Manager will determine eligibility for OSDRI's \$1 million Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant which provides for temporary financial assistance in the form of security deposits, up to 6 months of temporary rental payments or rent arrearages, moving costs, and childcare. When stable housing has been achieved the case manager coordinates employment training and placement through the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program and assist veterans in applying for service connected disability benefits and other social services.

The Providence In-town Churches Association (PICA) offers intensive, holistic case management for the most marginalized people in the City: the newly and chronically homeless; prisoners upon re-entry; those in recovery and/or struggling with addictions; and those who suffer from physical and mental illnesses. PICA's SOAR program (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Access to Recovery) works with chronically homeless, disabled individuals to access SSI/SSDI benefits in an expedited manner. Their Downtown Food Pantry is the largest provider of food security in the state, serving 8,000 people 25 tons of food each month, including home delivery to over 300 elderly and disabled shut-ins each month.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.**

There are 1,702 permanent housing beds available in the state as of February 2015. Through intense case management and comprehensive housing placement strategies, the system of homeless providers focuses on transitioning families and individuals into stable housing as quickly as possible. Opening Doors Rhode Island, the state's strategic plan to end chronic and veteran homelessness, calls for "the continued expansion of permanent supportive housing units to serve chronically homeless persons. It will also call for an examination of the use of shelter and transitional housing services. To the maximum extent possible, shelter services for families will be supplanted by diversion from shelter through

rapid rehousing. Transitional programs will be evaluated to assure that they are achieving outcomes in ending homelessness and effectively serving those in transition.”

To bolster state efforts to end homelessness, the City places a priority on rapid rehousing services that quickly move individuals and families who are currently homeless or at-risk of homelessness into permanent supportive housing. By identifying housing, providing resources for rent and move-in assistance, and contextualized case management and housing maintenance services, the City helps individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing.

In addition to supporting the outreach and case management services listed above with ESG funds, the City facilitates the placement of individuals and families into subsidized rental units through partnerships with homeless agencies. By providing ESG-funded tenant based rental assistance, previously homeless individuals and families begin transitioning to permanent housing. Further, the city promotes the new construction or rehabilitation of rental units for extremely low-income persons through the provision of HOME funds.

**Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs**

Through the case management services funded by the City’s allocation of ESG funds, many of these prevention services are supported. However, the State of Rhode Island’s DCFY system does not provide the necessary services to youth who are about to exit the foster care system to live independently. Often times, these individuals fall into homelessness or are in precarious situations and are at imminent risk of homelessness. Similarly, for those exiting the criminal justice system, many are at-risk of homelessness.

Unfortunately, the State’s DCYF system is difficult to engage. Nationally, over 24% of former foster children who “age out” of the system report being homeless, 47% report being unemployed one year after aging out, and a quarter of former foster youth will be incarcerated within the first 2 years after aging out of foster care. To address the potential homelessness of foster youth, Adoption Rhode Island, in partnership with Family Service of RI, Lucy’s Hearth, and House of Hope Community Development Corporation has developed the Bridges to Hope Project, a collaboration to help disconnected youth who are at risk of aging out of the foster care system without permanency or who have aged out. This collaboration will continue to formalize working relationships between these organizations to provide comprehensive and outcomes-oriented services for youth who are or have been involved in the child welfare system who are facing barriers to stability as young adults. This collaboration will explore best practice models to streamline services in order to prepare youth in foster care for adulthood by providing opportunities for educational achievement and job readiness and to provide comprehensive housing stabilization

services coupled with permanent supportive housing for young adults who have exited the child welfare system and require assistance in order to maintain housing, self-sufficiency, and improved quality of life.

OpenDoors operates a program called 9 Yards, a prisoner reentry program that works with clients recently released from prison to ultimately place them into permanent employment and housing. In the first phase of the program, clients participate in 7 months of classes while in prison. These classes include college education, cognitive self-change, and vocational training. If they pass an initial screening test, they are moved into a second phase of the program after their release. Phase 2 includes subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment, employment placement, and case management services. This model helps successfully transition clients who would otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

## *SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)*

### **Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards**

The City of Providence, through its Division of Community Development (DCD), has developed a comprehensive and cohesive Lead Safe Providence Program (LSPP) to coordinate lead hazard reduction with existing housing programs to integrate HUD funded lead poisoning prevention and “Healthy Homes” interventions. The DCD has experience in successfully operating its current grant and 6 prior HUD Lead Hazard Control Grants (Since 1999: RILHB0490-10, RILHD0190-08, RILHB0402-08, RILHD0033-04, RILHB0227-02, RILHR0123-98, RILHH0071-99). The current LSPP will produce 250 lead safe, healthy, and energy efficient units in the LSPP’s citywide target area where homes are made lead safe and home-based environmental health hazards and energy costs are reduced. The LSPP will provide matching funds of \$978,812 and \$234,050 in leveraged funds from its public, private, and community-based partners for a total project investment of \$5,112,862 over 36 months.

Using the experience gained from successfully managing its previous and existing HUD Lead Grant Programs, the Lead Safe Providence Program will utilize a dynamic program to:

- Perform lead hazard reduction (interim controls) interventions in 250 homes;
- Provide 280 free lead inspections/risk assessments for owners to identify lead hazards;
- Complete 200 Healthy Homes interventions in Program units;
- Complete leverage funded Weatherization interventions in at least 50 Program units;
- Conduct 125 outreach and education events that support the goal of reaching 5000 residents, health care providers, community organizations, FBOs, property owners, realtors and contractors;
- Provide job training and increased contractor capacity by providing Free Lead Worker trainings and certifications as well as Green & Healthy Homes jobs training for 75 residents;
- Establish a LSPP HEPA-Vacuum Loan Program;
- Support an existing Lead Safe Housing Registry of available healthy/lead certified rental properties to distribute regularly to community residents who are seeking safer housing;

- Utilize the HUD Healthy Homes Rating System (HHRS) and tablet computer for efficient field assessments and Scope of Work development for Healthy Homes interventions;
- Expand the integrated Green & Healthy Housing Initiative Providence model to produce comprehensive interventions and create more sustainable units.

### **How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?**

Living in neighborhoods of deteriorating and aging housing stock, hundreds of Providence’s children suffer needlessly each year from lead poisoning and preventable housing-based illnesses and injury which affect their well-being, education potential, and life prospects. Low income families are at risk for eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness and often lack the resources, income, support systems and connections needed to ensure safe and stable housing. Low-income communities of color also remain chronically unemployed or underemployed without the job skills or accreditations required to compete in the local economy. With HUD Lead and Healthy Homes Supplemental funding and other leveraged funding, the Lead Safe Providence Program will reduce lead and other home-based environmental hazards (asthma triggers, slip and fall hazards, mold and moisture, poor indoor air quality, pests, and fire, carbon monoxide, and other safety hazards) to reduce lead poisoning, asthma episodes, household injury, and address other hazards identified by lead risk and HUD Healthy Homes Rating System assessments. By reducing home-based health hazards and reducing energy consumption and energy costs, the LSPP will increase housing affordability by reducing financial burdens on families, increasing wealth retention, spurring economic development through increased property values, and stabilizing neighborhoods. Through free Lead Worker training and workforce development for 75 community residents and contractors, the Program will provide increased economic opportunities and earning capacity for Section 3 residents and increased lead contractor capacity for the City of Providence

### **How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?**

The Lead Safe Providence Program will implement a comprehensive and sustainable lead and Green and Healthy Homes assessment, intervention and education services that will leverage investments in weatherization and rehabilitation in low-income housing located within the City of Providence. In 2010, the City was one of the first sites in the country to effectively implement the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative. Also known as GHHI, the program model is effectively designed to streamline multiple housing rehab programs that address health, safety, lead hazard reduction, energy efficiency, and weatherization into a comprehensive “whole house” approach to better serve low and moderate income

populations at the local level. For applicant families residing in Providence, the LSPP will align, braid and coordinate HUD's Lead and Healthy Homes resources with weatherization and rehabilitation interventions managed by the local Community Action Agency to implement an efficient streamlined Green & Healthy Homes housing intervention approach that will produce integrated, cost effective housing service delivery for families. The Lead Safe Providence Program will bring together a diverse partnership of lead hazard reduction, Healthy Homes, and weatherization organizations to support a single portal intake process for applicants, a comprehensive assessment model, and the creation of an integrated housing intervention strategy that can serve as an innovative model to inform the national work of HUD OHHLHC, DOE WAP and other statewide initiatives.

Partners in the program include among others: Office of the Mayor, RI Department of Health (DOH), RI Office of Housing & Community Development (RI-OHCD)/ RI Housing Resources Commission (HRC), City of Providence Lead Housing Court, City of Providence Department of Inspections and Standards, RI Weatherization Assistance Program/Low Income Heating Assistance Program (WAP/ LIHEAP), National Grid, Community Action Partnership of Providence (CAPP), Saint Joseph Hospital Health Center, Childhood Lead Action Project (CLAP), Community College of Rhode Island, and the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. Relying on executed partner MOUs to further support the work of the Lead Safe Providence Program, the City will build upon its standing partnerships with agencies that agree to a set of core standards, principles and practices including a single portal intake and application process, comprehensive lead and Healthy Homes assessment process; a coordinated intervention approach to address energy, health and safety issues in the home; and a collaborative and integrated inter-agency housing intervention approach to cost effectively braid multiple funding sources. By implementing the comprehensive GHHI approach through its Lead Safe Providence Program, the City will align resources to produce healthier and more sustainable housing, higher quality green jobs for community residents directly hired and trained for the LSPP's contracting work or other employment opportunities, and utilize a more efficient use of government and private investments in housing.



## *SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)*

### **Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families**

Any anti-poverty strategy must be rooted in the market dynamics of the City, State, and Region's economy. Leveraging these market opportunities, and being intentional in connecting low- and moderate-income residents to these opportunities, will be the only way to successfully improve the economic conditions of low- and moderate-income individuals and families, the unemployed, or those living in poverty. The following are a select set of strategies that the City has used and will continue to use to lift people out of poverty. It should be recognized, however, that the economy is dynamic and constantly changing. As such, the City can and will be responsive to these economic changes and will use new tools, policies, and programs whenever appropriate. The following should not be viewed as an all-inclusive or static list of strategies.

- **Adult Basic Education, Literacy, and GED Training:** Working with community partners, the City will engage low-literacy adults and newly arriving immigrant in English language programs to ensure they have the language skills to be full participants in the local and regional economy.
- **Job Training and Skill Development:** Through workforce training partners, and in coordination with the public workforce system, the City will bolster workforce development efforts to build the specific job skills that will be required for high-wage, family-sustaining employment.
- **First Source Providence:** The City requires certain businesses that receive special tax considerations, grants-in-aid and/or are engaged in City construction projects to enter into an agreement with the City to hire Providence residents. First Source acts as an intermediary between employers covered by First Source and unemployed Providence residents and assists Providence residents in connecting to job openings made available by First Source employers.
- **Youth Training and Summer Youth Employment:** Every summer, the City of Providence, in collaboration with the Governor's Workforce Board Job Development Fund and the State Department of Human Services, offers summer employment to help teenagers and young adults develop jobs skills, learn positive work habits, and stay engaged in the community. These Providence youth work as seasonal employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or are employed by one of the many employer partners including AS220, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence, Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island, the Institute for the Study & Practice of Non-Violence, Rhode Island

Hospital/Lifespan, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Young Voices, or Youth in Action.

- **Increase Access to Work Supports:** The City will help promote Providence residents signing up for work support programs, such as child care subsidies, RIte Care health insurance, SNAP benefits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and RI Works through partnerships with community centers and public service organizations. Increased work supports help low-wage families meet their basic needs and move toward financial security.
- **Support for New and Existing Businesses:** The City has previously partnered with the Small Business Administration to develop programming for business support. Expanding upon that relationship and creating new partnerships with Social Enterprise Greenhouse, the Rhode Island Black Business Association, Roger Williams University, and other partner organizations, the City will enhance the capacity of local businesses, provide access to startup or growth capital, prepare them for growth, and facilitate the employment of City residents in newly created employment opportunities.
- **Expand Procurement Opportunities for Businesses Owned by Persons of Color and Women:** In order to support to the fullest extent possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities or women, the City has a mandate that all requests for procurement shall be inclusive of M/WBEs, and that the City shall strive to achieve at least 10% procurement from MBEs and 10% procurement from WBEs. By increasing the availability of City contracts to these businesses, greater revenues will flow to local businesses owners, facilitating greater local economic growth and more local employment.
- **Financial Literacy and Economic Empowerment:** The City supported the establishment and growth of Financial Opportunity Centers, career and personal financial service centers that focus on skills training and career coaching; financial coaching and education; and assistance accessing public benefits. These Centers operate on the premise that clients who receive mutually supportive services simultaneously are more likely to achieve economic stability, because services reinforce and build on each other.
- **Expand Business at the Port of Providence:** The City seeks to appoint a task force of stakeholders to identify any obstacles that prevent business from increasing their revenues. Further, the City will obtain and review the current economic development impact and feasibility studies to better understand opportunities and known constraints to the expansion of business at the Port of Providence.

**How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan**

Many of the Community Development Corporations in the City have internal policies that engage local, neighborhood-based contractors and workers for the development of affordable housing projects. The City is fully supportive of this effort.

## *SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230*

### **Describe the standards and procedures that the jurisdiction will use to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and will use to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements**

The City of Providence, Division of Community Development (DCD), takes a broad view of subrecipient management, monitoring, and compliance. The City has historically used a solicitation of applications approach for its Entitlement Community programs. By asking local community organization to apply for CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funding, the City receives between 125 and 150 applications. This approach allows for new ideas to be submitted which respond to community needs.

The DCD follows a four step subrecipient management process, detailed as follows:

- The DCD reviews proposals, assesses the quality of the projects, the eligibility of activities, and the capacity of organizations to carry out activities.
- The DCD enters into subrecipient agreements that details the activities required, the project timeline and milestones, and the required documentation of performance.
- Any necessary training and technical assistance is provided to the subrecipient in order to ensure they fully understand the compliance documentation required for Federal grants.

DCD staff next tracks program progress to ensure that subrecipients are meeting performance goals and program compliance. Senior Compliance staff utilizes both “desk monitoring” and “internal/on-site” monitoring to assess the quality of program performance over the duration of the agreement or contract.

Monitoring focuses on the programmatic, financial, and regulatory performance of the subrecipients. In conducting a monitoring review, staff primarily relies on information obtained from the subrecipient’s performance reports, records, audits, allowed cost, review of financial reports, eligibility and number of beneficiaries served, compliance with federal regulations and City program requirements. DCD staff may also consider relevant information pertaining to a recipient’s performance gained from other sources including litigation, citizen comments, news reports, and other information provided by or concerning the subrecipient.

# First Year Action Plan

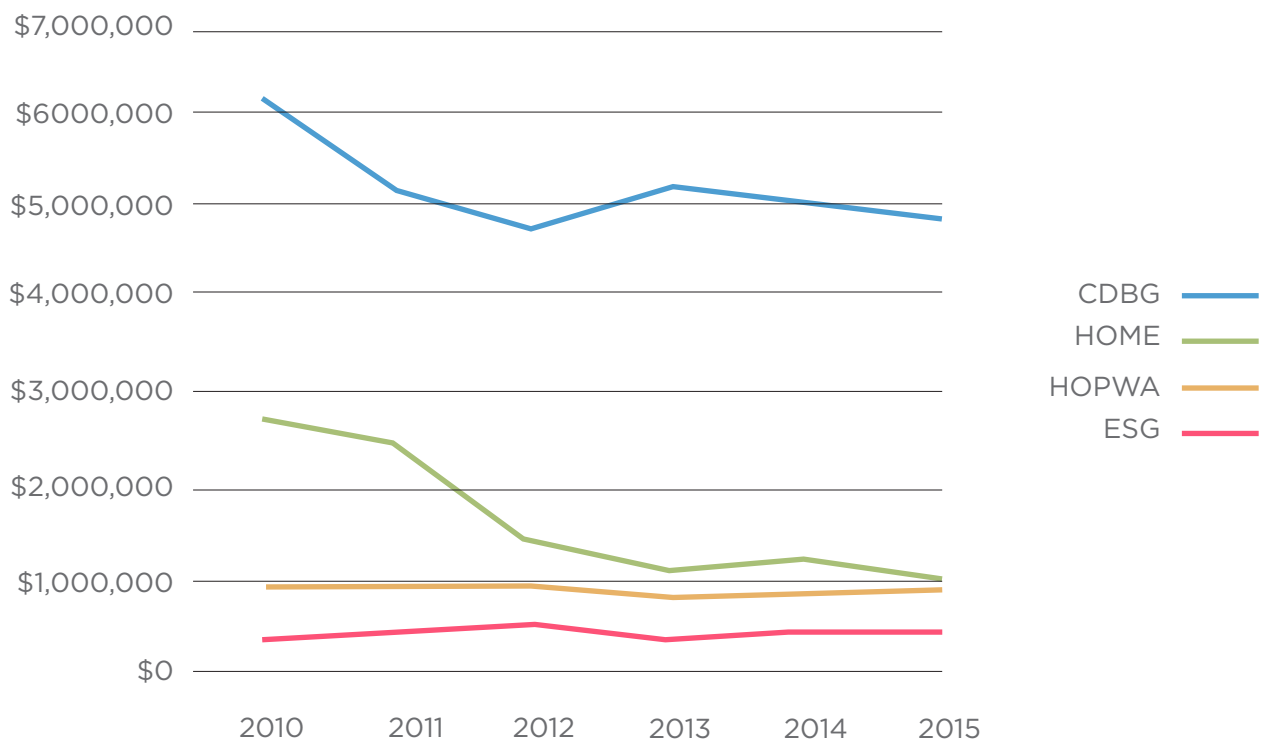
*AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.220(c)(1,2)*

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## Introduction

It is challenging to anticipate future Federal resources based on Congressional appropriations. Predicting the level of resources and basing levels of accomplishment on the expenditure of these unknown Federal monies is not the most judicious approach. Congress may reduce its appropriation to HUD in any one or every one of the program years covered by this Consolidated Plan. Over the last several years, partisan politics and political dysfunction have been the norm at the Federal level. This has all but paralyzed Congress from taking any but the most routine actions. As a result, the City's projected goals described in section SP-45: Goals Summary may not be totally accomplished. Further, while the City has made substantial progress in addressing community needs, the sheer magnitude of these problems makes it unlikely that existing needs will be totally remedied without a substantial increase in the Federal government's commitment.

## Providence Formula Allocations, 2010-2015



Based on previous annual allocations and assumptions on future allocations, the City of Providence has estimated its five year Anticipated Resources projections as follows:

**CDBG:** The City has seen an average annual reduction in CDBG funding of 1.22% between 2011 and 2015. It is expected that the City will see further reductions in CDBG of between 1% and 2% per year during the 2015 to 2019 program years. Using the same 1.22% reduction, the City estimates that CDBG funding will decrease from \$4.89 million in 2015 to \$4.66 million in 2019, totaling \$23.87 million for the 2015-2019 program years. Added to this would be future program income from an existing Section 108 economic development loan. We estimate that approximately \$2.5 million in program income over the next 5 years will be available. Annually, 15% of this program income is used to increase the level of public service programs the City is able to fund. We can estimate approximately \$85,000 annually can supplement public service programs through this portion of program income.

**HOME:** The City's FY 2015 HOME funding is the final year (of three) of a voluntary grant reduction to rectify previous ineligible and unsupported expenditures. This VGR has reduced the City's HOME allocation by \$239,856.55 annually over the last three years which has only exacerbated a severe reduction in HOME funding to the City. Excluding the VGR, the City saw a 55% reduction of HOME funds from 2010 to 2015, dropping from \$2.69 million in 2010 to \$1.22 million in 2015 (less the VGR). Since 2012, the City has seen an average annual reduction of its HOME allocation of 3.5%. The City is estimating that further reductions in HOME funding will continue at the rate of 3% to 5% per year; however, with the fulfillment of its VGR obligation the City will be able to allocate additional HOME funds to projects than it has been able to in previous years. The City estimates that HOME funding will change from \$1.22 million in 2015 (less the VGR) to \$1.05 million in 2019, totaling \$5.43 million for the 2015-2019 program years.

**HOPWA:** The City's HOPWA funding has been relatively stable since 2010, averaging \$865 thousand annually. The City expects funding to remain stable for the five years of the Consolidated Plan, totaling \$4.33 million for the 2015-2019 program years.

**ESG:** The City's ESG funding had been consistently funded at approximately \$250,000 for most of the decade between 2000 and 2010. Since the passage of the Hearth Act, the City's ESG funding grew considerably, but has varied greatly and unpredictably between 2011 and 2015. As such, the City has averaged the past five years of funding to estimate its future allocations. The City anticipates receiving \$2.08 million for the 2015-2019 program years.

**Lead Grant:** The City received a \$3.9 million, three-year grant from the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. Work began at the beginning of 2015 and will continue until the end of 2017. The goal is to eradicate lead in up to 250 homes in the City.

## Anticipated Resources

**Program: CDBG**

**Source of Funds:** public - federal

**Uses of Funds** Acquisition  
Admin and Planning  
Economic Development  
Housing  
Public Improvements  
Public Services

**Expected Amount Available Year 1** **Annual Allocation:** \$4,892,198  
**Program Income:** \$700,000  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$9,754,269  
**Total:** \$15,346,467

**Expected Amount Available  
Reminder of ConPlan** \$20,797,548

**Narrative Description** The City will undertake activities and projects using CDBG funds including housing development and rehabilitation, facilities improvements, public infrastructure improvements, economic development, public services, planning and administration, and Section 108 repayment. Prior year resources accounts for a \$6.4 million reallocation of a \$10 million Section 108 loan that the City received in 2010.

**Program: HOME**

**Source of Funds:** public - federal

**Uses of Funds** Acquisition  
Homebuyer assistance  
Homeowner rehab  
Multifamily rental new construction  
Multifamily rental rehab  
New construction for ownership  
TBRA

**Expected Amount Available Year 1**    **Annual Allocation:** \$975,686  
**Program Income:** \$0  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$3,295,473  
**Total:** \$4,271,159

**Expected Amount Available  
Reminder of ConPlan**    \$4,450,265

**Narrative Description**    The City will undertake activities and projects using HOME funds including new housing development, rehabilitation of existing units, and homebuyer assistance programs

**Program:**    **HOPWA**

**Source of Funds:**    public - federal

**Uses of Funds**    Permanent housing in facilities  
Permanent housing placement  
Short term or transitional housing facilities  
STRMU  
Supportive services  
TBRA

**Expected Amount Available Year 1**    **Annual Allocation:** \$ 869,967  
**Program Income:** \$0  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$0  
**Total:** \$ 869,967

**Expected Amount Available  
Reminder of ConPlan**    \$3,461,508

**Narrative Description**    The City will undertake activities and projects using HOPWA funds including acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; short-term payments to prevent homelessness; and case management services for those living with HIV/AIDS

**Program:**    **ESG**

**Source of Funds:**    public - federal

**Uses of Funds**    Conversion and rehab for transitional housing  
Financial Assistance



Overnight shelter  
 Rapid re-housing (rental assistance)  
 Rental Assistance  
 Services  
 Transitional housing

**Expected Amount Available Year 1**    **Annual Allocation:** \$448,242  
**Program Income:** \$0  
**Prior Year Resources:** \$0  
**Total:** \$448,242

**Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan**    \$1,636,484

**Narrative Description**    The City will undertake activities and projects using ESG funds including shelter operations, transitional housing, rapid rehousing assistance, and supportive services for the homeless

Table 73 - Expected Resources - Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied  
 The City’s HOME program requires recipient organizations to contribute at least 25 percent of the value of the HOME award as a contribution match as a condition of the award in order to satisfy HUD regulations without financial impact to the City. In previous years, the State had additional affordable housing funds through the Building Homes Rhode Island program. While this funding has since been exhausted, it is possible that another round of funding could be made available through another affordable housing bond initiative. The City is a partner in the Consolidated Homeless Funds CHF Partnership which oversees a variety of homeless service funding grants including:

- City of Pawtucket ESG
- City of Providence ESG
- City of Woonsocket ESG
- State of Rhode Island ESG
- State of Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission Homeless Funds

- Social Service Block Grant Funds (from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services)

Due to this unique collaboration, the CHF Partnership is able to provide 100% matching funds without transferring the match responsibility to ESG subrecipients. The CHF Partnership uses the rules, regulations, and policies in the ESG regulations as the basis of the program design for all CHF programs (even those that are not directly funded under ESG).

All activities that are funded under the ESG match allocations will be in accordance with the Interim Rule's new requirements and regulations (and will be monitored by the CHF Partnership as such). Only activities eligible under and in compliance with the ESG Interim rule will receive the match resources listed above.

**If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan**

The City is developing a program called "Every Block" which seeks to transition privately-owned vacant and abandoned property and lots, City-owned lots, PRA-owned property, and tax reverted property back to productive use. A myriad of strategies are being developed to facilitate program goals based on the particular circumstances of the property or lot, and the available stakeholder partners. The use of CDBG funds for eligible activities when appropriate will be one of the tools used for this program; however, the specific nature and extent of the investment(s) is still to be determined.

**Discussion**

In addition to these annual allocations, the City of Providence is focused on identifying new funding opportunities to support City goals. Through the Department of Planning and Development, the Division of Community Development has been working with community organizations, Federal and State officials, and not-for-profit and corporate foundations to identify additional resources to support City priorities, including those detailed in the Consolidated Plan. Similarly, through the Law Department's affirmative litigation, and through conversations with Rhode Island Housing and private financial institutions, additional private resources are being identified to meet the community development and housing needs of residents of the City of Providence in parallel and occasionally in combination with Federal funds.

## *AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives*

### **Goals Summary Information**

## **1. Increase Availability of Affordable Housing 2015 - 2019**

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire	CDBG: \$52,982
Homeless	City Geographic Area	HOME: \$4,173,590
Non-Homeless Special Needs		

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Rental units constructed: 10 Household Housing Unit

Rental units rehabilitated: 13 Household Housing Unit

Homeowner Housing Added: 4 Household Housing Unit

## **2. Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units 2015 - 2019**

Needs Addressed: Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire	CDBG: \$200,000
Public Housing	City Geographic Area	
Private Housing		

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Rental units rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit

Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 6 Household Housing Unit

### 3. Eliminate Blighted Property 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed:

Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
Slum/Blight Clearance

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide -	CDBG: \$60,000
Non-Housing Community Development	Entire City Geographic Area	
Private Housing		

#### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Buildings Demolished: 3 Buildings

### 4. Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing  
Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide -	CDBG: \$100,000
Public Housing	Entire City Geographic Area	
Private Housing		

#### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 7 Household Housing Unit

### 5. Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing, Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
Slum/Blight Clearance

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Community Wide -	CDBG: \$2,181,000
	Entire City Geographic Area	

#### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Rental units rehabilitated: 7 Household Housing Unit  
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 9 Household Housing Unit

## 6. Reduce Homelessness 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Housing and Supportive Services for PLWHA

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Homeless	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	ESG: \$414,624

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 825 Persons

Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 100 Persons Assisted

Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 6 Beds

Homelessness Prevention: 215 Persons Assisted

## 7. Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Affordable Housing, Housing and Supportive Services for PLWHA

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Affordable Housing	Providence - Fall River -	HOPWA: \$843,868
Homeless	New Bedford EMSA	
Non-Homeless Special Needs		

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added: 60 Household Housing Unit

HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 171 Household Housing Unit

## 8. Eliminate Accessibility Barriers 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements  
Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$213,188

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 95 Persons Assisted

## 9. Provide Safe Learning Environment in City Schools 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$646,394

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 4955 Persons Assisted

## 10. Improve Condition of Public Service Facilities 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$805,999

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 8000 Persons Assisted

## 11. Improve Street, Sidewalk and Public Infrastructure 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Facilities Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$4,807,989

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 30000 Persons Assisted

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 60 Households Assisted

## 12. Increase Access to Community Gardens / Urban Farms 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements  
Economic Development  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development Economic Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$125,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 70 Persons Assisted  
Businesses assisted: 3 Businesses Assisted

## 13. Improve Parks, Open Space, and Sports Fields 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$1,515,627

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing  
Benefit: 57000 Persons Assisted

## 14. Support Creation of a Streetcar System 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements  
Economic Development

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$2,000,000

**Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 8500 Persons Assisted

## 15. Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$22,500

**Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2500 Persons Assisted

## 16. Provide Healthcare for LMI Persons 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$122,500

**Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 12500 Households Assisted



## 17. Increase Workforce Readiness and Job Skills 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$67,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
250 Persons Assisted

## 18. Provide Youth Enrichment and Educational Programs 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$132,722

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
2060 Persons Assisted

## 19. Provide Sports and Recreational Activities 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$22,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
20 Persons Assisted

## 20. Provide Services for the Elderly 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$25,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
150 Persons Assisted

## 21. Provide Day Care Services to LMI Persons 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$112,938

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
385 Persons Assisted

## 22. Provide Services for Victims of Domestic Violence 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Homeless Special Needs	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$22,500

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:  
175 Persons Assisted

## 23. Reintegrate the Formerly Incarcerated 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Public Services

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	ESG: \$25,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Homelessness Prevention: 24 Persons Assisted

## 24. Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Economic Development  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$1,700,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Jobs created/retained: 20 Jobs  
Businesses assisted: 75 Businesses Assisted

## 25. Revitalize Commercial Districts in LMI Areas 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Economic Development  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	CDBG: \$250,000

### **Goal Outcome Indicator**

Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 12 Business

## 26. Promote Efficiency through Research and Planning 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Planning

### Category

Non-Housing Community  
Development

### Geographic Area

Community Wide -  
Entire City Geographic  
Area

### Funding

CDBG: \$325,000

### Goal Outcome Indicator

Other: 2 Other

## 27. Repay Section 108 Loan 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Repayment of Section 108 Loan  
Program Administration

### Category

Administration

### Geographic Area

Community Wide -  
Entire City Geographic  
Area

### Funding

CDBG: \$170,000

### Goal Outcome Indicator

Other: 1 Other

## 28. Effectively Administer Programs 2015 - 2019

Needs Addressed: Planning, Repayment of Section 108 Loan, Program Administration

### Category

Administration

### Geographic Area

Community Wide -  
Entire City Geographic  
Area

### Funding

CDBG: \$978,440  
HOPWA: \$26,099  
HOME: \$97,569  
ESG: \$33,618

### Goal Outcome Indicator

Other: 1 Other

Table 74 - Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

### 1. Increase Availability of Affordable Housing

Through new construction, conversion, and/or rehabilitation of existing units, the City will use HOME and CDBG funds to increase the supply of affordable homeownership and rental housing units for City residents and households earned up to 80% of the area median income, including units with supportive services for extremely low-income and/or special needs populations.

### 2. Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units

The lack of maintenance of the City's housing stock makes many housing units in need of repair and rehabilitation. The City will use Federal funds to offer grants and/or loans to qualifying homeowners and tenants to rehabilitate property. Taking a blended "whole house" approach, these funds will be aligned with the City's lead grant and other programs available in the City to holistically address lead, health and safety, code violations, energy efficiency, historic preservation, and quality of life issues in the property.

### 3. Eliminate Blighted Property

Many houses throughout the City are substandard and blighted. For those that are beyond rehabilitation, the City will use Federal funds to clear blight and prepare lots for new in-fill development.

### 4. Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled

Using Federal funds, the City will offer grants and/or loans to qualifying elderly homeowners and tenants to rehabilitate property to maintain habitability and support independent living for the elderly and/or disabled.

### 5 Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use

There City still lives with the legacy of the foreclosure crisis and there are several hundred houses throughout the City that are vacant and abandoned. Using Federal funds, the City will engage housing developers to conduct rehabilitation of vacant and abandoned homes for affordable homeownership or rental units.

**6. Reduce Homelessness**

In collaboration with the Consolidated Homeless Fund and the state Continuum of Care, the City will use Federal funds to support the elimination of chronic and veteran homelessness through street outreach, funding for emergency shelters, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing assistance.

**7. Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA**

The City will use Federal HOPWA funds to ensure that low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) obtain and maintain stable housing through support for acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; short-term payments to prevent homelessness; and the delivery of support services including (but not limited to) assessment and case management, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, nutritional services, job training and placement assistance, and assistance with daily living.

**8. Eliminate Accessibility Barriers**

The City will use CDBG funds to make public and nonprofit service providers' buildings more accessible for those with physical disabilities and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**9. Provide Safe Learning Environment in City Schools**

Many of the City's public school building are in dire need of substantial disrepair. The City will use CDBG funds for emergency repairs to public school buildings to create safer learning environments for school children.

**10. Improve Condition of Public Service Facilities**

The physical condition of many of the structures which community organizations and social service agencies use are in significant disrepair, have multiple code violations, or have repair needs so extreme that portions of the building cannot be used. The City will use CDBG funds to improve these facilities so that the City's low- and moderate-income population continue to receive services.

**11. Improve Street, Sidewalk and Public Infrastructure**

The infrastructure of the City in many neighborhoods is

in significant disrepair, decayed, and unsafe for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Sidewalks are often trip hazards and road conditions damage vehicles. CDBG funds will be used to improve the physical condition of the City's streets, roads, and sidewalks, and create more options for non-automobile transportation options for convenient access to community destinations and public places, whether walking, bicycling, skateboarding, or taking public transportation. Public infrastructure improvements will include accessibility enhancements to ensure that those with physical disabilities are able to navigate the City safely. Additionally, the City may conduct eligible public infrastructure projects including sewer and water maintenance as needed.

**12. Increase Access to Community Gardens / Urban Farms**

The City will support the creation of new and expansion of existing community gardens and urban farms to provide opportunities for healthy eating and income generation for those wishing to grow and sell food, including the City's newly arriving immigrant communities.

**13. Improve Parks, Open Space, and Sports Fields**

Neighborhood parks can promote healthy lifestyles, community engagement and revitalization, economic development, environmental and social health. The City will support the creation of new and improvement of existing parks, open space, and sports fields. CDBG funds will also be used to increase the number of urban trees throughout the City and increase the proportion of the City that has canopy shading in order to reduce air pollution, conserve water and reduce soil erosion, provide shaded areas for cooling, and reduce noise pollution.

**14. Support Creation of a Streetcar System**

The City will provide support for a streetcar pilot project through a Section 108 loan to pay for costs associated with the engineering, program management, and construction services for the planned streetcar line.

**15. Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons**

Through ongoing support of the City's network of Community Centers, homeless agencies, and other community organizations, Federal funds will be used

to provide for the basic needs of low-income residents including food assistance, clothing, case management services, etc.

**16. Provide Healthcare for LMI Persons**

Provide for the health and wellness needs of low-income and uninsured residents.

**17. Increase Workforce Readiness and Job Skills**

CDBG funds will be used in conjunction with the public workforce system to engage the City's low-skilled, low-literacy, unemployed, and underemployed population to build literacy and higher-level job skills, including adult basic education, GED preparation, workforce readiness training, and job skill development so that LMI residents will be better prepared for employment opportunities.

**18. Provide Youth Enrichment and Educational Programs**

CDBG funds will be used to provide young people with educational activities and arts and cultural programs that enhance their interest in civic life, create mutually beneficial relationships with peers and adults to promote pro-social behavior, and build their skills and abilities to be better prepared to make a positive impact in the world.

**19. Provide Sports and Recreational Activities**

In conjunction with park improvements and/or youth programs, CDBG funds will be used to promote sports and recreational activities for youth and adults throughout the City, including the support of sports teams and leagues.

**20. Provide Services for the Elderly**

The City will use CDBG funds to provide low-income and/or disabled seniors with services and programs such as basic needs and food assistance, health and wellness activities, exercise and social activities, medication set up, blood pressure screenings, transportation assistance, and assistance with Medicare and SNAP benefits.

**21. Provide Day Care Services to LMI Persons**

CDBG funds will be used to provide child care and day care assistance to low- and moderate-income families



and single mothers in order to prepare young children for kindergarten, teach literacy skills, provide a safe early learning environment, and facilitate parents' employment.

**22. Reintegrate the Formerly Incarcerated**

The City will provide funds to engage those being released from prison and provide them with services to reintegrate them into society and to reduce recidivism.

**23. Provide Services for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Provide the support services for victims of domestic violence.

**24. Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth**

As economic development and the creation of new jobs is one of the most efficient and effective ways to reduce poverty and minimize related social issues, CDBG funds will be used to promote the creation of new business enterprises in the City, including the creation of nonprofit social enterprises that would provide new employment opportunities. Further, small business, particularly businesses owned by people of color and women, often lack the same access to financial services from traditional lending institutions. Due to this, CDBG funds will be used to provide capital access programs for small businesses in the City, either through direct loans, grants, or collateral enhancement.

**25. Revitalize Commercial Districts in LMI Areas**

CDBG funds will be used to enhance neighborhood-based commercial corridors, business districts, and storefront façades in low- to moderate-income areas of the City.

**26. Promote Efficiency through Research and Planning**

CDBG funds will be used to fund research and planning studies in order to more fully understand the nature and extent of the ecosystem of public service agencies throughout the City as well as conduct a facility audit to better understand the condition of City-owned buildings that house public service agencies. This data will allow the City to be more proactive in coordinating services among the various agencies and organizations throughout the City.

**27. Repay Section 108 Loan**

CDBG funds and/or program income will be used to repay the Section 108 loan taken out in 2010 to provide resources for economic development loans provided through the Providence Economic Development Partnership.

**28. Effectively Administer Programs**

CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to administer these respective programs; to rapidly award projects and commit funds for programs; to monitor all projects, activities, and organizations annually, and conduct proper evaluations of all programs; and to meet all timeliness standards.

Table 75 - Goals Descriptions

## *AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)*

### **Introduction**

The City of Providence is an entitlement jurisdiction that receives federal funds from U.S. Housing Urban Development to invest in local communities. The funds are provided under CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA entitlement programs. All funds must primarily assist low- to moderate-income individuals, families, and households. The primary objectives of the projects listed below are to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities; reduce homelessness and support the housing and related supportive service needs for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

### **Projects**

<b>#</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
1	CDBG Administration
2	HOME Administration
3	HOPWA-H-15-Administration
4	Emergency Solutions Grant-15 – Administration
5	Housing Program Delivery Funds (Administration)
6	Economic Development Delivery Funds
7	Public Service Community Centers
8	Public Services
9	Economic Development
10	CDBG Housing
11	Affordable Housing - HOME
12	Public Facility Improvements
13	School Improvements
14	Parks, Open Space, Sports and Recreation Improvements
15	Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Infrastructure Improvements
16	Planning
17	Section 108 Loan Repayment

Table 76 – Project Information

## **Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs**

Allocation priorities were based on level of funding, information gleaned from community engagement and citizen participation process, level of need for public services, research and analysis of public data sources, strength of organizations and institutional delivery system, and opportunities to leverage additional non-Federal funds for programmatic goals. While the City would like to allocate additional resources into public service projects, the 15% public service cap inhibits the City from doing so.

The primary obstacle to addressing the priority needs is the 15% cap on public service projects; the vast majority of proposals received by the City fall in this category. Similarly, the City would like to be able to direct more resources to workforce development, literacy, and jobs skills training; however, these types of programs fall within the public services cap. Additionally, the City is still facing a higher than normal foreclosure rate which often results in property abandonment, eventual blight, and costly rehabilitation. The City is perplexed that housing counseling to prevent foreclosure, abandonment, and blight is not an eligible housing activity; rather, it is considered a public service. The value of not subjecting foreclosure prevention counseling to the 15% public service cap would be huge.

When a house falls into foreclosure and abandonment, it is subject to vandalism, materials theft, and rapid decay. This ensures that the rehabilitation cost escalates quickly. Foreclosure prevention programs greatly reduce the number of housing units that fall into vacancy and abandonment, prevent urban decay and blight, and minimized the rehabilitation cost of these properties. The 15% public service cap prevents the City from funding this important program.

The level of need in the City for private housing rehabilitation is much larger than the resources available. The City will work rapidly through its allocation of a home rehabilitation account.

The limited number of parcels for new construction will present a challenge for new affordable rental or homeownership housing construction. Further, the limited availability of parcels suitable for infill development are generally located in low-income neighborhoods throughout the City, exacerbating the challenge of promoting fair housing choice.

## AP-38 Project Summary

### Project Summary Information

## 1. CDBG Administration

#### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

#### Goals Supported

Effectively Administer Programs

#### Needs Addressed

Program Administration

#### Funding

CDBG: \$978,440

#### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

Not applicable

#### Location Description

Not applicable

#### Description

Funds will be used for general Administrative costs associated with the operation of the program

#### Target Date

6/30/2016

#### Planned Activities

Program administration

## 2. HOME Administration

#### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

#### Goals Supported

Effectively Administer Programs

#### Needs Addressed

Program Administration

#### Funding

HOME: \$97,569

#### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

Not applicable

#### Description

Funds will be used for Administrative costs associated with the operating of the HOME program

#### Target Date

6/30/2016

#### Planned Activities

Proper administration of the City's HOME program

**Location Description** Not applicable

### 3. HOPWA-H-15-Administration

#### Target Area

Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA

#### Goals Supported

Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA  
Effectively Administer Programs

#### Needs Addressed

Housing and Supportive Services for PLWHA  
Program Administration

#### Funding

HOPWA: \$869,967

#### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

Target populations are low income individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS and their families, individuals who are homeless/at risk to homelessness and have special needs. These families, youth and individuals, people who inject drugs (PWID), clients with a history of incarceration, and those with mental health related issues are the populations most in need of HIV Housing Assistance and support service.

Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance  
Households = 40 households

Tenant Based Rental Assistance = 41 households  
Supportive Services = 136 households

Sponsor Based Rental Assistance / Shelter Plus Care =  
10 households

#### Location Description

Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance will be provided throughout Bristol County, MA.

Tenant based rental assistance will be provided at scattered site facility-based operations throughout the

#### Description

Funds will be used for the Administrative costs associated with the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program

#### Target Date

6/30/2016

#### Planned Activities

HOPWA program administration  
Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Households = 40 households

Tenant Based Rental Assistance = 41 households

Supportive Services = 136 households

Sponsor Based Rental Assistance / Shelter Plus Care = 10 households

Providence area and Bristol County, MA.  
Sponsor Based Rental Assistance / Shelter Plus Care assistance is provided at scattered sites in Fall River, MA. Supportive services households will be located throughout the entire Metropolitan Statistical Area.

## 4. Emergency Solutions Grant-15 -Administration

### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### Goals Supported

Reduce Homelessness  
Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons  
Reintegrate the Formerly Incarcerated  
Effectively Administer Programs

### Needs Addressed

Homelessness Prevention  
Public Services  
Program Administration

### Funding

ESG: \$448,242

### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

24 formerly incarcerated young adult males will receive essential services to prevent homelessness through the OpenDoors 9 Yards program

Amos House Operation First Step will provide a clean and sober recovery-based 90-180 day shelter program in South Providence, helping (at any one point in time) 20 men and 15 women. At least 50% of the men and women are chronically homeless and over 90% are ex-offenders and suffer from substance abuse and mental illness.

Amos House Project RENEW will provide street outreach, case management, and HIV/Hepatitis C testing for up to 100 homeless women involved in prostitution and other risky behaviors. These women are at greatest risk for domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and other STI's because of their involvement in commercial sex work. Among them, 70% are chronically homeless , 90% are

### Description

Funds will be use for Administrative cost associated with he Emergency Solutions Grant Program

### Target Date

6/30/2016

chronic substance abusers, 25% are victims of domestic violence.

Providence In-town Churches Association will provide essential services to 825 homeless individuals, primarily newly and chronically homeless, people in recovery and suffering from addictions, formerly incarcerated, and/or people with physical and mental illnesses. Crossroads will provide rental assistance to 25 homeless households throughout the City.

### **Location Description**

OpenDoors maintains transitional housing at 700 Plainfield Street in Providence. 9 Yards will offer essential services to prevent homelessness to 24 formerly incarcerated young adult males who are at risk of homelessness.

Amos House operates their program from 415 Friendship St. Providence, RI 02907; however, they are currently in construction of a new and larger facility that will likely be operational in 2016.

Amos House will also be providing street outreach at prostitution hot spots throughout the City such as Elmwood/Parkis/Broad Street, Valley Street in Olneyville, Smith Street, and other high profile areas. Providence In-town Churches Association operates their Downtown Food Pantry, Homeless Outreach, and SSI/SSDI Outreach and Recovery at their 15 Hayes Street (in the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church). Their Friday night Meal Site is housed at the Mathewson St. United Methodist Church at 134 Mathewson Street. Both are in the downtown area of Providence.

Crossroads will provide rental assistance to 25 homeless households throughout the City.

### **Planned Activities**

OpenDoors 9 Yards will offer essential services to prevent homelessness to 24 formerly incarcerated young adult males who are at risk of homelessness.



Amos House Operation First Step will provide a clean and sober recovery-based 90-180 day shelter program in South Providence, helping (at any one point in time) 20 men and 15 women. At least 50% of the men and women are chronically homeless and over 90% are ex-offenders and suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Amos House Project RENEW will provide street outreach, case management, and HIV/Hepatitis C testing for up to 100 homeless women involved in prostitution and other risky behaviors. These women are at greatest risk for domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and other STI's because of their involvement in commercial sex work. Among them, 70% are chronically homeless , 90% are chronic substance abusers, 25% are victims of domestic violence.

PICA will provide intensive, holistic case management services through their Homeless Outreach program, assisting with housing; advocate at court and for housing; connect people with primary care doctors and the Affordable Care Act; assist with SSI/SSDI applications both with our SOAR case manager and an attorney, GPA, SNAP and other government benefits. Crossroads will provide rental assistance to 25 homeless households throughout the City.

## 5. Housing Program Delivery Funds (Administration)

### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### Goals Supported

Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units  
 Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled  
 Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use  
 Effectively Administer Programs

### Needs Addressed

Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
 Program Administration

### Funding

CDBG: \$80,000

### Description

Funds will be used for Program Delivery Cost associated with the housing program

### Target Date

6/30/2016

**Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

Not applicable. Specific housing related goals are identified elsewhere.

**Location Description** Not applicable

**Planned Activities** City housing staff in the Division of Community Development will properly administer the City's various housing programs.

## 6. Economic Development Delivery Funds

**Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

**Goals Supported**

Effectively Administer Programs

**Needs Addressed**

Program Administration

**Funding**

CDBG: \$125,000

**Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

Not applicable

**Location Description** Not applicable

**Description**

Funds will be used for administrative cost associated with program delivery

**Target Date**

6/30/2016

**Planned Activities**

Program administration of the Providence Economic Development Partnership

## 7. Public Service Community Centers

### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### Goals Supported

Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons  
Provide Day Care Services to LMI Persons

### Needs Addressed

Public Services

### Funding

CDBG: \$552,331

### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

#### Description

Providence has a network of 12 Community Centers located throughout the City. These centers provide a myriad of services to neighborhood residents. In aggregate it is estimated that the following number of persons will receive services:

12,700 individuals will receive case management and/or services for basic and emergency needs (including 200 seniors, 1,870 adults with disabilities, 1,260 children with disabilities, 1,773 unemployed, 520 homeless, 395 veterans, 104 PLWHA, 158 DCYF children, 350 victims of DV, 2,350 seniors, 250 public housing residents, and 1,345 non-English speakers)

485 children receive quality child care / day care services  
220 seniors will receive services

### Location Description

Capital City Community Center  
110 Ruggles St, Providence, RI 02908

Elmwood Community Center  
155 Niagara St, Providence, RI 02907

### Description

Funds will be used to support the Community Centers providing public services to low- and moderate-income residents.

### Target Date

6/30/2016

DaVinci Center for Community Progress  
470 Charles St, Providence, RI 02904

Federal Hill House  
9 Courtland St, Providence, RI 02909

Fox Point Senior Citizens, Inc.  
90 Ives St, Providence, RI 02906

Joslin Community Center  
231 Amherst St, Providence, RI 02909

Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc 199 Camp  
St, Providence, RI 02906  
Nickerson Community Center 1  
33 Delaine St, Providence, RI 02909

Silver Lake Community Center Inc 529 Plainfield St,  
Providence, RI 02909

Thomas Anton Community center@Hartford Park  
300 Hartford Ave, Providence, RI 02909

Washington Park Citizens Association, Inc.  
42 Jillson St, Providence, RI 02905

West End Community Center, Inc. 109 Bucklin St,  
Providence, RI 02907

### **Planned Activities**

Capital City Community Center Child Care and Senior Services, Elmwood Community Center Food Pantry, DaVinci Center for Community Progress DaVinci Consolidated Social Services, Federal Hill House Community Basic Needs Services, Federal Hill House Children and Youth Educational Programs, Fox Point Senior Center Services Joslin Community Center Basic Needs and Food Pantry, Joslin Community Center Project Key Before and After School Program, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association Community Development & Public Services programming, Nickerson Community Center APPLE After School and Summer Enrichment Program, Silver Lake Community Center Community Daycare , Providence Housing Authority - Thomas J. Anton Community Center and Resident Services, Washington Park Community Center Intake/Youth Program, West End Community Center Early Learning, Youth Engagement and Emergency Social Services

## 8. Public Services

### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### Target Date

6/30/2016

### Goals Supported

Provide Healthcare for LMI Persons  
Increase Workforce Readiness and Job Skills  
Provide Youth Enrichment and Educational Programs  
Provide Sports and Recreational Activities  
Provide Services for the Elderly  
Reintegrate the Formerly Incarcerated  
Provide Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

### Description

Funds will be used to support Public Service Activities

### Needs Addressed

Public Services

### Funding

CDBG: \$267,722

### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

Twelve public service activities were selected for the 2015-2016 program year. Over 70% of the program participants will be low- to moderate-income persons. In aggregate the following groups are expected to be served.

2,580 school youth including 202 with disabilities

200 victims of domestic violence

100 individuals served in workforce training (including 9 with disabilities, 3 seniors, 60 unemployed, 15 victims of DV, 16 homeless, and 30 formerly incarcerated)

150 non-English language individuals provided with literacy training

2500 individuals to receive health care

**Location Description** Not applicable

### Description

Amos House operates from 500 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907 as well as potential internship sites to be identified via employment partnerships.

Building Futures Construction Pre-apprenticeship Training is located at 39 Manton Ave., Providence, RI 02909.

City Year will operate from Pleasant View School, 50 Obediah Brown Road, Providence, RI 02909; Carl G. Lauro Elementary School, 99 Kenyon Street, Providence, RI 02903; Gilbert Stuart Middle School, 188 Princeton Avenue, Providence, RI 02907; Roger Williams Middle School, 278 Thurbers Avenue, Providence, RI 02905; and Governor Christopher DelSesto Middle School, 152 Springfield Street, Providence, RI 02909.

Clinica Esperanza operates from 60 Valley Street, Providence, RI 02909 and provides outreach sites at United Methodist Church (South Providence); St. Patricks, St. Charles churches. Roca de la Restauracion, Manantial de Vida, Beacon Avenue Church of God, Genesis Center, the Islamic Center of RI, and other places of worship, mainly located in Valley, Smith Hill, Upper and Lower South Providence.

College Visions operates from its downtown office at 131 Washington Street, Suite 205, Providence, RI 02903. Mt. Hope Learning Center will operate at Doctor Martin Luther King School, 35 Camp Street, Providence, RI 02906.

Providence CityArts for Youth operates from 891 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907. Other sites include Boys and Girls Clubs in Fox Point and Southside, and Roger Williams, Gilbert Stuart, and Del Sesto Middle Schools. Providence Community Library Spanish-language jobs training program will be operated from 275 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907.

Providence Sports and Leadership operates from 155 Niagra Street, Providence and at schools and community facilities attended by student-athletes.

The Rhode Island Urban Debate League operates programs at Central High School, 70 Fricker St, Providence, RI 02903; Alvarez High School, 375 Adelaide

Ave, Providence, RI 02907; E-Cubed Academy, 812 Branch Ave, Providence, RI 02904; Hope High School, 324 Hope St, Providence, RI 02906; Mount Pleasant High School, 434 Mt. Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908; Paul Cuffee Upper School, 544 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907.

Serve Rhode Island will operate out of their main office at 655 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02909, as well as Juanita Sanchez Education Complex, 182 Thurbers Ave, Providence, RI 02905; Providence Career & Technical Academy, 41 Fricker St, Providence, RI 02903; Central High School, 70 Fricker St, Providence, RI 02903; Mount Pleasant High School, 434 Mt Pleasant Ave, Providence, RI 02908; and Hope High School, 324 Hope St, Providence, RI 02906.

Sojourner House operates from their main office at 386 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908

### **Planned Activities**

Amos House Culinary Education Program: 16 week course that teaches students National Restaurant Association approved curriculum, preparing them for entry level positions in the food service industry through a combination of classroom education, hands on practicum, and on site internships.

Building Futures Construction Pre-apprenticeship Training: A multi-stage, comprehensive evaluation and training program to help residents prepare for entering employment through one of a dozen construction apprenticeship programs.

City Year Whole School Whole Child Program: Academic Support through whole-class instructional support and 1:1/small group tutoring in English/math; Attendance Support through morning greeting, daily phone calls home, 1:1 coaching, and positive incentives; Behavior Coaching through social emotional skill development; Positive School Climate through school-wide programs that promote student and family engagement; and Extended Learning Programming focused on homework completion and enrichment programming.

Clinica Esperanza - A Place to be Healthy: Primary healthcare, chronic disease ecreening, and walk-in non-acute care for Providence residents who are unable to afford healthcare, or uninsured.

College Visions - College Access Program: Coach 60 low-income Providence 12th graders to navigate the admission process and enroll in college.

Mt. Hope Learning Center Expanded STEAM After School Programming: Before and after school programming

Providence CityArts for Youth Creative Futures Afterschool Program: Provides free full-time access to afterschool and summer arts learning for 250 low-moderate income elementary and middle school youth.

Providence Community Library Spanish-language jobs training program: Spanish language GED preparation, computer skills, and jobs training programs.

Providence Sports and Leadership College Assist Program: Works with college eligible students to provide individual support and the resources necessary to gain acceptance to college and to successfully navigate the college athletic recruiting process. The core activities of the program are carried out in workshops and individual meetings with student-athletes and their families.

The Rhode Island Urban Debate League offers an after school debate program to help teachers create student-centered classrooms and incorporate common core competencies in instruction through debate.

Serve Rhode Island - Providence High School Youth Service Learning and Work Experience for Career Exploration and Development: Develop new work experience opportunities for PPSD's CTE students, to build the capacity of respective CTE Coordinators to create appropriate, out-of-school work experiences by facilitating industry-school partnerships and workplace experiences, creating a data system of information so students are aware of the many options, and recruiting skills-based volunteers for specific CTE offerings.



## 9. Economic Development

### **Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Goals Supported**

Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth  
Revitalize Commercial Districts in LMI Areas

### **Needs Addressed**

Economic Development  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Support

### **Funding**

CDBG: \$2,075,000

### **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

Due to the nature of the activity, and the process of identifying and verifying businesses to be supported through economic development programs, it is difficult to know the number and type of businesses that will benefit from the activity. Additionally, businesses will be the primary beneficiaries and not families.

It is likely that 8 businesses will receive support through the RIBBA Collateral Enhancement Program, 3 businesses will receive PEDP loans, 22 small farmers will receive support through the Healthy Communities Program, 40 microenterprises will benefit from the Small Business Design-Based Businesses / Community Development Grants, and 5 businesses will benefit from the Storefront Improvement Project.

### **Location Description**

The City's economic development programs are operated through the Providence Economic Development Partnership, the Department of Planning and Development, Division of Community Development, and the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism. The specific businesses to be supported are not yet know.

### **Description**

Funds will be used to support economic opportunities activities

### **Target Date**

6/30/2016

**Planned Activities** Rhode Island Black Business Association Broad Street Economic Development Project: Will provide collateral enhancement to leverage \$1 million in private sector bank financing to provide small business loans to income eligible small businesses operating in low income areas of the City.

Providence Economic Development Partnership Loans: Provide financing for Providence businesses for working capital, expansion, or acquisition financing.

Healthy Communities Economic Development Grants: Provide small grants to local organizations to enhance access to healthy food throughout the City of Providence.

Small Business Design-Based Businesses / Community Development Grants: Provide small grants and/or loans to microenterprises to support business startups and growth.

Storefront Improvement Project: Facade improvement for neighborhood-based commercial corridors and business districts in low- to moderate-income areas of the City.

## 10. CDBG Housing

### **Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Goals Supported**

Increase Availability of Affordable Housing  
Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units  
Eliminate Blighted Property  
Support Independent Living for Elderly / Disabled  
Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use

### **Needs Addressed**

Affordable Housing  
Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
Slum/Blight Clearance  
Homelessness Prevention

### **Funding**

CDBG: \$2,593,982

### **Description**

Funds will be used for general Administrative costs associated with the operation of the program

### **Target Date**

6/30/2016

**Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program will provide resources to meet four important community development and housing goals: eliminate neighborhood blight by demolishing 3 blighted properties, improve the quality of occupied housing by supporting the rehabilitation of 9 homes, support independent living for elderly and disabled residents by supporting the rehabilitation of 4 homes, and returning abandoned property to productive reuse by supporting the redevelopment of 12 homes.

25 families / households are expected to benefit from this program, all of which would earn 80% AMI or less, including 4 elderly or disabled households.

**Location Description N**

Specific properties for rehabilitation or redevelopment have not yet been identified; however, it is expected that properties will be distributed throughout the City.

**Planned Activities**

Eliminate neighborhood blight by demolishing 3 blighted properties

Improve the quality of occupied housing by supporting the rehabilitation of 9 homes

Support independent living for elderly and disabled residents by supporting the rehabilitation of 4 homes  
Returning abandoned property to productive reuse by supporting the redevelopment of 12 vacant and abandoned homes

# 11. Affordable Housing - HOME

## Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

## Goals Supported

Increase Availability of Affordable Housing  
Eliminate Blighted Property  
Return Abandoned Property to Productive Use  
Reduce Homelessness

## Needs Addressed

Affordable Housing  
Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation  
Slum/Blight Clearance  
Homelessness Prevention

## Funding

HOME: \$4,173,590

## Description

Funds will be used for new construction or rental assistance for low income individuals and families

## Target Date

6/30/2016

## Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

All beneficiaries of HOME funded activities will be 80% AMI or less. Sixteen units will be for extremely low income households, including 13 units for the formerly homeless; 21 units will be for households earning up to 60% AMI; and 4 units will be for households earning up to 80% AMI.

It should be noted that the goals identified below are unlikely to be met in the 2015-2016 program year as certain development projects have a longer timeline before completion. This will be clarified in the planned activities section below.

## Location Description

528 Dexter Street (Whitmarsh House) is a proposed redevelopment of a former convent / rooming house into 11 single room occupancy rental units to house These 11 extremely low-income formerly homeless individuals.  
\$660,000.00

42 Hanover Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit.  
\$118,800.00

21 Constitution Street is a proposed redevelopment of a small, cramped two-family home into a single-family affordable homeownership unit for a household earning 80% AMI. \$43,737.00

22 Greeley Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit. \$175,000.00

267 Veazie Street is a proposed redevelopment of a three-family home into affordable rental units for three households earning up to 60% AMI. \$250,000.00

46 Pekin Street is a proposed redevelopment of a three-family home into affordable rental units for three households earning up to 60% AMI. \$235,000.00

37 Diamond Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit. \$221,606.00

93 Cranston Street is a proposed redevelopment of the former Louttit Laundry site into a mixed-use development with 17,000 square feet of commercial space and 37 rental apartments with 10 affordable units (8 at 60% AMI and 2 at 50% AMI). \$594,329.94

60 King Street is a proposed redevelopment of The Imperial Knife factory into 60 units of affordable rental housing. Note: only 5 units will be supported with City HOME funds, 4 units at 60%AMI and one unit at 50% AMI. \$344,329.95

49 Stanwood Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home into affordable rental units for two extremely low-income households earning up to 50% AMI. \$144,709.82

### **Planned Activities**

528 Dexter Street (Whitmarsh House) is a proposed redevelopment of a former convent / rooming house into 11 single room occupancy rental units to house These 11 extremely low-income formerly homeless individuals. \$660,000.00

42 Hanover Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit. \$118,800.00  
21 Constitution Street is a proposed redevelopment of a small, cramped two-family home into a single-family affordable homeownership unit for a household earning 80% AMI. \$43,737.00

22 Greeley Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit. \$175,000.00  
267 Veazie Street is a proposed redevelopment of a three-family home into affordable rental units for three households earning up to 60% AMI. \$250,000.00

46 Pekin Street is a proposed redevelopment of a three-family home into affordable rental units for three households earning up to 60% AMI. \$235,000.00

37 Diamond Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit. \$221,606.00  
93 Cranston Street is a proposed redevelopment of the former Louttit Laundry site into a mixed-use development with 17,000 square feet of commercial space and 37 rental apartments with 10 affordable units (8 at 60% AMI and 2 at 50% AMI). \$594,329.94  
60 King Street is a proposed redevelopment of The Imperial Knife factory into 60 units of affordable rental housing. Note: only 5 units will be supported with City HOME funds, 4 units at 60%AMI and one unit at 50% AMI. \$344,329.95

49 Stanwood Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home into affordable rental units for two extremely low-income households earning up to 50% AMI. \$144,709.82

## 12. Public Facility Improvements

### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### Goals Supported

Eliminate Accessibility Barriers  
Improve Condition of Public Service Facilities

### Needs Addressed

Public Facilities Improvements

### Funding

CDBG: \$880,999

### Description

Funds will be used for Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

### Target Date

6/30/2016

### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

An estimate of the number and types of families that will benefit is based on the number and types of persons that benefit from the services offered by the organizations received facility improvement grants. Approximately 32,000 persons / families will benefit from the below activities as direct clients or beneficiaries of the services offered by the organizations.

### Location Description

Facility improvements projects will occur at agencies and organizations throughout the City of Providence. The specific project addresses are as follows:

Candace Street Library Project,  
31 Candace St, Providence, RI 02908

Center for Southeast Asians Building Repairs,  
270 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907

DaVinci Center Building Repairs,  
470 Charles St, Providence, RI 02904

Dominican American Association,  
100 Niagara St, Providence, RI 02907

Elmwood Community Center Building Repairs,  
155 Niagara St, Providence, RI 02907

Federal Hill House Fence and Handicap Accessible  
Walkway, 9 Courtland St, Providence, RI 02909

Genesis Center Childcare Center Improvements,  
620 Potters Ave, Providence, RI 02907

Italo-American Club Elevator Project,  
477 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909

John Hope Settlement House Historic Home Project,  
7 Thomas P Whitten Way, Providence, RI 02903

Knight Memorial Library Project,  
275 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907

Mt. Pleasant Library Fire Alarm Upgrades,  
315 Academy Ave, Providence, RI 02908

Olneyville Library Project,  
265 Manton Ave, Providence, RI, 02909

Providence Housing Authority Chad Brown Basketball  
Court, 263 Chad Brown St, Providence, RI 02908

Providence Housing Authority Dexter Manor Lighting  
Improvements, 100 Broad St, Providence, RI 02903

Wanskuck Library Building Improvements,  
233 Veazie Street, Providence, RI 02904

Wanskuck Boys & Girls Club Building Improvements,  
550 Branch Avenue Providence, RI 02904

Wellcare at Saint Elizabeth Place,  
700 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02903

West End Community Center Building/Playground  
Improvements 109 Bucklin St, Providence, RI 02907



### **Planned Activities**

Candace Street Library Project, 31 Candace St, Providence, RI 02908  
Center for Southeast Asians Building Repairs, 270 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907  
DaVinci Center Building Repairs, 470 Charles St, Providence, RI 02904  
Dominican American Association, 100 Niagara St, Providence, RI 02907  
Elmwood Community Center Building Repairs, 155 Niagara St, Providence, RI 02907  
Federal Hill House Fence and Handicap Accessible Walkway, 9 Courtland St, Providence, RI 02909  
Genesis Center Childcare Center Improvements, 620 Potters Ave, Providence, RI 02907  
Italo-American Club Elevator Project, 477 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909  
John Hope Settlement House Historic Home Project, 7 Thomas P Whitten Way, Providence, RI 02903  
Knight Memorial Library Project, 275 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907  
Mt. Pleasant Library Fire Alarm Upgrades, 315 Academy Ave, Providence, RI 02908  
Olneyville Library Project, 265 Manton Ave, Providence, RI, 02909  
Providence Housing Authority Chad Brown Basketball Court, 263 Chad Brown St, Providence, RI 02908  
Providence Housing Authority Dexter Manor Lighting Improvements, 100 Broad St, Providence, RI 02903  
Wanskuck Library Building Improvements, 233 Veazie Street, Providence, RI 02904  
Wanskuck Boys & Girls Club Building Improvements, 550 Branch Avenue Providence, RI 02904  
Wellcare at Saint Elizabeth Place, 700 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02903  
West End Community Center Building/Playground Improvements 109 Bucklin St, Providence, RI 02907

## **13. School Improvements**

### **Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Goals Supported**

Eliminate Accessibility Barriers  
Provide Safe Learning Environment in City Schools

### **Needs Addressed**

Public Facilities Improvements

### **Funding**

CDBG: \$844,582

### **Description**

Funds will be used for  
Improvements to schools

### **Target Date**

6/30/2016

**Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

The direct beneficiaries of school improvements are the children that attend the schools, and the teachers and administrators that work in the schools. This estimate however is based of the school enrollment for each school assisted. It is estimated that 8,439 students will benefit from the proposed school improvements.

**Location Description**

Asa Messer School  
1655 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02909

Carl G. Lauro School  
99 Kenyon St, Providence, RI 02903

Classical/Central High Schools  
770 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02903

Pleasant View Elementary School  
50 Obadiah Brown Rd, Providence, RI 02909

Vartan Gregorian Elementary School  
455 Wickenden St, Providence, RI 02903

Hope High School  
324 Hope St, Providence, RI 02906

Leviton School  
65 Greenwich St, Providence, RI 02907

Nathanael Green School  
721 Chalkstone Ave, Providence, RI 02908

Robert F. Kennedy School  
195 Nelson St, Providence, RI 02908

Sackett Street School  
159 Sackett St, Providence, RI 02907

Veazie St Elementary School  
211 Veazie St, Providence, RI 02904

West Broadway Middle School: 29 Bainbridge Avenue,  
Providence, RI, 02909

### **Planned Activities**

Asa Messer School Exterior Signage/Bike Racks  
Carl G. Lauro School Outdoor Classroom Project  
Cultural Corridor between Classical and Central High Schools  
Pleasant View Elementary Handicapped Accessibility Project  
Vartan Gregorian Elementary School Handicapped Accessible Ramp for Courtyard  
Hope High School Improvements  
Leviton School Improvements  
Nathanael Green School Improvements  
Robert F. Kennedy School Improvements  
Sackett Street School Elevator for Handicapped Accessibility  
Veazie St Elementary School Improvements  
West Broadway Middle School Improvements

## **14. Parks, Open Space, Sports and Recreation Improvements**

### **Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Goals Supported**

Increase Access to Community Gardens / Urban Farms  
Improve Parks, Open Space, and Sports Fields

### **Needs Addressed**

Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

### **Funding**

CDBG: \$1,515,627

### **Description**

Capital City Community  
Center  
110 Ruggles St,  
Providence, RI 02908

Elmwood Community  
Center  
155 Niagara St,  
Providence, RI 02907

### **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

It is difficult accurately estimate the total number of persons that use neighborhood parks; however, parks are important assets that benefit entire communities. As such, using population estimates for individuals living in proximity to the improvement projects listed below, it is estimated that approximately

## **Location Description**

Neighborhood Parks and Tree Planting Projects are throughout the entire City.

## **Planned Activities**

Citywide Sports Fields Expansion Project  
Aldo Freda Field Project  
Arthur and Ruby Lawrence Park Improvements/Sign  
Ascham Street Playground Park improvement  
Billy Taylor Park Improvements  
Cadillac Drive Park Improvements  
Candace Street Park improvements  
Cathedral Square Tree Planting and Park Projects  
Clarence Street Park improvements  
Davey Lopes Skate Park  
Dexter Training Grounds Sculpture Garden Project  
Donigian Park Lighting  
Ellery St Park Improvements  
Elmwood Little League Ball Field Lighting Project  
Gorham Park Improvements  
Joslin Park Improvements  
Joslin Rec Center Building Repairs  
McGeary Littlejohn Memorial Park Project  
Merino Park Improvements  
Mount Pleasant Field Project  
Neutaconkanut Park Improvements  
Purchase of State Owned Land for Expansion of  
Greenway  
Scalabrini Piazza Park Improvements  
South Providence Recreation Center Building  
Improvements  
Vincent Brown Rec Center Improvements  
Viscolosi Park Project  
Waldo Street Park Improvements  
Walking School Bus Project  
Warren/Fuller St. Park Improvements  
Ward 5 Tree Planting Project  
Ward 11 Tree Planting Project  
Ward 12 Tree Planting Project  
Ward 15 Tree Planting Project

# 15. Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Infrastructure

## Improvements

### Target Area

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### Goals Supported

Improve Street, Sidewalk and Public Infrastructure  
Support Creation of a Streetcar System

### Needs Addressed

Public Parks and Infrastructure Improvements

### Funding

CDBG: \$4,937,785

### Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities

It is difficult to predict who from the community will use sidewalks and roadways; however, the improvement of sidewalks, roadways, and other public infrastructure benefits local communities. As such, the estimates are based on the number of population that lives in close proximity to improvements projects that are expected to yield a tangible benefit from the improvements.

### Location Description

Street, sidewalk, and other infrastructure improvements will occur throughout the City.

### Planned Activities

Academy Avenue Street Repaving  
Babcock St. Speed Bumps  
Broad Street Signage Project  
Crescent Street Speed Bumps  
Historic Smith Hill / Decorative Street Signage  
Luongo Square Project  
Power Street Paving Project- between Governor and Ives  
Trash bins on Admiral Street  
Trash bins on Union/Webster/Pocasset Ave.  
Ward 1 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 2 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 3 Sidewalk Project

### Description

Funds will be used for Public Infrastructure to Street, sidewalks and infrastructure

### Target Date

6/30/2016

Ward 4 sidewalk project  
Ward 5 Sidewalks Project  
Ward 7 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 7 Decorative Trash Barrels  
Ward 8 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 9 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 10 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 11 Sidewalk Project  
Ward 12 Decorative Trash Barrels  
Ward 12 Sidewalk Project

## 16. Planning

### **Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Target Date**

6/30/2016

### **Goals Supported**

Promote Efficiency through Research and Planning  
Effectively Administer Programs

### **Description**

Funds will be used for facility and public service audits

### **Needs Addressed**

Planning  
Program Administration

### **Funding**

CDBG: \$325,000

### **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

Not applicable

### **Location Description**

Audits will look at facilities and public services that are throughout the City.

### **Planned Activities**

Public Services audit to research organizations citywide that are providing public services, level of service, total numbers of clients served, etc. to better understand the ecosystem of providers located in and service low- and moderate-income Providence residents.

Facilities Audit to research the physical condition of City-owned property that accommodates public service agencies to better understand the level and type of

capital needs for each property. This will allow the City to prioritize rehabilitation needs for community organizations. Further, this research will also look into City-owned vacant lots to identify opportunities to bring them back into productive use.

## 17. Section 108 Loan Repayment

### **Target Area**

Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area

### **Goals Supported**

Repay Section 108 Loan

### **Needs Addressed**

Repayment of Section 108 Loan

### **Funding**

CDBG: \$170,000

### **Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities**

Not applicable

### **Location Description**

Not applicable

### **Planned Activities**

Repayment of Section 108 loan.

### **Target Date**

6/30/2016

### **Description**

Funds will be used for the repayment of section 108 loan

## *AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)*

### **Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed**

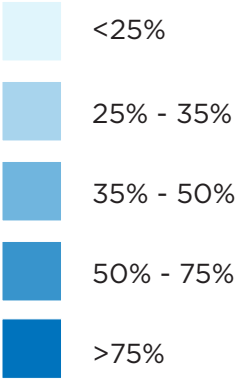
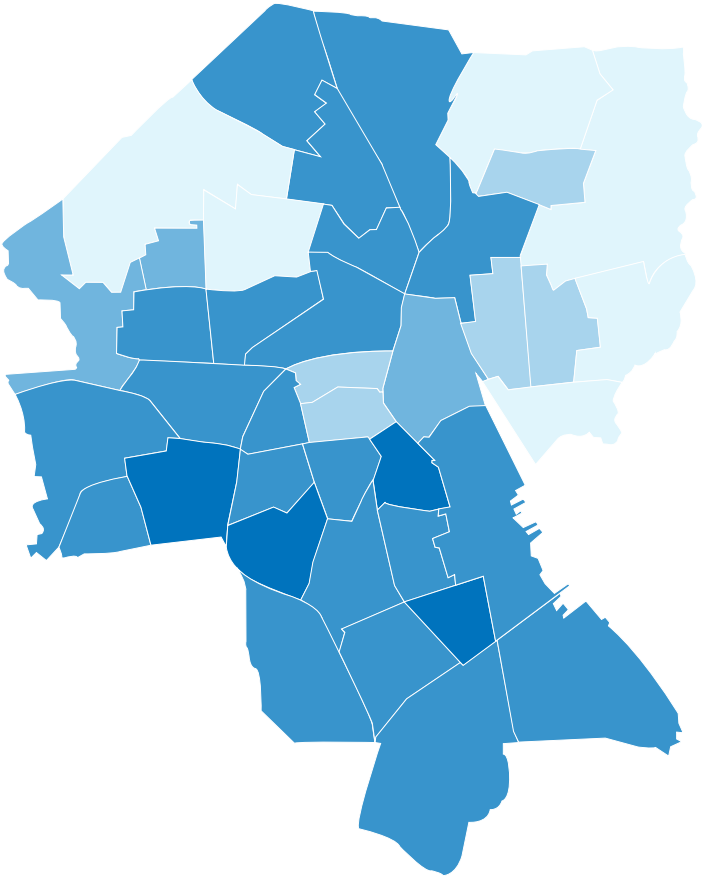
The geographic priority is citywide. CDBG, HOME, and ESG projects and activities reach into every low- and moderate-income area of the City. HOPWA funding supports operations throughout the Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA.

With limited exception, most neighborhoods throughout the City of Providence have areas with low- to moderate-income populations. As such, the geographic allocation of resources will be fairly dispersed throughout the City, albeit targeting the most economically distressed areas of the City's neighborhoods. Fundamentally, the City has focused its strategies to assist low- to moderate-income residents regardless of where they live.

For the purposes of this Consolidated Plan, "areas of concentration of persons of color" include Census Tracts with non-White, non-Hispanic populations of 75% or greater, identified in the map below as the darkest shade of blue. The areas of concentration for persons of color are located in the Upper South Providence, Lower South Providence, West End and Olneyville neighborhoods. The City used this threshold because Providence has a rich diversity in its population. Communities of color in the City of Providence are the majority, with the White, non-Hispanic/Latino population only comprising 36.7% of the population.



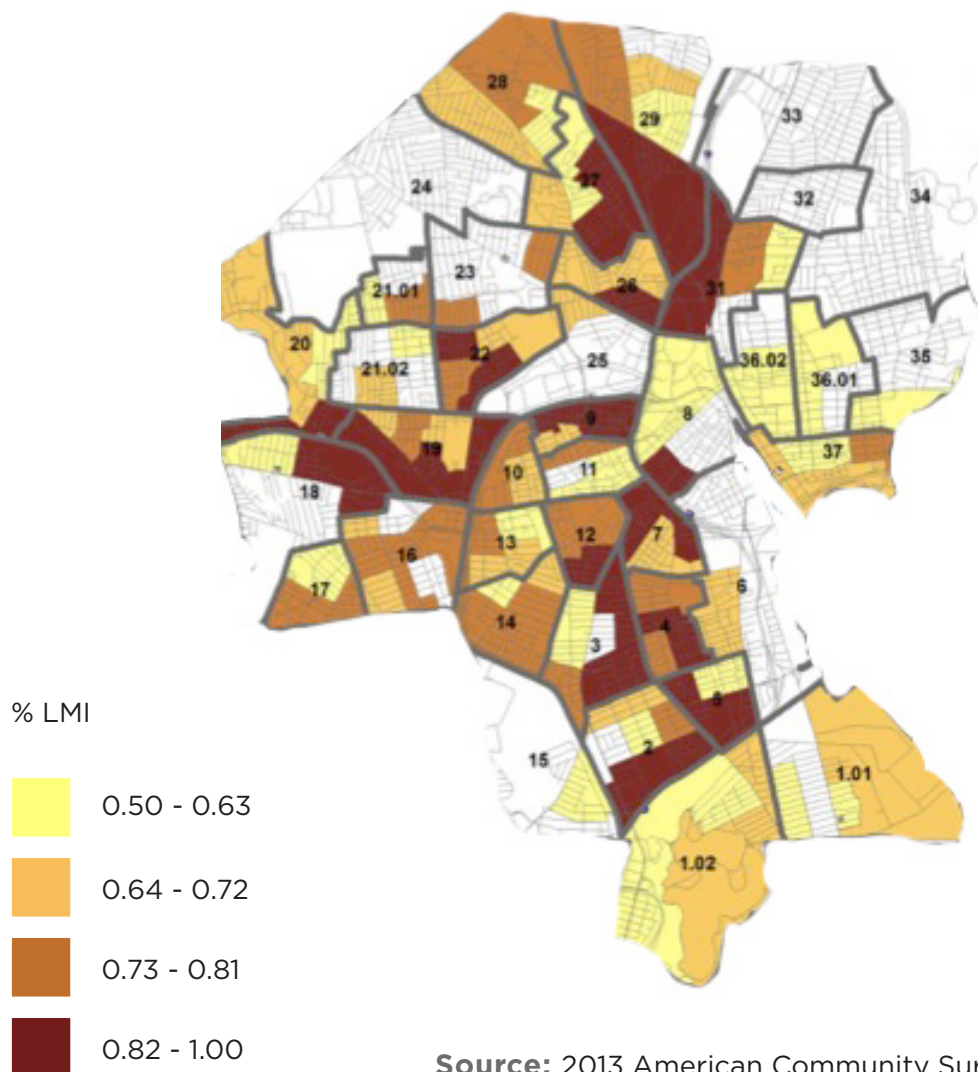
# Percent Non-White and/or Hispanic Population by Census Tract, 2015



**Source:** 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

The “areas of low-income concentration” include areas where 82% to 100% of the population is considered low- to moderate-income, identified in the map below as the darkest shade of orange. The areas of LMI concentration are located in the Elmwood, Lower South Providence, Upper South Providence, West End, Olneyville, Hartford, Valley, Federal Hill, Smith Hill, Charles, Mount Hope and Wanskuck neighborhoods.

## Percentage LMI by Block Group within Census Tract, 2013



Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate

## Geographic Distribution

Target Area	% of Funds
Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	96%
Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA	4%

### Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

With limited exception, most neighborhoods throughout the City of Providence have areas with low- to moderate-income populations. The City of Providence does not have a designated or HUD approved geographic target area. Over 62% of the population of Providence is low- to moderate-income. These individuals and households are spread throughout the City. As such, the geographic allocation of resources will be fairly dispersed throughout the City, albeit targeting the most economically distressed areas of the City's neighborhoods and the most economically marginalized persons living in those neighborhoods. Fundamentally, the City has focused its strategies to assist low- to moderate-income residents regardless of where they live.

### Discussion

Not necessary.

## *AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)*

### **Introduction**

Documented in this Action Plan, the City is expecting to allocate funds to support affordable housing projects for the homeless, non-homeless, and special needs households in the 2015-2016 Program Year.

CDBG funds in the amount of \$2,593,982.18 will support the following

- Eliminate neighborhood blight by demolishing 3 blighted properties
- Improve the quality of occupied housing by supporting the rehabilitation of 9 homes
- Support independent living for elderly and disabled residents by supporting the rehabilitation of 4 homes
- Returning abandoned property to productive reuse by supporting the redevelopment of 12 vacant and abandoned homes

HOME funds in the amount of \$4,173,590.07 will support the following

- 528 Dexter Street (Whitmarsh House) is a proposed redevelopment of a former convent / rooming house into 11 single room occupancy rental units to house These 11 extremely low-income formerly homeless individuals.
- 42 Hanover Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit.
- 21 Constitution Street is a proposed redevelopment of a small, cramped two-family home into a single-family affordable homeownership unit for a household earning 80% AMI.
- 22 Greeley Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit.
- 267 Veazie Street is a proposed redevelopment of a three-family home into affordable rental units for three households earning up to 60% AMI.
- 46 Pekin Street is a proposed redevelopment of a three-family home into affordable rental units for three households earning up to 60% AMI.

- 37 Diamond Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home to be occupied with a new low-income (80% AMI) homeowner with a 60% AMI rental unit.
- 93 Cranston Street is a proposed redevelopment of the former Louttit Laundry site into a mixed-use development with 17,000 square feet of commercial space and 37 rental apartments with 10 affordable units (8 at 60% AMI and 2 at 50% AMI).
- 60 King Street is a proposed redevelopment of The Imperial Knife factory into 60 units of affordable rental housing. Note: only 5 units will be supported with City HOME funds, 4 units at 60%AMI and one unit at 50% AMI.
- 49 Stanwood Street is a proposed redevelopment of a two-family home into affordable rental units for two extremely low-income households earning up to 50% AMI.

HOPWA funds in the amount of \$843,868 will support the following

- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Households = 40 households
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance = 41 households
- Supportive Services = 136 households
- Sponsor Based Rental Assistance / Shelter Plus Care = 10 households

ESG funds in the amount of \$414,623.85 will support the following

- OpenDoors 9 Yards will prevent homelessness of 24 formerly incarcerated
- Amos House Operation First Step will provide day shelter to 20 men and 15 women.
- Amos House Project RENEW will provide street outreach and case management to up to 100 homeless women.
- PICA will provide intensive, holistic case management services to the homeless
- Crossroads will provide rental assistance to 25 homeless households throughout the City.

It should be noted that the goals identified below are unlikely to be met solely in the 2015-2016 program year as certain development projects have a longer timeline before completion.

**One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported**

Homeless	97
Non-Homeless	46
Special-Needs	98
Total	4241

Table 79 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

**One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through**

Rental Assistance	106
The Production of New Units	26
Rehab of Existing Units	15
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	147

Table 80 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

**Discussion**

The 2015-2016 Program Year represents an aberration in that much of the City’s entitlement funding from the previous year was never committed to projects for a number of issues related to challenges with compliance and processing of projects. In future years, the City will continue to allocate CDBG and HOME funds to support new development and rehabilitation of affordable housing, although the magnitude of the City’s impact will be lower as the City returns to its normal level of funding and projects. Additionally, in future years the City will make additional efforts to begin focusing on affordable housing, mixed-income, and mixed-use developments in higher income areas of the City.

## *AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)*

### **Introduction**

The City of Providence supports ongoing operation of the Thomas J. Anton Community Center at Hartford Park. Through the City's annual support of public service activities, the Department of Resident Services is able to provide adult education classes, family self-sufficiency program, financial opportunity center and financial coaching programs, income support, and employment counseling.

There are several restoration and revitalization needs in the portfolio of public housing throughout the City. Sprinkler systems need to be replaced or installed in 5 high-rise buildings at a cost of approximately \$5 million. There are elevator modernization needs at each of the 6 high-rise buildings. At the scattered site developments, many properties require improvements and repair to the wood exterior, replacement of vinyl windows, and porch replacement and painting. At Hartford Park, there is a need for rehabilitation of the wood structure buildings and exterior concrete step repairs or replacement. At Chad Brown and Admiral Terrace, the roofs for two brick construction buildings need replacement and three electrical sub stations at Admiral Terrace need to be relocated. And there is a need for fire alarm upgrades at the Manton Heights development.

### **Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing**

The City will maintain its commitment to fund operations at the Thomas J. Anton Community Center at Hartford Park. Further, the City will provide \$25,000 to assist with the rehabilitation of the Chad Brown Basketball Court.

### **Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership**

One of the goals of the Providence Housing Authority is to continue to cultivate Resident Advisory Board and Resident Association relations and communication to maintain transparency and provide a forum for valuable resident participation in planning activities guided by PHA goals and objectives. The City plans to support this goal by fully participating in these meetings to better learn about the needs and concerns of residents.

### **If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance**

Not applicable.

## **Discussion**

The PHA has recently completed its five year plan that discusses its capital improvement plan. Over the coming year, the City will engage the PHA to discuss funding priorities and the urgent rehabilitation needs in relation to other competing needs throughout the City.



## *AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)*

### **Introduction**

The City's partnership and funding alignment with both the Consolidated Homeless Fund and the Rhode Island Continuum of Care offers a unique opportunity for better coordination among several different programs and funding streams to address homelessness in a strategic, targeted, and systematic way. The network of providers of services and housing for the homeless in the City and State is strong and robust; however, it has not been nearly as coordinated and integrated as it could or should be. There are positive signs that this lack of cohesiveness seems to be changing for the better, prompted by a rigorous audit of the state's homeless providers by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The state's strategic plan to end chronic homelessness, *Opening Doors*, is a road map the state's providers can use to move much more diligently into a Housing First model of quickly engaging the homeless, providing them with stable housing, and delivering the appropriate and relevant wraparound services. Crossroads Rhode Island, the state's largest provider of shelter services, as well as many other providers, have fully embraced Housing First and are refocusing efforts to better provide transitional and permanent housing while still maintaining the necessary shelter capacity for those that lack housing.

It is important to note that the City blends funding strategically with other sources of funds and consolidates its funds into a small number of projects rather than fund a large number of projects with smaller ESG grants. The City's ESG funds are aggregated with ESG funds from Pawtucket, Woonsocket, and the State, as well as Title XX Shelter/Homeless Service Funds and the Housing Resource Commission Shelter/Homeless Service Funds. As such, the City looks at the Consolidated Homeless Fund's entire allocation and assigns funding to minimize the level of resources required to monitor compliance with Federal regulation.

### **Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including**

#### **Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

There are several agencies that conduct outreach efforts in the City of Providence. In collaboration with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, the City uses its Federal Emergency Shelter Grants to support outreach efforts and case management services to connect the unsheltered homeless population with emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, and the supportive services necessary to maintain their housing. To better coordinate outreach efforts, the

City has insisted that any agency that engages in outreach efforts coordinate those efforts with other agencies to avoid duplication and inefficiency.

As part of the broader efforts to eliminate chronic homelessness, the City supports agencies that engage hard-to-reach street homeless, individuals existing the criminal justice system or aging out of the foster care system, homeless veterans, and individuals with substance abuse or mental health issues. Through the Downtown Safety Outreach Collaboration, chronic homeless individuals are identified in order to provide this information to agencies so that services can be brought to bear to address their individual needs.

For the 2015-2016 Program Year, the City will be funding Amos House Project RENEW and the Providence In-Town Churches Association Homeless Outreach / Case Management.

### **Amos House Project RENEW**

This is an innovative, collaborative project that works comprehensively to reduce prostitution in Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Providence. The target population is homeless females, with the majority of the population falling into the category of women currently engaging in, or at risk to engage in, prostitution. Three women (the outreach worker and two peer outreach workers) conduct outreach in pairs, three times weekly, for 3 to 4 hours each session. The outreach worker, a woman in recovery and formerly involved in the criminal justice system, and peer workers provide outreach services to 100 homeless women per year in the Providence area. The main goal is to support the women in getting off the street and into safe transitional or permanent supportive housing by establishing contact, building trust, and providing referrals for treatment, basic needs, and STD testing. The targeted areas will include prostitution hot spots such as Elmwood/Parkis/Broad Street, Valley Street in Olneyville, Smith Street, and other high profile areas throughout the City. In addition to the condom packages that are currently given out, the outreach worker will also give out food gift cards, to try and assist with people's basic needs while talking to them about recovery and connecting them to available resources at Amos House and partner organizations.

### **Providence In-Town Churches Association Homeless Outreach / Case Management**

The Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA) has been serving the needs of low-income and homeless people in Providence since 1974. PICA's Homeless Outreach program has offered intensive, holistic case management for the most marginalized people in the City: the newly and chronically homeless; prisoners upon re-entry; those in recovery and/or struggling with addictions; and those who suffer from physical and mental illnesses. This outreach program was designed by a formerly homeless person who is now the Outreach Supervisor and is adapted based on the best practices he

had experienced while homeless. PICA's SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Access to Recovery) program works with the chronically homeless and disabled individuals to access SSI/SSDI benefits in an expedited manner. Their Downtown Food Pantry is the largest provider of food security in the state, serving 8,000 people 25 tons of food each month.

### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

OpenDoors 9 Yards will offer essential services to prevent homelessness to 24 formerly incarcerated young adult males who are at risk of homelessness. The 9 Yards program works with clients prior to their release from prison to ultimately place them into permanent employment and housing rather than allowing them to fall into homelessness. In the first phase of the program, clients participate in 7 months of classes while in prison. These classes include college education, cognitive self-change, and vocational training. If they pass an initial screening test, they are moved into a second phase of the program after their release. Phase 2 includes extensive case management and supportive services, subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment, employment placement. This model helps successfully transition 24 clients who would otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

Amos House Operation First Step will provide a clean and sober recovery-based 90-180 day shelter program in South Providence, helping (at any one point in time) 20 men and 15 women. At least 50% of the men and women are chronically homeless and over 90% are ex-offenders and suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Program clients receive comprehensive services including psychiatric assessment; intensive case management; on-site medical care by a volunteer MD twice per month; on-site legal consultation services through an affiliation with the Homeless Legal Clinic; intensive group work in the areas of independent living skills, recovery, relapse prevention, communication, anger management and parenting; comprehensive literacy training; and access to Amos House's culinary or carpentry training programs.

Nickerson Community Center's Gateway to Independence and Gateway II programs provide homeless veterans housing for up to two years along with access to case management services, health services and substance abuse intervention, PTSD counseling and mental health services, assistance with benefits and legal services, and basic level skills training. All residents of the Gateway program must enroll in a training program, pursue higher education, or secure employment. Once the program is successfully completed, veterans either move into a semi-independent housing program or live in one of Nickerson's permanent housing rental units.

### **Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied**

**youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again**

Amos House Project RENEW works homeless females who are currently engaging in, or at risk to engage in, prostitution. Outreach workers provide services to support the women in getting off the street and into safe transitional or permanent supportive housing by establishing contact, building trust, and providing referrals for treatment, basic needs, and STD testing.

Crossroads will provide rental assistance to 25 homeless households throughout the City.

Providence In-town Churches Association will provide essential services to 825 homeless individuals, primarily newly and chronically homeless, people in recovery and suffering from addictions, formerly incarcerated, and/or people with physical and mental illnesses, including assisting the homeless in finding and maintaining stable housing.

**Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs**

OpenDoors 9 Yards will offer essential services to prevent homelessness to 24 formerly incarcerated young adult males who are at risk of homelessness. The 9 Yards program works with clients prior to their release from prison to ultimately place them into permanent employment and housing rather than allowing them to fall into homelessness. In the first phase of the program, clients participate in 7 months of classes while in prison. These classes include college education, cognitive self-change, and vocational training. If they pass an initial screening test, they are moved into a second phase of the program after their release. Phase 2 includes extensive case management and supportive services, subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment, employment placement. This model helps successfully transition 24 clients who would otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

## **Discussion**

Not necessary.

## *AP-70 HOPWA Goals - 91.220 (1)(3)*

### **One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:**

Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	40
Tenant-based rental assistance	45
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	33
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	118

The following activities will be funded using City of Providence HOPWA funds.

### **AIDS Action Committee – Homeless Prevention, Rental Start-UP and Utility Assistance**

The Rental Assistance Program at AIDS Action Committee provides short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance (STRMU) to low-income people living with HIV/AIDS to help eligible households secure long-term affordable living situations by providing short-term rental assistance for their first and last months' rent or first month's rent and security deposit. In order to be eligible, applicants must demonstrate that they would be contributing less than 50% of their net household income toward rent at their new living situation.

Homelessness Prevention provides short-term rent or mortgage payments for eligible households whose members are at risk of homelessness, in order to help them maintain their current living situation. Applicants are able to receive up to six months of assistance, comprised of back rent/mortgage payments and/or on-going payments. To be eligible, applicants must contribute more than 50% of their net household income toward their rent or mortgage, or that they have received a notice to quit or foreclosure notice.

Utility Assistance is available for eligible households with a one-time annual payment of \$600 towards oil, propane, gas or electric utilities. In order to be eligible, applicants must fall into one of the four eligibility categories: Those who (1) pay for heat in their

current living situation, (2) are required to pay a deposit to turn on new service, (3) are moving into or residing in a subsidized living situation and are unable to turn on service in their name due to a past arrearage or (4) pay for non-heat gas or electric service in their current living situation and make less than \$500/month (for a household of one).

These activities will support 40 Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Households.

### **AIDS Care Ocean State – Facility Based Comprehensive Support Services HIV Housing Opportunity for People with AIDS**

ACOS maintains 49 units in city of Providence. It owns 18 properties in the City including one medical building. The goal of the project is to continue ACOS facility based comprehensive HIV housing and support services. Support services are embedded in the housing continuum of care: housing case/crisis management; medical/clinical housing management; housing referral and search services; emergency assistance for utilities payments; eviction prevention; and family centered interventions.

They expected outcomes of the program are to achieve housing stability and prevent homelessness for 330 Rhode Islanders; transition three youth/young adult tenants to permanent placement/housing; stabilize housing for 30 tenant/families; and provide 509 clients access to health care, support services, case coordination, referrals for health maintenance, and improved personal stability. ACOS wrap around services provides the options of ACOS agency mental health, nursing, and clinical supports services.

These activities will support 33 Tenant Based Rental Assistance Households.

### **The Justice Resource Institute Assisted Living Program**

JRI provides access to affordable housing and supportive services to 50 households throughout Bristol County, MA, as well as provide tenant-based rental assistance to up to nine households. The TBRA program is administered through a subcontract with the Regional Housing Authority, South Shore Housing Development. In addition to access of affordable housing, JRI ensures that all applicants are linked to supportive services or medical case management in Bristol County. All clients work with JRI Team which includes the JRI Service Provider and South Shore Housing to ensure long term housing stability.

These activities will support 9 Tenant Based Rental Assistance Households and provide supportive services to 36 households.

## Stanley Street Treatment and Resources Project Aware Medical Case Management Program

This project funds two case managers that are part of a three-tiered triage system providing supportive services and medical case management to people living with HIV/AIDS in Fall River, MA. The Transitional Case Manager offers HIV case management to the 6-8 HIV positive residents of The Next Step Home Program, which is a HUD-funded supportive housing plus care program of Steppingstone, Inc. Staff is supervised both by SSTAR and Steppingstone through monthly meetings to discuss client progress.

A Benefits Coordinator assists with establishing and re-qualifying for benefits such as medical insurance, specialty HIV/AIDS medication reimbursement (ADAP), and housing and utility assistance applications. This work includes daily activities meant to ensure access to benefits, housing search and stabilization, access to medical treatment, mental health support, emotional support and other duties associated with helping clients cope with the ramifications of living with HIV and to improve treatment outcomes. Additionally, a small amount of emergency rent and utility assistance is used when other area resources are exhausted. Services are provided in a multi-service facility providing primary medical care, infectious disease care, mental health services, substance treatment, women's services and HIV specialty care.

These activities will support 10 Sponsor Based Rental Assistance / Shelter Plus Care Households and provide supportive services to 100 households.

## *AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)*

### **Introduction**

The State is in the process of finalizing its Statewide Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (Regional AI) in consultation with the six entitlements communities: Providence, Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, and Woonsocket. The Rhode Island Division of Planning has conducted a comprehensive Regional AI at the statewide level for a number of reasons, including:

- The most intractable fair housing issues can only be resolved on a regional basis. Because of Rhode Island’s compact size, the region and state are synonymous. The state has a single labor market that comprises all of its 39 cities and towns.
- Rhode Island already has a long history of fair housing policy. It has a comprehensive statewide planning program and a legislated “fair share” low and moderate income housing goal. Municipalities are required to identify in their local comprehensive plans how they will meet the housing needs of a diverse population across age, income and household type. Rhode Island has long provided for the siting of group homes for residents with disabilities in any residential district. In allocating housing subsidies and low income housing tax credits, the State has followed a “both and” policy of creating more affordable housing in non-traditional (low poverty) areas where few opportunities currently exist while continuing to redevelop those neighborhoods most heavily affected by poverty, the foreclosure crisis, and other ills.
- The State Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), the entity managing the fair housing planning is also the entity that administers the federally funded housing and community development programs for the state and staffs the State’s Housing Resources Commission. As such, it already has an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. OHCD coordinates closely with Rhode Island Housing, the state’s housing finance agency, on housing policies, programs and funding decisions, and Rhode Island Housing implements many of the state’s housing and planning initiatives on behalf of OHCD.

The City of Providence has consulted with the OHCD to update its previously identified impediments. Providence is supportive of this regional approach as many impediments are beyond the authority or financial capability of the City of Providence to address including economic conditions, limited transportation options, insufficient state and federal resources for low income housing, fair housing enforcement, cost and availability of



property insurance, etc. Addressing these impediments will require the collaboration of the municipalities, state and federal funding agencies, fair housing service providers, lenders, real estate professionals, and other state agencies.

**Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment**

1. The City has partnered with the Housing Network of Rhode Island to provide a down-payment and closing cost assistance program to alleviate the significant upfront cost burden that are difficult for low-income homebuyers to incur when purchasing a new home. Through ongoing conversations with Rhode Island Housing and private lenders, the City is facilitating new loan products that would expand the opportunity of low- and moderate-income households to access homeownership.
2. The City is actively looking for partner organizations that can provide housing counseling in languages other than English. Further, the City has engaged with the Roger William's University Law Clinic and the Rhode Island Center for Justice to assist with finding support for low-income renters that have been unfairly treated in the access or retention of housing in the City.
3. The DCD is working with Inspections and Standards to develop a process to notify tenants of their rights and will seek assistance from CDCs and community organizations regarding the dissemination of this information.

**Discussion**

The City of Providence's relationship with the State Office of Housing and Community Development allows for periodic communication regarding housing and homelessness strategies. As such, they also provide for many opportunities to discuss strategies to further fair housing in the State and City. While the State finalizes the Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, the City will actively engage in the development of strategies to address barriers to affordable housing.

## *AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)*

### **Introduction**

The City of Providence continually seeks to increase the beneficial impact to low- and moderate-income individuals of all programs and activities that are funded with CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds. In addition to the specific activities detailed below, the Division of Community Development will be more pro-active in responding to any and all programmatic challenges experienced by subrecipients as they may arise throughout the program year in order to ensure that any problems that may diminish the intended benefit of grants is corrected or reduced as soon as possible. Further, the Division of Community Development will be updating its policies and procedures manual, in consultation with providers and community stakeholders, to develop new criteria related to organizations that fail to meet program goals.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City will conduct a public services audit of the City's ecosystem of public service providers to identify programming overlaps, inefficiencies, and gaps in service to better coordinate and target funding to address unmet need and minimize duplication. Further, the Division of Community Development is partnering with Roger Williams University School of Continuing Education to develop research internships and opportunities in order to provide rich research opportunities to faculty, service learning for students, and valuable data and information for the City.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City will continue its effort to rehabilitate, preserve, and create new affordable housing in the City, with an emphasis on identifying new areas of the City that would allow for mixed-use and mixed-income developments in higher income neighborhoods and Census tracts. The primary funds for these initiatives will be CDBG and HOME funding.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City of Providence, through its Division of Community Development (DCD), has developed a comprehensive and cohesive Lead Safe Providence Program (LSPP) to coordinate lead hazard reduction with existing housing programs to integrate HUD funded lead poisoning prevention and "Healthy Homes" interventions. The DCD has experience in successfully operating its current grant and 6 total prior HUD Lead Hazard Control Grants (Since 1999: RILHB0490-10, RILHD0190-08, RILHB0402-08, RILHD0033-04, RILHB0227-02, RILHR0123-98,

RILHH0071-99). The current LSPP will produce 250 lead safe, healthy, and energy efficient units in the LSPP's citywide target area where homes are made lead safe and home-based environmental health hazards and energy costs are reduced. The LSPP will provide matching funds of \$978,812 and \$234,050 in leveraged funds from its public, private, and community-based partners for a total project investment of \$5,112,862 over 36 months.

Using the experience gained from successfully managing its previous and existing HUD Lead Grant Programs, the Lead Safe Providence Program will utilize a dynamic program to:

- Perform lead hazard reduction (interim controls) interventions in 250 homes;
- Provide 280 free lead inspections/risk assessments for owners to identify lead hazards;
- Complete 200 Healthy Homes interventions in Program units;
- Complete leverage funded Weatherization interventions in at least 50 Program units;
- Conduct 125 outreach and education events that support the goal of reaching 5000 residents, health care providers, community organizations, FBOs, property owners, realtors and contractors;
- Provide job training and increased contractor capacity by providing Free Lead Worker trainings and certifications as well as Green & Healthy Homes jobs training for 75 residents;
- Establish a LSPP HEPA-Vacuum Loan Program;
- Support an existing Lead Safe Housing Registry of available healthy/lead certified rental properties to distribute regularly to community residents who are seeking safer housing;
- Utilize the HUD Healthy Homes Rating System (HHRS) and tablet computer for efficient field assessments and Scope of Work development for Healthy Homes interventions;
- Expand the integrated Green & Healthy Housing Initiative Providence model to produce comprehensive interventions and create more sustainable units.

## **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

Any anti-poverty strategy must be rooted in the market dynamics of the City, State, and Region's economy. Leveraging these market opportunities, and being intentional in connecting low- and moderate-income residents to these opportunities, will be the only way to successfully improve the economic conditions of low- and moderate-income individuals and families, the unemployed, or those living in poverty. The following are the activities that the City will take during the 2015-2016 program year to lift people out of poverty.

- **Adult Basic Education, Literacy, and GED Training:** Working with the Providence Community Library, the City will engage low-literacy adults and newly arriving immigrant in English language programs to ensure they have the language skills to be full participants in the local and regional economy.
- **Job Training and Skill Development:** Working with Amos House and Building Futures, and in coordination with the public workforce system, the City will bolster workforce development efforts to build job skills among low-income Providence residents.
- **First Source Providence:** The City requires certain businesses that receive special tax considerations, grants-in-aid and/or are engaged in City construction projects to enter into an agreement with the City to hire Providence residents. First Source acts as an intermediary between employers covered by First Source and unemployed Providence residents and assists Providence residents in connecting to job openings made available by First Source employers.
- **Youth Training and Summer Youth Employment:** Every summer, the City of Providence, in collaboration with the Governor's Workforce Board Job Development Fund and the State Department of Human Services, offers summer employment to help teenagers and young adults develop jobs skills, learn positive work habits, and stay engaged in the community. These Providence youth work as seasonal employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or are employed by one of the many employer partners including AS220, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence, Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island, the Institute for the Study & Practice of Non-Violence, Rhode Island Hospital/Lifespan, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Young Voices, or Youth in Action.
- **Increase Access to Work Supports:** The City will help promote Providence residents signing up for work support programs, such as child care subsidies, RIte Care health insurance, SNAP benefits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and RI Works through partnerships with community centers and public service organizations. Increased work supports help low-

wage families meet their basic needs and move toward financial security.

- **Support for New and Existing Businesses:** Working with the Rhode Island Black Business Association, the City will provide funds for a collateral enhancement program, leveraging private bank financing to provide small business loans for low-income persons. The City will also support new businesses through the provision of small grants for new or existing business owners who are income eligible.
- **Expand Procurement Opportunities for Businesses Owned by Persons of Color and Women:** In order to support to the fullest extent possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities or women, the City has a mandate that all requests for procurement shall be inclusive of M/WBEs, and that the City shall strive to achieve at least 10% procurement from MBEs and 10% procurement from WBEs. By increasing the availability of City contracts to these businesses, greater revenues will flow to local businesses owners, facilitating greater local economic growth and more local employment.
- **Expand Business at the Port of Providence:** The City seeks to appoint a task force of stakeholders to identify any obstacles that prevent business from increasing their revenues. Further, the City will obtain and review the current economic development impact and feasibility studies to better understand opportunities and known constraints to the expansion of business at the Port of Providence.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

Providence is rich in the number and type of agencies and organizations that provide social services to populations in need. This network of agencies and organizations provide a broad variety of housing, economic, and social service programs that serve many community residents. These include community development corporations (CDCs), other non-profit housing developers, non-profit service providers, human services and shelter providers, organizations working with special needs populations, and other community-based organizations. Most of these organizations are funded through a combination of public and private sources.

While there is no shortage of community organizations in the City, the unfortunate reality is that many of these service agencies struggle with resource constraints, compete for the same limited funding opportunities, and often offer duplicative services. There is a general lack of communication among the various groups in the City which impedes the efficient delivery of services in a coordinated fashion. Providers in the City need to consider more pro-active collaboration or consolidation to eliminate the duplication of services and to

align resources and effort to have greater impact in the communities they serve. In an effort to facilitate collaboration, the Division of Community Development will be building a centralized, searchable database of service providers in the City, the services offered, and the clients served.

Additionally, with a greater emphasis on requiring full compliance with all local, state, and federal rules, and an increased demand for grant recipients to demonstrate outcomes, as opposed to strictly outputs, the DCD believes that funds invested in program will not only have an impact, but that these efforts will also raise the capacity and effectiveness of organizations that adapt to these new demands.

Through ongoing dialog with CDBG subrecipients, proactive outreach of other community organizations, technical assistance and capacity building workshops, and through regular focus groups and interviews, the City will assist in expanding and enhancing the existing institutional delivery system. As Federal funding continues to decrease, the City will become ever more focused on measuring outcomes and analyzing the return on its investment of Federal dollars.

### **Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies**

The City will host regular focus groups and working sessions with agencies, organizations, and providers to better coordinate programming and align resources to create a holistic and targeted offering of services that account for the myriad needs found in particular neighborhoods. By working in partnership with locally-based providers and community development organizations, the City can actively promote the coordination of services. With the ongoing reduction in resources from the Federal government, the City needs to highlight efficiency and maximum value creation to deliver long-term impact in a strategic way.

### **Discussion**

The Division of Community Development, with active support of the Mayor's Office and the City Council, has sought to change the nature of CDBG investments away from a large number of small dollar grants of marginal and diminishing value to a smaller number of larger grants to allow for more transformational place-based projects. As the resources allocated to the City continue to decrease, maintaining a commitment to progress in this area will be all the more important.

## *AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)*

### **Introduction**

Provide a short overview of the jurisdiction’s planned actions and to emphasize key points regarding the topics listed on the page.

### **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

#### **Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)**

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed

**\$700,000.00**

2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee’s strategic plan

**\$6,376,000.00**

3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements

4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.

**\$783,343.89**

5. The amount of income from float-funded activities

Total Program Income

**\$7,859,343.89**

## Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities

0

2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.

80%



**HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)  
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)**

**1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:**

The City's HOME program requires recipient organizations to contribute at least 25 percent of the value of the HOME award as a contribution match as a condition of the award in order to satisfy HUD regulations without financial impact to the City. In previous years, the State had additional affordable housing funds through the Building Homes Rhode Island program. While this funding has since been exhausted, it is possible that another round of funding could be made available through another affordable housing bond initiative.

The ESG program requires a 100% match. This match requirement is met through the aggregation of multiple funding sources through the Consolidated Homeless Fund. The Consolidated Homeless Fund aligned a variety of homeless service funding grants including:

- City of Pawtucket ESG
- City of Providence ESG
- City of Woonsocket ESG
- State of Rhode Island ESG
- State of Rhode Island Housing Resource
- Commission Homeless Funds
- Social Service Block Grant Funds (from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services)

Due to this unique collaboration, the CHF Partnership is able to provide 100% matching funds without transferring the match responsibility to ESG subrecipients.

**2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:**

The City of Providence will use a homebuyer subsidy with the Recapture method to recover HOME funds from projects that fail to meet the minimum affordability requirements. This allows an income restricted unit to be sold and the homeowner bearing the responsibility of repayment of the HOME funds that supported the homebuyer's original purchase. The proceeds from the repayment of the HOME subsidy we go to support an additional project. To ensure that the City recovers a reasonable amount of the HOME Program funds from the sale, transfer, foreclosure, or conveyance of a subsidized property within the minimum federally-required affordability period, the following recapture provisions will be made an express covenant of the borrower applicable to the loan:

If the mortgaged property is sold, refinanced, conveyed, assigned, leased, or otherwise transferred or if a senior lender forecloses on any senior mortgage prior to the end of the minimum federally-required affordability period as defined by 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4), the HOME Program loan assistance shall be repaid to the City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development, Division of Community Development on a net proceeds basis according to the following formula.

- Net Proceeds = Sales price minus municipal liens, minus principal owed to senior lenders, minus selling costs;
- Homeowner Investment = Downpayment plus principal paid on first mortgage and any verifiable capital improvement investment made from the date of purchase;
- City's Investment = HOME Program assistance;
- Total Investment = Homeowner investment plus City's investment
- Amount of Net Proceeds to be returned to City upon sale prior to the end of the minimum federally-required affordability period =  $(\text{City's investment} / \text{Total Investment}) * \text{Net Proceeds}$

In the event of resale of a property where there is not a direct subsidy to the homebuyer, the City uses a Resale Provision to preserve the remaining affordability period to ensure the housing is retained for occupancy for low-income households. The Resale Provision requires that if the owner of an income restricted property sells, conveys, or transfers his/her ownership interest in the property prior to the end of the minimum federally-required affordability period, the sale, conveyance, or transfer shall only be to an eligible, income-qualified purchaser. Other restrictions concerning notice of sale, maximum resale price, and marketing of affordable unit(s) shall apply and are fully retailed in the City's Resale Provision.

**3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:**

In the event of resale of a property where there is not a direct subsidy to the homebuyer, the City uses a Resale Provision to preserve the remaining affordability period to ensure the housing is retained for occupancy for low-income households. The Resale Provision requires that if the owner of an income restricted property sells, conveys, or transfers his/her ownership interest in the property prior to the end of the minimum federally-required affordability period, the sale, conveyance, or transfer shall only be to an eligible, income-qualified purchaser. Other restrictions concerning notice of sale, maximum resale price, and marketing of affordable unit(s) shall apply and are fully retailed in the City's Resale Provision.

**4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:**

The City of Providence does not allow for the use of HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)  
Reference 91.220(I)(4)**

**1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance  
(may include as attachment)**

To increase program performance and efficiency, while reducing administrative burden, the City's ESG funds are used in combination with the ESG funds of Pawtucket and Woonsocket, and the State Office of Housing and Community Development, Housing Resources Commission and Department of Human Services (in accordance w/ a OHCD MOA) to create the Consolidated Homeless Fund Partnership. In accordance with program regulations published relative to the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH), as amended, the CHF Partnership distributes these funds to private nonprofit organizations for the rehabilitation or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelter for the homeless, for the payment of certain expenses related to operating emergency shelters, for essential services related to emergency shelters and street outreach for the homeless, and for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

The City of Providence follows the written standards contained within the Consolidated Homeless Fund Partnership Policies & Procedures Manual available here:  
<http://www.planning.ri.gov/documents/shsp/CHFManualFINAL.pdf>

**2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.**

In 2014, the State issued a RFP for the Coordinated Intake and Assessment System. Crossroads Rhode Island was selected as the vendor and was contracted to do the following:

- **Provide necessary staffing and expertise for Implementation of Single Assessment and Coordinated Referral System. Project activities and scope of services are as follows:**

- Serve as an expert and provide advice regarding current national trends in implementing a needs assessment and coordinated referral system that meet HUD's requirements for the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.
  - Attend meetings of the Rhode Island CoC and relevant committees.
  - Coordinate and attend the Universal Wait List Committee and work to ensure that the Universal Wait List Committee aligns its assessments with best practices.
  - Ensure implementation of the Coordinated Assessment and Referral system adopted by the Rhode Island CoC.
  - At the direction of the Rhode Island CoC, provide training to local providers of homeless services with respect to the Implementation of the Coordinated Assessment and Referral System.
- **Provide periodic reports to the Rhode Island Continuum of Care to support its decision-making processes relative to housing and service awards. These reports may include, but are not limited to:**
    - Unit vacancy lists by project;
    - Wait lists by targeted population; and
    - Housing placements by targeted population (e.g. chronically homeless, veterans, youth and families).

Additionally, all Rental Assistance providers and Rapid Rehousing providers were required to participate in the State's Coordinated Intake and Assessment Process in accordance with the CoC Interim Rule, Section 578.3. Participation shall include the following:

- a)The Contractor will utilize assessment tools selected by and/or developed by RI's Coordinated Intake and Assessment System.
- b)The Contractor shall cooperate with the principles and requirements of this system by

- Move people through the system;
- Reduce duplication of effort
- Serve clients effectively
- Assist with ending chronic homelessness
- Make better matches of services to clients' needs and reducing returns to homelessness
  - Diversion & Prevention
  - Interim/Transitional Housing
  - Rapid Rehousing
  - Permanent Supportive Housing

Both of these actions were taken in 2014; however, the State has determined that there is a need for more work to be done on building the Coordinated Intake and Assessment System. Therefore, the State will be issuing another RFP in 2015 to address those items which have not been addressed. As a result, the State's Coordinated Intake and Assessment System is in the process of being fully developed. Below is the description of the system once it is fully implemented.

Under the requirements of the HEARTH Act, the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RI CoC) is required to implement a centralized or coordinated assessment system. Coordinated assessment is a powerful tool designed to ensure that homeless persons are matched, as quickly as possible, with the intervention that will most efficiently and effectively end their homelessness. The vendor selected to serve as the Coordinating Entity will be responsible for day-to-day administration, including: ensuring that information about how to access services is easily accessible to the public; training all key stakeholders; ensuring the HMIS collects needed data; reviewing assessments and issuing eligibility and referral decisions; managing case conferences, eligibility determination appeals, a centralized waitlist, and manual processes to enable participation in the by providers not participating in HMIS; and designing and executing ongoing quality control strategies. The following overview provides a brief description of the path a homeless person would follow from an initial request for services through permanent housing placement and roles and expectations of the key partner organizations.

- Initial Request for Services - Households in need of services to resolve a housing crisis may initiate a request through the 211 Call Center or any Assessment Entity.
- Assessment Entity - Any human services agency with a staff trained to complete the required assessments, may submit assessments to the Coordinating Entity on clients' behalf.

- Diversion Assessment – The assessment explores possible housing options to avoid shelter entry and assesses the type of intervention that is most appropriate to meet a household’s housing needs. It is required prior to shelter admission and submitted to the Coordinating Entity.
- Shelter intake - If a household cannot be diverted from homelessness, the Shelter Intake assesses basic needs and captures HMIS required data elements. It is required for all shelter admissions and submitted to the Coordinating Entity. All clients placed in Emergency Shelters, with the exception of Emergency Winter Shelter, will retain their bed assignments until they exit shelter either through a planned placement or through arrangements made on their own
- Eligibility and Referral Notifications - The Coordinating Entity reviews assessment forms and issues decisions indicating the services the applicant household is eligible for and making a referral for the indicated services.
- Primary worker - The staff person indicated on the Diversion Assessment as having primary case management responsibility for the applicant household (e.g., a street outreach worker, a shelter/transitional/rapid re- housing case manager, a mental health/medical case manager) receives all Eligibility Decision and Referral Notifications from the Coordinating Entity and is responsible for: notifying the client, obtaining clarifying information, ensuring that the client understands the decision and next steps, providing assistance to participate in any scheduled appointments and in filing appeals. In cases in which the client has no pre-existing Primary Worker, the Assessment Entity fulfills that responsibility.
- Vacancy Tracking - The Coordinating Entity will manage a centralized vacancy tracking system for all Emergency Shelter, Program Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs and will make referrals to appropriate vacant beds when available.
- Waitlist Management – The Coordinating Entity will manage a centralized waitlist for emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid re-housing, prioritizing households based on priorities described in the policies and procedures. The Universal Waitlist Committee will manage a centralized wait list for all Permanent Supportive Housing. Households that have been continuously, literally homeless for the longest period of time will be prioritized for permanent supportive housing placement. Scores on the Vulnerability Index will be used as an additional filter to determine waitlist placement.

- Next Step Assessments and Family SPDAT or VI -SPDAT- Next Step Assessments and the Family SPDAT or VI-SPDAT will be used to determine the intervention necessary to resolve homelessness for any household that remains literally homeless. Next Step Assessments will continue to occur and be submitted to the Coordinating Entity at specified intervals, until the household is placed in permanent housing or otherwise resolves their homelessness.
- Program Admissions –Emergency Shelter programs may admit clients they determine eligible outside of business hours. In all other cases, programs may only accept clients referred via the Statewide Coordinated Access System. Receiving Programs may only decline households under limited circumstances, such as, there is no actual vacancy available, the household presents with more people than referred, or, based on their individual program policies and procedures, the program has determined that the household cannot be safely accommodate. The Coordinating Entity will review the determination and issue another referral or schedule a case conference.
- Case Conferences – When needed, the Coordinating Entity will convene a case conference to resolve barriers to the client receiving the indicated level of service. The Coordinating Entity may also require a case conference to review and determine next steps when a homeless household refuses to engage in a housing plan or otherwise take steps to resolve their homelessness.
- Appeals: All clients shall have the right to appeal eligibility determinations issued by either the Coordinating Entity or any Receiving Program.
- Those experiencing or at risk of domestic violence/abuse When a homeless or at-risk household is identified by 211 or an Assessment Entity to be in need of domestic violence services, that household will be referred to the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline. If the household does not wish to seek or is not able to obtain DV specific services, the household will have full access to the Statewide Coordinated Access System.

## **BOARD DECISIONS**

- Require participation in the Coordinated Access System for all Receiving Programs funded by ESG, the RI CoC, Road Home, State Consolidated Homeless Fund, and State Rental Assistance.
- Require that participating programs adhere to the Policies and Procedures for the Statewide Coordinated Access System.

### **3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).**

#### **Eligible Activities**

Grants may be used for one or more of the following activities:

1. Shelter Renovations
2. Emergency Shelter Operation
3. Essential Services and Street Outreach
4. Homelessness Prevention
5. Rapid Re-Housing (Intensive Housing Stabilization Program, "IHSP")
6. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Associated administrative costs may also be supported. Total ESG funds used for administrative activities cannot exceed 7.5% of the CHF Partnership's fiscal year grant.

The total amount that may be used for services and emergency shelter (#2 & #3 above) will not exceed 60% of the CHF Partnership's fiscal year grant or the amount of FY'14 grant funds committed for homeless assistance activities, whichever is greater.

#### **Grant Requirements**

1. Funds will be obligated to recipients in accordance with HEARTH program deadlines. Programs funded will operate on the CHF Partnership's fiscal year, beginning on July 1st.

2. Any building for which emergency shelter grants are used for rehabilitation must be maintained as a shelter for the homeless for not less than a three year period, or for not less than a 10 year period if the grant amounts are used for major rehabilitation or conversion of buildings. If funds are used for the provision of services, maintenance or operating costs, the building must continue to be used as shelter for the duration of the grant agreement.

3. Any building which is used for housing or shelter must meet HEARTH standards for suitability and habitability.



4. Grants must be administered in compliance with the regulations at 24 CFR Part 576 -and/or HEARTH regulations.

### **Method of Distribution**

Funds will be made available to the City of Providence by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Emergency Shelter Grants Program of which up to 7.5% may be set aside for program administration. This program will be administered by the City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development, Division of Community Development, the State of Rhode Island and the remaining parties in the CHF Partnership. At the discretion of the CHF Partnership, administration funds may, in whole or in part, be made available to fund emergency situations serving the homeless, including emergency winter shelter needs.

Private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding. There is no restriction on the maximum amount an applicant may request.

### **Threshold Review Criteria**

The City of Providence is a member of the Consolidated Homeless Fund Distribution Review Committee and reviews and evaluates all proposals. Before a submitted application can be evaluated, it will first undergo a threshold review to determine:

- Application Completeness
- Applicant Eligibility
- Applicant HMIS Capacity
- Target Population Eligibility
- Proposed Service Eligibility

All applications that meet the threshold criteria listed above will be ranked by the CHFP RFP Review Committee based on the criteria. Applications found to be technically or substantially nonresponsive at any point in the evaluation process will be rejected and not receive further consideration. The CHFP reserves the right not to fund any proposal.

The eligible activities for funding, and thus the key criteria for which funding is awarded, are for use in operating or maintaining an Emergency Shelter, as well as essential services for the residents utilizing the shelter, for use relating to essential services for unsheltered persons, and for use in the renovation of emergency shelter facilities.

## **Review Process**

The CHF Partnership has appointed a Review Committee to evaluate the submitted applications. This committee will consist of representation from:

- City of Providence,
- City of Pawtucket,
- City of Woonsocket
- RI Office of Housing and Community Development,
- RI Department of Human Services,
- RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals,
- RI Governor’s Office Policy staff,
- RI Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (Lead COC Applicant),
- RI Housing Resource Commission,
- United Way/philanthropic organization

Applications will be rated by OHCD on the following criteria:

1. Number of clients served
2. Population served
3. Services provided and/or Mainstream Resources accessed
4. Location of shelter (taking into account other public resources allocated/available to the program)
5. Consideration will be given to program effectiveness in meeting adopted performance measures, as outlined in the application packet
6. Extra consideration will be given to those agencies which have been effective in their discharge of clients/consumers

Following rating and review by CHF Partnership staff for compliance with state and federal program requirements, the Review Committee will evaluate all proposals. The Committee will recommend funding to the Governor and Mayors of Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket, who will then make the grantee awards.

## **Matching Funds**

The CHF Partnership oversees a variety of homeless service funding grants including:

- City of Pawtucket ESG
- City of Providence ESG
- City of Woonsocket ESG
- State of Rhode Island ESG

- State of Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission Homeless Funds
- Social Service Block Grant Funds (from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services)

Due to this unique collaboration, the CHF Partnership is able to provide 100% matching funds without transferring the match responsibility to ESG subrecipients. The CHF Partnership uses the rules, regulations, and policies in the ESG regulations as the basis of the program design for all CHF programs (even those that are not directly funded under ESG).

All activities that are funded under the ESG match allocations will be in accordance with the Interim Rule's new requirements and regulations (and will be monitored by the CHF Partnership as such). Only activities eligible under and in compliance with the ESG Interim rule will receive the match resources listed above.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

Not applicable.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The City's ESG funds, as part of the Consolidated Homeless Fund, are designed to help prevent and reduce homelessness through supportive services, emergency assistance, and housing. In order to assess progress towards these goals, agencies who are awarded funds under this grant will be held to strict performance standards and outcomes, including specific program targets grantees will be expected to meet. The Consolidated Homeless Fund reviews applicants based upon a number of performance/evaluation criteria including:

- Persons Served and Average Length of Stay
- Discharge
  - Exits to Permanent Housing – effective
  - Exits to Emergency Shelter – possibly ineffective-churning (though exits to more appropriate shelter might be acceptable)

- Income
  - “Average Income at Entry” compared to “Average Income at Exit”
  
- Capacity
  - HMIS Participation/Data Quality
  - Financial Capacity - Audited Financial Records
  - Facility Conditions - Capital Needs Assessment

Discussion:

## **Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources**

**Data Source Name** City of Providence Community Needs Survey

### **List the Name of the Individual or Organization who Originated the Data Set**

City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development, Division of Community Development

### **Provide a Brief Summary of the Data Set**

The data set is comprised of the answers to a series of questions from an online survey of 147 respondents soliciting information about the most important housing and community development needs in the City of Providence.

### **What was the Purpose for developing the data set?**

In order to collect as much information regarding community needs throughout the City, the DCD wanted to collect information from City residents who were unable to attend one of the eight community meetings. Through a broad outreach effort, the City was able to collect additional information from City residents through this process.

### **Provide the dates for when the data was collected.**

Data was collected during the months of February, March, and April of 2015.

### **Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.**

Surveys were available online, promoted via the City’s website, through direct advertisement in social and traditional media, flyers posted in the City’s libraries and community centers, and frequent email promotion through the network of contacts at the DCD.

The following questions were asked:

1. What are the three most important issues of concern or priority needs in your community? (Respondents were asked to select three from the following: Accessibility for Those with Disabilities; Affordable Housing; Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction; Education; Homelessness; Housing and Services

for Persons with HIV/AIDS; Jobs / Economic Development; Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing; Parks / Sports / Recreation; Poverty; Public Housing; Public Safety; Senior Services; Social Services for Adults and Children; Other)

2. What are some other concerns or needs in your community? (Respondents were asked to select as many from the following: Accessibility for Those with Disabilities; Affordable Housing; Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction; Education; Homelessness; Housing and Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS; Jobs / Economic Development; Low-Quality / Unsafe / Unhealthy Housing; Parks / Sports / Recreation; Poverty; Public Housing; Public Safety; Senior Services; Social Services for Adults and Children; Other)
3. Has the City been responsive to your concerns or requests? (Yes / No)
4. How can the City better respond to and address your community concerns? (Unprompted narrative answer)
5. Additional Comments (Unprompted narrative answer)

The survey results were tabulated using Excel.

**Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.**

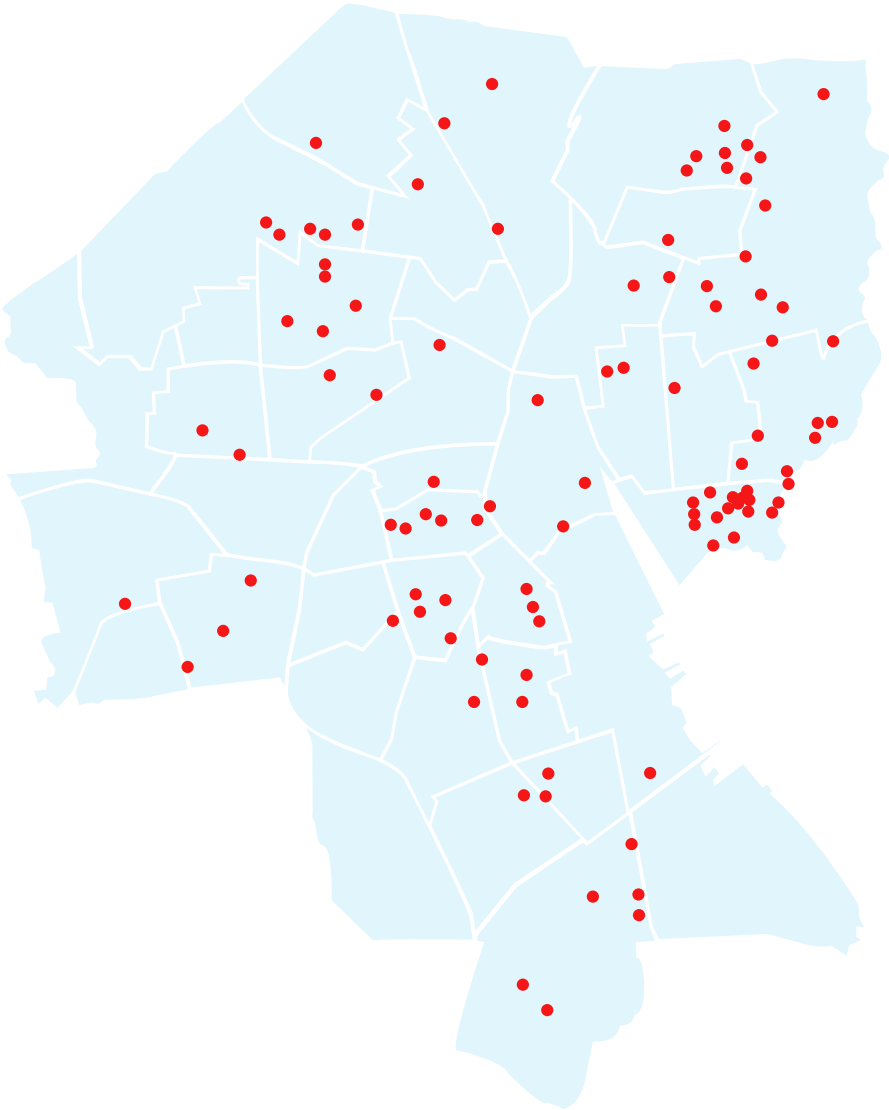
The survey was available to the entire population of the City of Providence; however, for those who cannot read English or Spanish, they would have needed translation.

**Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.**

The total number of the online survey responses was 147, all but one self-identified as residents of the City of Providence. The one non-resident survey response was excluded. There were no questions included in the survey to identify demographic information; however, the survey respondents were asked to provide their address. GIS mapping the addresses show a fairly dispersed respondent population throughout the City (see below).

Table 81 - Alternate / Local Data Sources

# Map of addresses of Online Survey Respondents



**Source:** City of Providence, Division of Community Development CDBG Survey

# Citizen Participation – Public Meeting Minutes

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*Minutes Public hearing June 18, 2015*

Present: Brian Hull, Director of Community Development  
Ron DiOrio, Associate Director of Community Development  
Councilwoman Sabina Matos  
Dwayne Keyes

Director Hull started the meeting by providing an overview of the Consolidated Plan process, the level of funding for the City's CDBG allocation, the specific priority needs that were identified from community outreach and engagement. Additionally, Hull provided detailed information on the City's HOME, HOPWA, and ESG programs, priorities, and activities. Hull then provided information on the purpose of the CAPER. After his overview, he opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Keyes inquired about the evaluation process. Brian provided details about the monitoring program the City has put into place with the role of the grant project coordinators in assisting organizations in reaching their stated goals.

Mr. Keyes then asked about the role banks play in the process as they apply to assisting Providence residents with obtaining home loans. Mr. Hull described the relationship the City has established with Santander Bank regarding the affirmative litigation settlement, the role of the CDCs in the City and their partnership with RI Housing, and the role Financial Opportunity Centers play in assisting the residents of the City.

Mr. Hull described the priority needs outlined in the Consolidated Plan in section SP-25 and the overview of goals in section SP-45. No additional questions or comments were offered.

Finally, Mr. Hull reviewed the City's proposed Citizen Participation Plan. No questions or comments were offered.

# YOU ARE INVITED TO DISCUSS YOUR PRIORITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

The City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development invites you to a series of conversations about your priorities for housing and community development needs throughout the city.

The Community Development Division will be gathering the input from these meetings and using it to shape future spending and project priorities and to update the City's Consolidated Plan – which guides the city's spending on housing and community development.

Some of the topics covered will be: *affordable housing; homelessness; senior services; parks and recreation; services for families, adults, and children; accessibility and mobility; persons with HIV/AIDS; lead paint and other unhealthy or unsafe housing issues; economic development; and public safety.*

## PLAN TO PARTICIPATE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Date	Time	Location
Tues. March 3	6:30pm	Webster Avenue School 191 Webster Avenue
Wed. March 4	6:30pm	Fox Point Boys & Girls Club 90 Ives Street
Tues. March 10	6:30pm	West Broadway Neighborhood Association 1560 Westminster Street
Wed. March 18	6:30pm	SWAP 500 Broad Street
Tues. March 24	6:30pm	Washington Park Community Center 42 Jillson Street
Mon. March 30	6:30pm	Capitol Ridge 700 Smith Street
Mon. April 6	6:30pm	DaVinci Center 470 Charles Street
Thurs. April 9	6:30pm	Dr. Martin Luther King School 35 Camp Street

To RSVP, please contact Donna Miele at [dmiele@providenceri.com](mailto:dmiele@providenceri.com).

Please complete our Community Needs Survey:

<http://tinyurl.com/ProvidenceCDBGSurvey>.



Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor



# LES INVITAMOS A DISCUTIR SUS PRIORIDADES PARA NUESTRA COMUNIDAD Y BARRIOS

El Departamento de Planificación y Desarrollo de la Ciudad de Providence les invita a una serie de conversaciones para oír sus prioridades sobre las necesidades de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario en la ciudad.

La División de Desarrollo Comunitario usará las contribuciones de estas reuniones para determinar los futuros gastos y las prioridades de proyectos y para actualizar el Plan Consolidado de la Ciudad – que rige los gastos en vivienda y desarrollo comunitario de la ciudad.

Algunos de los temas incluidos serán: *vivienda asequible; los sin techo; servicios para los mayores; parques y recreación; servicios para familias, adultos y niños; accesibilidad y movilidad; personas con VIH/SIDA; riesgos de pintura de base de plomo y otros riesgos de malas condiciones de vivienda; desarrollo económico; y seguridad pública.*

## ¡VENGA A PARTICIPAR Y TENER VOZ EN EL PROCESO!

Fecha	Hora	Lugar
Martes, el 3 de Marzo	6:30pm	Webster Avenue School, 191 Webster Ave.
Miércoles, el 4 de Marzo	6:30pm	Fox Point Boys & Girls Club 90 Ives Street
Martes, el 10 de Marzo	6:30pm	West Broadway Neighborhood Association 1560 Westminster Street
Miércoles, el 18 de Marzo	6:30pm	SWAP 500 Broad Street
Martes, el 24 de Marzo	6:30pm	Washington Park Community Center 42 Jillson Street
Lunes, el 30 de Marzo	6:30pm	Capitol Ridge 700 Smith Street
Lunes, el 6 de Abril	6:30pm	DaVinci Center 470 Charles Street
Jueves, el 9 de Abril	6:30pm	Dr. Martin Luther King School 35 Camp Street

Para confirmar asistencia, por favor, póngase en contacto con Margit Liander al [mliander@providenceri.com](mailto:mliander@providenceri.com).

Por favor, rellene nuestra encuesta de Necesidades Comunitarias:

<http://tinyurl.com/ProvidenceCDBGSurvey>.



Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Transcripts of  
Community Conversation Meetings

Page 1

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7  
 8  
 9 DATE: March 3, 2015  
 10 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 11 PLACE: Webster Avenue School  
 12 191 Webster Avenue  
 13 Providence, RI 02909  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18 PRESENT:  
 19 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 20 Providence  
 21 Emily Kish, Principal Planner  
 22 Natalie Lopes, Director/First Source Providence  
 23  
 24  
 25

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1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 MR. HULL: Thank you, everyone. We are  
 3 going to get started, so we are not here super late.  
 4 Thanks, everyone, for showing up. Again, we definitely  
 5 do live in New England. I didn't realize it was going to  
 6 start snowing, so.  
 7 I want to just, first, say Councilman Correia,  
 8 Councilman Igliazzi, and Councilwoman Matos wanted to be  
 9 here tonight. They got pulled away to a special council  
 10 session tonight to discuss the I-195 ramp, so they send  
 11 their regrets. Councilwoman Matos will try to make it a  
 12 little bit later tonight but, unfortunately, they were  
 13 not able to show up, which we had coordinated with Phil  
 14 and the council's office to get them here, and they were  
 15 very excited for this.  
 16 So with that I just wanted to say, my name is Brian  
 17 Hull. I'm the Director of Community Development for the  
 18 City of Providence. What we are going to be talking  
 19 about today is CDBG, which is Community Development Block  
 20 Grants. So these are federal monies that come into the  
 21 City of Providence, which can then be deployed in a  
 22 number of different ways to support community economic  
 23 development and housing development throughout the City.  
 24 So this is a really interesting pool of money that  
 25 is purely federal funds. They just allocate a specific

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1 amount of money and send it to the City of Providence,  
 2 and then we can, in conversations with the public,  
 3 identify particular projects that make sense. So we're  
 4 hosting community meetings across the City. We are  
 5 gathering information. We are collecting surveys to  
 6 really try to understand what the public would like us to  
 7 do with this federal money.  
 8 So on this slide it kind of, some of the items that  
 9 we can do with it are listed here, so, affordable  
 10 housing, homeownership programs. These also include  
 11 homeowner repair, home-loan programs to do emergency  
 12 repairs, park improvement, street, sidewalk improvement,  
 13 public services for adults and youth, job training,  
 14 economic development. So there is a lot things that we  
 15 can do with CDBG money. The way the process works is a  
 16 lot of organizations apply. We go through those  
 17 applications and identify the individual project that we  
 18 feel the public wants.  
 19 So these conversations tonight, and other  
 20 conversations that we are having, are really to help  
 21 collect information so that we have a better  
 22 understanding of what the public wants us to do with this  
 23 money, and then we deploy the money in that particular  
 24 way.  
 25 So with that I just wanted to go over real quickly,

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1 there are three different ways to really add your voice  
 2 to the conversation here in this room. One is, are these  
 3 priority needs boards. So people got little blue  
 4 stickers when they came in the door, put those on the  
 5 priority needs boards to identify what your biggest  
 6 concerns are in the community. I see someone also took  
 7 advantage of the blank one to add a few important issues  
 8 as well. So that's another way to do it.  
 9 We have these neighborhood maps, and we have Post-It  
 10 notes, so if there's particular geographic areas of the  
 11 neighborhoods that are problem areas for you, write it on  
 12 a Post-It note and slap it right next to that map, so we  
 13 know where it is. If there is slum housing, if there are  
 14 issues in the neighborhood park, let us know what those  
 15 are, so we can really have a clear understanding, and  
 16 then on the back of your agenda, if you took one, is a  
 17 community survey, so feel free to fill out this survey,  
 18 leave it with any one of us here, and we are going to  
 19 collect this information as well. So that's another way  
 20 to add your voice to the conversation in addition to the  
 21 discussion we are going to have here.  
 22 So what I want to do now is just really have a  
 23 conversation about some of the thoughts and concerns that  
 24 we have heard at previous neighborhood meetings, and I  
 25 want this to just be a baseline of what we think we know

1 about the neighborhood, what we think, what we think is  
 2 important for the community residents in the  
 3 neighborhood. So some of the things that have come out  
 4 from previous neighborhood meetings are housing issues,  
 5 and these are specific to the housing conditions, the  
 6 appearance of the neighborhood, some of the foreclosures,  
 7 some of the blight, issues with some of the vacant and  
 8 foreclosed homes. So when we move into the discussion,  
 9 if this is still a priority for the neighborhood, we  
 10 definitely want to know. We want to make sure that we  
 11 are still capturing that information.  
 12 Another issue that was really important for folks,  
 13 previously, were parks and open space. So we want to  
 14 make sure that this is still a primary concern. So,  
 15 specifically maintenance, lighting, trash, recycling  
 16 bins, you know, the disrepair of the playgrounds, some  
 17 more park programming for youth and adults, community  
 18 gardens. We have an effort to do community gardens more.  
 19 I didn't realize that there were lots of ATVs, actually,  
 20 in parks, so that was, I noticed, that was actually  
 21 surprising to me to know. I didn't know that. And then  
 22 some more open space in Manton and Hartford  
 23 neighborhoods. So, again, this is just stuff that we  
 24 have heard before. We want to make sure that this is  
 25 still right.

1 meetings. You know, we want to make sure that that is  
 2 still right. What we have done so far, some of the  
 3 investments that we have made, I wish we had a little bit  
 4 clearer of a wall to show it on. So the red marks are  
 5 some of the affordable housing developments that we have  
 6 invested in. The blue circles are some of the community  
 7 organization and neighborhood park and infrastructure  
 8 progress that we have made.  
 9 So the western part of the city has seen about three  
 10 million dollars in CDBG investment and close to 12  
 11 million dollars in home funds for affordable housing  
 12 development. So we don't have a ton of money, but we try  
 13 to allocate it and, throughout the city, so I just wanted  
 14 to just show that. We have made some pretty big  
 15 investments here. We have our 40-million-dollar road  
 16 bond. There wasn't a ton of stuff over in this neck of  
 17 woods but that was, sort of, one of the largest  
 18 infrastructure projects that the City has seen in a very,  
 19 very long time.  
 20 So before we start having our conversation, I just  
 21 want to put these four questions into your mind. So what  
 22 I have just talked about were some of the priority issues  
 23 that we heard previously. So, are we right? Do we have  
 24 that right? Are there other issues that we are missing,  
 25 that we should be talking about? What are your

1 So another prior area was healthy neighborhoods. So  
 2 this is more about, sort of, the condition, not just of  
 3 the parks but the commercial area and, sort of, some of  
 4 the environmental concerns in the neighborhood. So these  
 5 are some of the issues, a gateway for the main entrances  
 6 to the neighborhood, neighborhood market program, street  
 7 cleanups. We heard that people want more street trees.  
 8 We know that there are some flooding issues in the  
 9 neighborhood. So we want to make sure that we can  
 10 address that, and I think circulator issues with the  
 11 Olneyville neighborhood are probably still really  
 12 important. Given that I was stuck in that traffic coming  
 13 here today, I can sympathize.  
 14 So these are the last few, sort of, big bucket areas  
 15 before we move into the discussion. So mobility and  
 16 accessibility, this is, sort of, the repair and repave  
 17 some of the roadways and potholes. Sidewalk repair  
 18 throughout, the pedestrian crossing, some of them are a  
 19 little bit unsafe, transit service, always a big issue  
 20 with every neighborhood, some of the bicycle connections,  
 21 pedestrian connections, and then public safety issues,  
 22 the lighting, both in the public parks and some of the  
 23 main thoroughfares, and then some of the police presence  
 24 in the neighborhoods in commercial corridors.  
 25 So that's what we have heard from previous community

1 priorities, and how does that inform what we should be  
 2 investing in, and, quite frankly, what do you want to see  
 3 in your neighborhood? That's going to be really, really  
 4 helpful for the City to understand how to think about  
 5 Community Development Block Grant investments in your  
 6 communities.  
 7 So with that, I want to open up the conversation. I  
 8 want to really understand where you all are coming from,  
 9 what some of your concerns are.  
 10 Emily is going to take copious notes. We have a  
 11 transcriptionist here to also take copious notes. What I  
 12 ask is that when you speak, just say your name, your  
 13 address. You don't have to be exact, you can say the  
 14 specific neighborhood, just so we can capture it, and  
 15 feel free to let loose. We are going to have a  
 16 conversation for awhile, and then we'll, sort of, have a  
 17 wrap-up, so, I open the floor.  
 18 MR. MARINUCCI: I will be the first victim.  
 19 My name is Peter Marinucci. I'm from the neighborhood.  
 20 I've lived here for 45 years, and my concern is I believe  
 21 everyone's here, is the blight of the neighborhood. In  
 22 order to have a stable neighborhood you need to have  
 23 stable housing, and that is not just making them look  
 24 pretty. You need good sidewalks. You need good streets.  
 25 Trees are very important, but it should not be the

1 priority. We need to make this happen. We need code  
2 enforcement to be very strict. Years ago I served for  
3 eight years on the Housing Board of Review back many  
4 years ago, and it's, actually, easy to enforce these code  
5 violations, if you put your mind to it. It all depends  
6 what you want to do. I understand the City is strapped  
7 for manpower. Maybe that is something that I'm sure that  
8 the mayor, administration will address.

9 MR. HULL: Let me ask just a real quick  
10 clarifying question. So when we're talking about  
11 neighborhood blight, when we're talking about, sort of,  
12 the condition of the houses in the neighborhood, is it  
13 more, sort of, the owner-occupied housing that is a real  
14 problem, or is it more like the non, absentee landlord  
15 issues?

16 MR. MARINUCCI: In a general sense, it is  
17 due to the absentee landlord. However, I own investment  
18 property in the neighborhood, but we are full-time  
19 landlords. That's what you need. You have some slum  
20 landlords, and then you have good landlords. I like to,  
21 I consider myself a good landlord, because my tenants  
22 don't take out the garbage, so I feel it is my  
23 responsibility to put the garbage out on Tuesday night  
24 and then tomorrow to go bring the garbage pails back in,  
25 because if they don't do it, it doesn't get done. So

1 to this area of the City. We definitely hear sidewalks  
2 as a major complaint. Thank you very much. Thank you.

3 SPEAKER JESSICA: So, my name is Jessica. I  
4 live on Dora Street, and going off his comment as a  
5 landlord I definitely think it's not right that taxes  
6 should be put on him if he goes to make improvements for  
7 his house, because as a tenant I appreciate a landlord  
8 that's going to take care of my house. We are paying a  
9 thousand dollars for rent. For what? For our houses  
10 that fall apart. I have a board on my window that my  
11 landlord hasn't touched yet. Where is code enforcement  
12 to make sure that's taken care of?

13 I pay taxes in the City, and this is how I have to  
14 live. It's kind of disgusting, and then landlords like  
15 him get the back end of it. It's kind of harsh.  
16 As far as the sidewalks and stuff go, I think it  
17 should be community. Everyone should be getting out  
18 doing it. Unfortunately, there is people that are lazy.  
19 The streets belong to the City. We deal with countless  
20 people, traffic, going all the way down to almost  
21 Cranston Street, every day in this area, while people are  
22 trying to walk with their children across the street, or  
23 children are trying to walk home, daily, almost getting  
24 hit by cars because of the high snowbanks, and because  
25 the crossing guards are trying their best to get these

1 that is a problem.  
2 When we fix the properties, it seems like that we  
3 get penalized, and that's wrong. If a house needs a  
4 paint job, the people struggle, probably, to get a loan  
5 or to have, to install vinyl siding, and it happened to  
6 me on a house that I owned not too far from here, that  
7 the taxes went up. Why, because I made the house look  
8 pretty? That shouldn't be, you know, something that  
9 should be taken under consideration. You should not  
10 reward these people, but don't penalize them.  
11 Another thing, and I'm not going to take up all the  
12 time now that I have the floor, sidewalks. We have all  
13 been involved politically for years, and years, and  
14 years, and, you know, sidewalks have been done for people  
15 that support the councilperson, the administration, et  
16 cetera. When they go into a street, into a neighborhood,  
17 they should not skip one and do, you know, go right over  
18 it. It makes the neighborhood come alive if a certain  
19 track of that street that needs sidewalks bad gets fixed,  
20 gets done new, or, I know it all hinges on the money, but  
21 this is not what's being done. So, you got a slide up  
22 there, you had all the right things. I don't know if you  
23 would like to go back to it, if you kind of address --

24 MR. HULL: Sidewalks, we have heard a lot in  
25 a lot of different neighborhoods, so it is not exclusive

1 people crossed. I have a video on my iPad right here  
2 that I took the other day. I have a teacher's car that  
3 got hit and someone took off, because she had no place to  
4 park. She can't park on the street.

5 MR. HULL: Can you send that video to me?  
6 SPEAKER JESSICA: I definitely can, and I  
7 signed it over to the police as well. So they're aware  
8 of the issue that is over here. Unfortunately, I was  
9 told we cannot do police detail. That would be a private  
10 issue that they would have to be paid separate for. We

11 have parents and drivers that are going by, getting out  
12 of their cars in front of a school, an elementary school,  
13 starting fights with people.

14 My daughter goes to this school. I went to this  
15 school years ago from K - 6. This school is not what I  
16 expected it to be. And we need to bring it back to that  
17 old standard where, you know, how things used to be. It  
18 was safety.

19 Me and my son, also, shoveled a path over here,  
20 because there was a path this wide for children to be  
21 dismissed. My son is 12 years old. Me and my son did  
22 that, because I watched teachers say, "Don't play in the  
23 snow. Get out of the snow." They were falling in the  
24 snow. I made several calls to Sabrina's office, Sabina,  
25 sorry, to the mayor's office, to public safety, it took

1 me two weeks to get that path cleared, and if I didn't do  
2 it myself it would have been ignored. Is that my job?  
3 No, it's not. Why did I do it? Because it needed to be  
4 done. In this community there is not enough, and if we  
5 can't agree on something, they're never going to get  
6 done. We can sit here and argue and say it's a  
7 councilperson's job, or it's this person's job. It's  
8 accountability. It's everyone's job to get it done, and  
9 somehow we need to work as a neighborhood to get this  
10 done.

11 I don't know what I need to do. I tried to reach  
12 out to her myself, left messages for her, tried to  
13 Facebook message her, so that's why I'm here.

14 MR. HULL: So I just want to, so you said  
15 that you, just so I'm clear, you called your  
16 councilwoman, you called the mayor's office. When you  
17 called the mayor's office, did you call the Office of  
18 Neighborhood Services?

19 SPEAKER JESSICA: No, I called directly to  
20 the mayor's office, and they actually connected me to  
21 public safety, and public safety is, finally, where I got  
22 someone to come out, and even the principal of this  
23 school thanked me, because she was also trying to get  
24 someone to take care of it as well.

25 MR. HULL: So, just a show of hands. How

1 who don't take a bus, their parents do have cars, so the  
2 traffic is, it is outrageous at dismissal time. So I  
3 contacted Sabina, and I went to City Hall, and I told  
4 them why we wanted one-way streets. I had a letter from  
5 the principal. I had some letters from the parents.  
6 They granted us one-way streets from 8:30 a.m. till  
7 9:30 a.m. on Clarence and on Sterling, and then from 2:30  
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In 2013 dismissal times have changed.  
9 So now moving forward they get out of school at 3:31  
10 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

11 MR. HULL: So it's one way --

12 SPEAKER JAIME: It gets really interesting,  
13 because then a year and a half ago we contacted Sabina  
14 after countless e-mails and phone calls, and her husband  
15 actually hung up the phone on me when I called her house.  
16 She came here with parking enforcement or public safety,  
17 there was just a bunch of us, and we wasted almost two  
18 hours downstairs in what we would call our computer  
19 lab/parent zone, and we were promised one-way signs from  
20 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., that's never happened. So now  
21 I'm out there directing traffic at least four or five  
22 days out of the week for the crossing guards, because we  
23 dismiss almost 200 children on this side of the school,  
24 whether they walk home or they get picked up, it is just  
25 so not safe for them. There have been times where I have

1 many people are familiar with Providence Connects? This  
2 is a feature on our website that allows constituents to  
3 report problems in the neighborhood.

4 SPEAKER JESSICA: I actually only found out  
5 about it last week when I put a complaint in about my  
6 street being only wide enough for one car to go through.  
7 I mean, it was more than just my street, but they said  
8 that they would only address the concern on my street.  
9 And that was a week and a half ago. I still haven't seen  
10 no one come widen my street like they told me they were  
11 going to.

12 MR. HULL: Okay. Thank you. I can  
13 understand and appreciate your frustration.

14 MS. SPEAKER: One more thing, sorry, before  
15 I forget. This street right here during school hours is  
16 a one-way street, so isn't that one?

17 SPEAKER JAIME: My name is Jaime. I'm on  
18 the PTO here. I'm a Girl Scout leader and a cheerleader  
19 coach. I have four children that attend this school. I  
20 lived on Elmdale my whole life I have been there, and in  
21 January of 2012 I actually got in touch with Sabina,  
22 because my daughter had started here in 2009, and it is  
23 still different from when I came to school here. My  
24 grandmother would park down the street, walk to pick me  
25 up, but that's not what parents do anymore. For those

1 actually, like, told people you need to get off of the  
2 sidewalk now. Even though I don't have police to back me  
3 up, because when I call they said we don't have any  
4 units, or why don't you guys look into getting a detailed  
5 officer there. We don't need a detail. We just need  
6 someone to come now, because we have two parents in a  
7 stare-off, one going the wrong way, one is going the  
8 right way, and no one wants to move, and now you have a  
9 whole cluster of traffic, unsafe traffic, and with the  
10 snow. I get it. There is a lot of snow. We live in  
11 Rhode Island, that's fine. The plow job that they've  
12 done is horrible, but do a little more around the  
13 schools. These children cannot even walk into their cars  
14 from the passenger side. I mean, that's what's  
15 important, get the snow off. The snowbank goes about  
16 that far into the street on both sides.

17 MR. HULL: And it's four and a half feet  
18 tall.

19 SPEAKER JAIME: So now you have this two-way  
20 main street on Webster Avenue which has now become a  
21 one-way that has traffic coming from two streets that are  
22 supposed to be one-way streets that are no longer one-way  
23 streets --

24 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry. Can you  
25 repeat that?

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1 SPEAKER JAIME: You have two one-way streets  
 2 that meet at Webster with the snow all in the street. I  
 3 mean, it's bad without the snow, so with the snow, it  
 4 just magnifies everything.  
 5 We reached out to Sabina. The principal has sent  
 6 her e-mails. Everything from, I mean, even the sand from  
 7 the last year's winter storms was just picked up in  
 8 September or November. It was like my children were  
 9 going to play outside at recess in a giant kitty litter  
 10 box, because there is a man across the street with  
 11 several cats. What number Wallace is that -- Clarence is  
 12 the cat man?  
 13 MR. HULL: We don't need to --  
 14 SPEAKER JAIME: It is that way, so it was  
 15 pure sand, that was where the cats were going to the  
 16 bathroom. That was picked up, finally, September or  
 17 November. I don't remember which election day it was  
 18 when I had said something to her face to face, but now  
 19 moving forward you would think that these streets, and  
 20 this snow mess wouldn't be neglected, because we are  
 21 talking about the safety of kids, and almost, like, maybe  
 22 a hundred of them who walk home with no parents, and  
 23 they're just fourth and fifth graders, and they have to  
 24 protect themselves over these snowbanks and through this  
 25 traffic, and I shouldn't be out there, and her and,

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1 Jessie and myself, we had offered to put on a vest and go  
 2 out there and direct, so it looks more legit, instead of  
 3 -- I'm known around here in this school, so maybe 80  
 4 percent of the parents who I'm saying get off the  
 5 sidewalk, they get a little angry with me, but they  
 6 understand what I'm trying to do, but for those who have  
 7 no idea. Even the neighbors try to say I don't know it  
 8 is a one way, but its been a one-way since January of  
 9 2012. You have to know it's a one-way, and our signs are  
 10 about this big. They're about that big. And the times  
 11 don't matter, because they can stand up at that corner,  
 12 once it turns 3:31 it is dismissal time, they can come  
 13 down all they want. So it is pretty, I mean, and the  
 14 principal does an amazing job here, and we can't pull her  
 15 out to say, Ms. Jones, you really need to go out there  
 16 and direct traffic when she's dealing with who's getting  
 17 on the bus out this door. We have dismissal at every  
 18 single door in this school. So there is someone coming  
 19 out of every way.  
 20 I'm not hopeful that it is going to change after  
 21 this meeting tonight, but I feel like this is probably  
 22 our last resort before something happens to one of us or  
 23 one of the kids.  
 24 MR. HULL: Well, we don't want that to  
 25 happen, so this is --

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1 SPEAKER JAIME: It will be really bad.  
 2 MR. HULL: And I know the snow does not  
 3 help. I know it's a difficult situation even before.  
 4 SPEAKER JAIME: But it's like that, it is  
 5 like that even before the snow, even before the snow.  
 6 MR. HULL: Okay.  
 7 SPEAKER JESSICA: I mean, I'm just curious  
 8 to wonder why we have a substation a block up the street,  
 9 and they can't help when they're sitting in that  
 10 substation. I walked up to them, and they're sitting  
 11 there. There is three of them in there. What are we  
 12 paying them for?  
 13 SPEAKER JAIME: With the doors locked.  
 14 SPEAKER JESSICA: And a secretary.  
 15 SPEAKER JAIME: No, they don't have a  
 16 secretary.  
 17 SPEAKER JESSICA: Some lady sitting on the  
 18 computer.  
 19 SPEAKER JAIME: She's been gone a long time.  
 20 MR. HULL: Hey, how are you? Councilman  
 21 Correia. Thank you.  
 22 (COUNCILMAN CORREIA NOW PRESENT)  
 23 MR. HULL: Thank you. I will, this is sort  
 24 of a conversation, you know, again, I can't wave my magic  
 25 wand --

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1 SPEAKER JESSICA: It is a huge part of this  
 2 community.  
 3 MR. HULL: I totally understand, and I get  
 4 it. Did anyone, other comments about --  
 5 MS. BRANCA: My name is Carol Branca. I  
 6 live right next door to the school. The traffic around  
 7 here is terrible, but if we have a playground that is  
 8 doing absolutely nothing why can't some of that snow be  
 9 thrown in the playground? We have traffic. My husband  
 10 goes out there, and he directs traffic.  
 11 SPEAKER JAIME: He even offers me his  
 12 driveway to park.  
 13 MS. BRANCA: He cleaned the drainage at the  
 14 corner of the school, so when it rains the water can go  
 15 down. Some things aren't getting done, but like  
 16 Mr. Marinucci said, we work together in this  
 17 neighborhood. We try to keep it going, but that  
 18 playground is doing nothing, and all of that snow is  
 19 unnecessary. It can be thrown in there --  
 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Especially around the  
 21 school.  
 22 MR. HULL: That's great.  
 23 MS. BRANCA: And there is a lot of  
 24 playgrounds. There is another one down at the other end.  
 25 SPEAKER JAIME: They can go right down the

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1 hill and back into the basketball court area.  
 2 MR. HULL: So I want to expand the  
 3 conversation. I know right now we are focused on winter.  
 4 We are focused on the issues with snow and snow removal.  
 5 If you can think about, maybe, some other issues and  
 6 concerns that you have in the neighborhood not related to  
 7 winter.  
 8 MS. TURCHETTI: Flora Turchetti. Code  
 9 enforcement is year-round here. I have called on my  
 10 neighbor's house. He's an absentee landlord, not this  
 11 neighbor, the other side. He's an absentee landlord. I  
 12 mean, there's been garbage. They don't come. They do  
 13 not come when you call them, and that, it just takes down  
 14 the whole neighborhood. You just don't want to live  
 15 there anymore.  
 16 MR. HULL: So is it mattresses in the street  
 17 in front of the house, garbage bags?  
 18 MS. TURCHETTI: There were mattresses.  
 19 There is a lot of garbage. The house itself, it is the  
 20 worst-looking house on the street.  
 21 MR. HULL: Are there actually occupants in  
 22 the house?  
 23 MS. TURCHETTI: There are. There are. The  
 24 second floor, she's lived there. She's okay, but first  
 25 floor, it is just, and you call, and they don't come out,

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1 and they don't do anything about it.  
 2 MR. HULL: So, just --  
 3 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Brian, can I follow up?  
 4 MR. HULL: Sure.  
 5 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: When you say they don't  
 6 show up, how do you know that they don't show up?  
 7 MS. TURCHETTI: Because the stuff is still  
 8 there, week, after week, after week.  
 9 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: I represent Ward 6, and  
 10 I don't know if we're here to discuss --  
 11 MR. HULL: We are having an open  
 12 conversation.  
 13 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Open conversation,  
 14 okay. There is a process. If you call on my house, and  
 15 they come, the inspectors come, they give me a three-day  
 16 ticket. The majority of the people on the trash, what  
 17 they'll do is the landlords, the absentee landlords, they  
 18 pay the \$25 ticket. They'd rather just pay it, because  
 19 it's going to cost them a hundred bucks or 200 bucks to  
 20 get rid of the trash. So they'll pay that \$25 ticket.  
 21 Now we have got to start the whole process all over  
 22 again, go back there, give them a violation, this time  
 23 you don't pay the ticket, now we take them into court.  
 24 The court process is a long process where they'll go in  
 25 there, and they say, "I didn't put the trash there. It's

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1 the tenants. I tell them." And it's a long, long  
 2 process. The same thing with code enforcement, building  
 3 inspection. You can call on the house needs to be  
 4 painted, the gutters are falling down. There is a  
 5 process that we need to follow.  
 6 MR. TURCHETTI: So how long does that --  
 7 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: It takes time, because  
 8 they can appeal it. They get a lawyer. They need  
 9 representation. They can appeal it. The weather is bad.  
 10 I can't get a contractor. It is going to cost me \$10,000  
 11 to paint the house. I don't have the money. So you have  
 12 to give them time, and it just keeps dragging.  
 13 SPEAKER JAIME: So then that makes that job  
 14 easy. Why can't they just send a Dumpster out if it's on  
 15 the sidewalks? If it's, I mean, like Peter says, he pays  
 16 so much in taxes to keep his property up, but then if he  
 17 goes to sell his house what happens when someone sees  
 18 that. They don't want --  
 19 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: You can't just send a  
 20 Dumpster out and start picking up your trash.  
 21 SPEAKER JAIME: If it is on the sidewalk,  
 22 then it belongs to that person in that house. They  
 23 abandoned it on that sidewalk.  
 24 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: It's not abandoned on  
 25 the sidewalk --

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1 MS. TURCHETTI: You know what I actually  
 2 did --  
 3 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: -- it's garbage. So,  
 4 what you need to do is there is a 1-800 number that they  
 5 can call. You call Waste Management. There is a 1-800  
 6 number to Waste Management. All you have to do, whether  
 7 you're the, whether you're the landlord or the tenant all  
 8 you need to do is call the 1-800 number, and we pick  
 9 everything up. The only thing we charge for is \$20 for a  
 10 mattress, and if you have a mattress, and you can't  
 11 afford the \$20, you can take it, either on a Thursday or  
 12 on a Saturday --  
 13 SPEAKER JAIME: I'm aware of that, but on  
 14 the other end of these phone calls, the people who we are  
 15 trying to reach out to, we get nowhere. I called Waste  
 16 Management when, what's his name, Elorza, the mayor, when  
 17 he cancelled the trash, they came, they didn't pick up my  
 18 recyclables, they picked up my garbage, but they didn't  
 19 take my recyclables. They took everyone else's, and it  
 20 was right there where you can get it, so I called.  
 21 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Because you probably  
 22 had something inside there that's not recyclable.  
 23 SPEAKER JAIME: I recycle 90 percent of my  
 24 trash. You can come and check what I recycle. Ninety  
 25 percent of my trash is recycled. He never got out of his



1 truck. I went to try to yell for him. He didn't even  
 2 yell. He didn't even look to see what was in there. I  
 3 called Waste Management. They told me we'll send someone  
 4 out by 6:00 p.m. They will be there by 6:00 p.m., 6:15  
 5 came, my garbage is still sitting there. I called back.  
 6 We'll send someone out -- no, they were closed, high call  
 7 volume, but they were closed. I called back the next  
 8 day, somebody will be there by 6:00 p.m. It was 5:30 I  
 9 called up. We're not sending anyone out for that.  
 10 That's too much to send one big truck for one recyclable.  
 11 I have seven people living in my house. I recycle 90  
 12 percent of my trash. Where am I supposed to put this, in  
 13 the garbage? Is that where I'm supposed to put it? We  
 14 have to work together. I don't get paid to remove  
 15 garbage, but I could get fined if I didn't recycle my  
 16 garbage. So what she's trying to say is when she makes  
 17 these phone calls, it's you people, or whoever it is on  
 18 the other end that is supposed to handle those phone  
 19 calls, unless you want, Jess and I can come over there  
 20 and clean it up. Who else is going to do it?  
 21 MR. HULL: Could I just -- hang on one  
 22 second. In the back you had your hand up to make a  
 23 comment, so I just want to make sure that we are --  
 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is a totally  
 25 different issue, so if you want to finish this and then,

1 what you got out there. They'll give you a ticket number  
 2 to get that item picked up. You have to be, I reside in  
 3 that house. You can't be the neighbor and say, listen,  
 4 okay, next door has a thing.  
 5 Back in the day the City used to just go pick up  
 6 everything. We didn't care what it was. We picked it  
 7 up.  
 8 SPEAKER JESSICA: I remember they used to  
 9 get out of the truck.  
 10 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: And it got so  
 11 expensive, because all of the other municipalities,  
 12 Cranston, Johnston, they charge \$20 to take a couch away.  
 13 MS. TURCHETTI: Johnston picks up  
 14 everything.  
 15 SPEAKER JESSICA: I'm not disputing anything  
 16 that you're saying. I get it. I really do, but my issue  
 17 with that is does the City know this phone number, that's  
 18 first, and if they don't, guess where the trash ends up,  
 19 Olneyville. That was the dumping ground. I mean, I  
 20 remember I called for my mattress, and they told me  
 21 something about -- I've only been back here for a year  
 22 this month, they told me we have already picked up trash  
 23 from that apartment, so we can't pick up anymore from  
 24 that, any big things. So I said, "What am I supposed to  
 25 do with it? I have to bring it to Johnston." So now I

1 because I have several things to talk about.  
 2 MR. HULL: So let's finish up with this  
 3 hearing.  
 4 MS. TURCHETTI: What I resorted to is going  
 5 to their mailbox, getting their name off their mail,  
 6 calling Waste Management and saying, hi, I'm Mr.  
 7 So-and-so, and I have this, this, and this in front of my  
 8 house, because when I called and said this stuff has been  
 9 there for three weeks, can you come and get it, no, they  
 10 won't. So I pretended I was the tenant and told them I  
 11 have this, this, and this in front of the house, and  
 12 that's how I got it cleaned up.  
 13 MR. MARINUCCI: I need to make one --  
 14 MR. HULL: I'm going to have her and then --  
 15 SPEAKER JESSICA: What's the 1-800 number  
 16 you were referring to?  
 17 MR. HULL: I don't have it up. Did you put  
 18 your contact information when you signed in?  
 19 SPEAKER JESSICA: Yes.  
 20 MR. HULL: I'll follow up.  
 21 SPEAKER JESSICA: Just one thing about the  
 22 trash, you can say that people can call, but no one is  
 23 going to call.  
 24 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: There's a 1-800 number  
 25 that you call, you tell them your address, your name,

1 have to bring my stuff in my van and bring it to  
 2 Johnston, and then on top of that pay for it.  
 3 I don't know. This is what the City told me when I  
 4 first moved back here. When I left, I was 18.  
 5 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: You're allowed three  
 6 bulk items per week, each floor, so that would be nine  
 7 items, unless everybody had --  
 8 SPEAKER JESSICA: There's only two floors in  
 9 my apartment. I was going off what the City told me. I  
 10 have no idea. All I know is that 1-800 number if you  
 11 have it now, that's great. I will pass it around to  
 12 anybody that needs pickup, but I just know that probably  
 13 half the City doesn't know about this phone number, and  
 14 it gets dumped in Olneyville. I mean, has anyone  
 15 traveled through, by Boys and Girls Club lately? It's a  
 16 disgusting dumping ground, where our Boys and Girls Club  
 17 used to be where children of this area used to have a  
 18 place to go which they no longer have anymore, just  
 19 saying.  
 20 MR. HULL: Sir, I'm going to have you go and  
 21 in the back you will be next.  
 22 MR. MARINUCCI: We can all get along and say  
 23 if my neighbor has trash out I will take care of it.  
 24 When does that end? I have got enough troubles of my own  
 25 to take care of my property so that should not be the

1 answer that I have to take care of my neighbor's garbage.  
 2 What we are asking is that the City be more responsive,  
 3 and with all due respect to my friend the councilman,  
 4 maybe find a happy medium. I did say before, I served on  
 5 the Housing Board of Review. There were cases that were  
 6 eight to ten years old. That should not happen. It  
 7 should not happen. Now, if there is an emergency, I  
 8 believe that the City has to come up with something,  
 9 either being public works, I don't know, somebody would  
 10 have to go, if there's an issue there you have to go take  
 11 care of it, because somebody can get hurt. People leave  
 12 all kinds of stuff outside. They leave needles in  
 13 baskets that kids go play in.

14 MR. TURCHETTI: Exactly.

15 MR. MARINUCCI: We are trying to put our  
 16 arms around it and trying to make it work. Maybe  
 17 something ought to be a little tougher. I understand the  
 18 people pay \$25 and they leave it there, because it costs  
 19 a hundred, and then it takes another three months for an  
 20 inspector that I know they're not there. We don't have  
 21 enough of them. And I know that you didn't come over  
 22 here tonight to talk about the snow and the garbage, but  
 23 these are real issues.

24 MR. HULL: No, I understand.

25 MR. MARINUCCI: These are real issues here.

1 knows, maybe, sex offenders, whatever, and it is becoming  
 2 really unsafe for the kids, for the adults, anybody.  
 3 When they're renting, they are allowed to do  
 4 background checks, not background check, they are allowed  
 5 to do your credit check, because they want to check if  
 6 you can pay, all right. Why can't the City implement  
 7 that they have to also do background checks on people,  
 8 because we don't want to have drug dealers, sex offenders  
 9 living around us. This is about our safety. We are  
 10 paying the taxes. We are living there. It is not a  
 11 rental that you can get up tomorrow and find another  
 12 place and move. We bought a house. This is our house  
 13 for life until we die and give it to our children or  
 14 whatever, so we don't want to be living in a jungle.

15 MR. HULL: Right. So what part of

16 Olneyville, like what --

17 MS. YOUNG: Putnam Street.

18 MR. HULL: Putnam Street, and around that  
 19 area is it still these similar kind of issues where there  
 20 is, like, vacant --

21 MS. YOUNG: I have been talking a lot about  
 22 it -- our district, um, Councilwoman here knows me well,  
 23 because I have been talking a lot about it. Things are  
 24 being done, but it's very slow, and landlords are still  
 25 taking in anybody, and just recently there is a couple of

1 The three major things right now it is the snow, but it's  
 2 the trash and house violations, code violation, like  
 3 houses that need railings and need paint so bad, fences,  
 4 they got hit and they're there.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stairs, porches, we  
 6 can go on and on.

7 MR. MARINUCCI: So these things, we should  
 8 find, perhaps, a better solution to address these issues.  
 9 I know there is no magic wand. I know that, you know,  
 10 but we should make it tougher for the -- put a lien on  
 11 the house. Like I said, I'm a landlord, put a lien on my  
 12 house, see how quick I jump.

13 MR. TURCHETTI: There has to be something  
 14 to make it happen.

15 SPEAKER JESSICA: Make landlords live in the  
 16 houses that they don't take care of like they do in New  
 17 York.

18 MR. HULL: Woman in the back.

19 MS. YOUNG: I have separate issues. I don't  
 20 know if I have to state one. My name is Rocky Young, and  
 21 my first problem is the safety in the neighborhood.  
 22 I bought a house in Olneyville 11 years ago. When I  
 23 first moved in, it was very quiet, very family oriented,  
 24 a nice place to be, but as years go by the landlords are  
 25 renting to people that are drug dealers that are, who

1 people that moved in the house next to us, and the other  
 2 house across from us, they're like weirdos, you know.  
 3 You look at them, you don't want to be close to them.

4 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: What number Putnam was  
 5 that?

6 MS. YOUNG: 115.

7 MR. HULL: Councilwoman.

8 MS. MATOS: So maybe, is there something  
 9 that can be taken back to, for the work that you're  
 10 doing, to support the Nuisance Task Force, because we  
 11 have been working a lot to address some of the properties  
 12 that have some issues in that part of Olneyville. We  
 13 have been trying really hard. There is a property on  
 14 Bowdoin Street, there is two houses on Bowdoin Street  
 15 that we have been trying for years trying to address the  
 16 situation in there. It's a high volume of calls for the  
 17 police. We have been, the Nuisance Task Force has been  
 18 there several times. We have talked to Rhode Island  
 19 Housing, because some of the apartments have been rented  
 20 to Section 8 through Rhode Island Housing, but I think  
 21 the Nuisance Task Force needs more support, maybe that's  
 22 how we can --

23 MR. HULL: I appreciate that. So just to  
 24 highlight. So one of, we have a new administration. We  
 25 have new council leadership. We have new leadership in a

1 lot of the council committees. One of the priorities for  
 2 the current mayor is this issue with abandoned, boarded  
 3 up, vacant properties.  
 4 MS. YOUNG: There is one right next to me,  
 5 113. It's a dump.  
 6 MR. HULL: We are strategizing internally in  
 7 the Division of Community Development, in Planning  
 8 Development, with the mayor's office, with the Office of  
 9 Neighborhood Services, with the law department, with the  
 10 Redevelopment Authority, to think about how to best  
 11 approach that problem. I mean, there's lots of different  
 12 avenues we can take. It depends on a lot of the  
 13 different circumstances, the type of owner it is, the  
 14 type of condition. Is it occupied? Is it not occupied?  
 15 So there's lots of, there is lots of variations in the  
 16 scenario, so we're thinking about the different tools  
 17 that we have at our disposal to really start cleaning up  
 18 properties. The law department is doing a great job with  
 19 a receivership program. We have been testing that model  
 20 fairly rigorously, and it seems to be working, so that's  
 21 going to be one of the other tools that we are going to  
 22 be able to start using to start clearing houses by six,  
 23 seven, eight, nine, ten at a time to go through the  
 24 receivership process to get them cleaned up, to get  
 25 owner/occupants or new tenants in them. So, you know, so

1 my house. You never get the second, you understood the  
 2 orders on the first time, but I understand that things  
 3 have changed, but hit them with a stiff penalty, and we  
 4 should not wait. We should, kind of, address the law and  
 5 make it more stringent, not give them another 60 days,  
 6 another, no, you already have enough time. You had  
 7 enough warning. Why give them, grant them more time, and  
 8 that's what causes people to move out and the riff-raff  
 9 move in, and you know, and the people that have invested  
 10 these dollars over the years, you know, feel hurt,  
 11 because they feel like they're being let down.  
 12 MS. TURCHETTI: And being forced to move.  
 13 SPEAKER JESSICA: We have been following the  
 14 lead of other states and cities, why can't we follow the  
 15 lead of New York, make landlords live where they are  
 16 allowing some houses to be. If you look at their houses,  
 17 I'm pretty sure they're nice and maintained.  
 18 MR. MARINUCCI: Put them there for a month  
 19 or two, let them live with the rats.  
 20 SPEAKER JAIME: I worked in New York. The  
 21 way they run Manhattan, I don't understand why this city  
 22 can't get it together. I don't understand.  
 23 SPEAKER JESSICA: I bet you if they had to  
 24 live in the apartments that half of this neighborhood  
 25 occupies, they would change it.

1 we have things that are being discussed to really think  
 2 about, sort of, the abandoned, foreclosed, vacant  
 3 property scenario in issue. What I would like to maybe  
 4 explore a little bit more, so what are some of your  
 5 thoughts or ideas about occupied properties that are in  
 6 some sort of disrepair? I know that there is this  
 7 concept of strategic code enforcement coming out there  
 8 and saying we have been out here eight times. We have  
 9 fined you eight times for this railing. It's been  
 10 through the Housing Court, now what is the next step in  
 11 that process. So I didn't know if other folks had any  
 12 ideas or thoughts, or comments or any other discussion  
 13 about that.  
 14 MR. MARINUCCI: The trouble is that we go  
 15 there four or five times. I'm the taxpayer. I fund all  
 16 of these seven or eight times, then I fund the court  
 17 system. We the taxpayers pay for everything.  
 18 MR. HULL: This is true.  
 19 MR. MARINUCCI: And that irks me, because I  
 20 pay, you know, enough taxes, why should an inspector go  
 21 to this house and tell -- what are we here, in  
 22 kindergarten?  
 23 MR. TURCHETTI: They pay \$25 and they're  
 24 done.  
 25 MR. MARINUCCI: I was brought up straight in

1 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: Brian, if I may?  
 2 MR. HULL: Please, councilman.  
 3 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: So, basically, to get  
 4 back to answering Peter's questions with the properties,  
 5 we continue to work on them. As councilwoman stated, we  
 6 have the Nuisance Task Force that is run by Sean Creegan.  
 7 I represent Mount Pleasant, Manton and the Amherst Street  
 8 area and from Atwells to Amherst from Putnam to Amhurst  
 9 all the way down to Lynch Street. There is a lot of  
 10 development that is going on in that area. Olneyville  
 11 Housing has done a great job of rehabbing a lot of  
 12 eyesores. They've acquired a lot of property. They just  
 13 purchased a good, seven, eight houses along Amhurst  
 14 Street. They purchased several on Hannah Street, a  
 15 couple on Handy, one on Joslin, a couple on Steere, so  
 16 they're going to be investing 10 million dollars,  
 17 basically, in that neighborhood.  
 18 Last summer myself and the councilwoman, to try to  
 19 bring back the neighborhood and get everybody involved,  
 20 we planted 57 trees along Amherst Street from Bowdoin to  
 21 Manton. The summer before, to address the issue at  
 22 William D'Abate School, we received a lot of complaints  
 23 on speeding, we installed speed humps along Amherst  
 24 Street to slow the traffic down. We continue to do  
 25 improvements in there with the streetlighting, sidewalk

1 repairs. The 40 million dollar road bond. We went in  
 2 there, we paved many, many streets in there. The  
 3 councilwoman has a big project that's going to be going  
 4 on in Joslyn Park with a bunch of organizations involved  
 5 to make a water park. There is a state of the art soccer  
 6 court in there.  
 7 Manton Avenue, we have repaved Manton Avenue. We  
 8 have put in trees. We have put in decorative crosswalks.  
 9 So we are trying to bring back the neighborhood, but it  
 10 takes time. We are working on the houses. I mean, we  
 11 had a gang issue in that neighborhood. I have taken  
 12 houses, 45-47 Joslyn Street before the task force. We  
 13 shut that house down. We boarded it up. We took 14  
 14 Joslin Street, another gang house, shut it down, the  
 15 landlord rehabbed the property, and everybody in there is  
 16 doing good. 208 Carlton Street, same issue, all right.  
 17 There is a lot of issues that go on, but it takes time.  
 18 I mean, it took me a year and a half to shut down 45-47  
 19 Joslin Street with gang activity, drugs, prostitution,  
 20 with a school less than a block away. It took a year and  
 21 a half --  
 22 SPEAKER JAIME: Why so long, though?  
 23 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: They have rights. They  
 24 know the system. There is an appeal process, and we have  
 25 pulled Section 8 vouchers away. We finally were able to

1 her for?  
 2 SPEAKER JESSICA: I'm defending her, because  
 3 she almost got hit by a car trying to get in my car,  
 4 because I have to park on a snowbank. She has to get in  
 5 the driver's side. I have a van. It's a sliding door.  
 6 People are not paying attention. They're coming down the  
 7 one-way street. While they're coming down the one-way  
 8 street, they're getting very close. If they hit my  
 9 daughter, would I be wrong, as a mother defending my  
 10 daughter, because the cops can't? That's my question.  
 11 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: So what I'm going to  
 12 tell you to do is tomorrow morning get on the phone, call  
 13 the Providence Police.  
 14 SPEAKER JAIME: The Providence Police come  
 15 out in the morning. They're out in the morning. They  
 16 tell us they have no units in the afternoon.  
 17 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: We have units in the  
 18 afternoon. Hear me out. Call the Providence Police  
 19 tomorrow, ask for the Traffic Bureau, Lieutenant John  
 20 Ryan. He's in charge of traffic. We have parking  
 21 enforcement officers that work 3:00 to 11:00. They will  
 22 be here.  
 23 SPEAKER JAIME: Its been three years. Three  
 24 years in January of trying to get actual parking  
 25 enforcement here. Instead Tony or Lewey Salvanero

1 get Section 8 involved in this where now we can pull  
 2 their Section 8 voucher. So now they're better off  
 3 packing up and moving, but you have to, it takes time. I  
 4 get frustrated myself.  
 5 SPEAKER JESSICA: That whole angle  
 6 definitely takes time to eliminate crime and take out sex  
 7 traffickers and things like that, because you have to  
 8 follow the laws. If you don't follow the law, then they  
 9 have a chance of walking away, so, I mean, I get that,  
 10 but other things in this community like --  
 11 SPEAKER JAIME: Change the law.  
 12 SPEAKER JESSICA: The one-way sign, or  
 13 getting a cop to sit outside, them are really simple  
 14 things.  
 15 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: It is not simple,  
 16 believe me. I will go back to, I walked in, I guess, you  
 17 have issues with the school and one-way streets. I got  
 18 George West Elementary School --  
 19 SPEAKER JAIME: I'm not worried about George  
 20 West.  
 21 SPEAKER JESSICA: My daughter almost got hit  
 22 over here in the street. So would I be wrong as a mom to  
 23 defend my daughter, because the cops can't do it, because  
 24 they're too busy?  
 25 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: What are you defending

1 (phonetic) would come in the morning to issue tickets for  
 2 those coming out. So now we have the morning under  
 3 control, because the signs fit with the times that the  
 4 kids go to school. It's that the sign, I don't know if  
 5 you heard me, are from 2:30 to 3:30. Dismissal is at  
 6 3:31. So what can parking enforcement do?  
 7 COUNCILMAN CORREIA: I went through that at  
 8 George West. When we changed the times of the schools,  
 9 they didn't change the signs, so we need to call.  
 10 SPEAKER JAIME: But Sabina told me a year  
 11 and a half ago, when we had that meeting here, that we  
 12 were getting those signs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 13 COUNCILWOMAN MATOS: And I can show you,  
 14 Jaime, the copies of the e-mail that I have from the  
 15 School Department, from Allen Sepe saying that that was  
 16 going to be addressed. So I'm sorry it hasn't been  
 17 addressed. I'm going to look into that, but don't think  
 18 for a moment that I didn't follow up on that issue.  
 19 SPEAKER JAIME: It's been a long time.  
 20 SPEAKER JESSICA: I mean, but just, that's  
 21 great you're going to follow up on it --  
 22 COUNCILWOMAN MATOS: You should have called  
 23 me and told me, Sabina, it hasn't been addressed.  
 24 SPEAKER JESSICA: I've left messages for  
 25 you. I called and left messages for you at your office,

1 and they were supposed to get back to you. I guess they  
 2 haven't gotten back to you, but my concern is definitely  
 3 not just the times can be changed but no one can see  
 4 those times either. It's a rule.  
 5 SPEAKER JAIME: It's the law.  
 6 SPEAKER JESSICA: It's not just a pet peeve.  
 7 It's a public safety issue. These are children that have  
 8 to get out of here. Again, I have a video, I will show  
 9 you when this meeting is done, because I don't want to be  
 10 rude and take up everybody else's time with my video, but  
 11 of a teacher's car getting hit now. She can't get her  
 12 car fixed, because that's going to cost, her deductible  
 13 is going to cost more. So she has to come out of her  
 14 pocket and fix her car now because of the issue, and the  
 15 person took off.  
 16 MR. HULL: So, I --  
 17 SPEAKER JESSICA: Again, there is parents  
 18 fighting in front of our school. I have that on here,  
 19 too. That's great for these kids to see because of the  
 20 traffic issues and the one-way streets and all of that  
 21 other stuff. It's not okay. It is really not. You can  
 22 defend it all you want. These are children --  
 23 COUNCILWOMAN MATOS: I'm not defending.  
 24 MR. HULL: One quick thing, so I just,  
 25 everyone, it's 7:30, a little past 7:30. The snow is

1 regardless of what block you're on or where it is. All  
 2 sidewalks should be treated equally and should be  
 3 accessible to anyone.  
 4 What else? The school issue, obviously, the one-way  
 5 issue, the signage issue. That's definitely something  
 6 planning can help with. We can relay that information to  
 7 DPW, and I'm happy to get your information and help work  
 8 with traffic engineering to get that sign fixed.  
 9 Obviously, the traffic is a huge issue. Again,  
 10 making sure that people have the right information to  
 11 call when they do have garbage that needs to be picked  
 12 up, and then for those folks who are not calling on their  
 13 own behalf and yet have a lot of trash, we need to solve  
 14 that. We need to resolve those issues.  
 15 What else? Safety, I think this goes back to the  
 16 landlords, absentee landlords and undesirable tenants, to  
 17 put it nicely, and we have the street and the address.  
 18 The Nuisance Task Force that Councilwoman Matos  
 19 mentioned, something that we can, sort of, tag team with  
 20 that issue, and I think that pretty much sums it up.  
 21 SPEAKER JAIME: And police, can we touch  
 22 about police officers and the snow?  
 23 MR. HULL: I just want to, real quickly,  
 24 this information is incredibly valuable for us as a city  
 25 for a couple of different reasons. One, it is addressing

1 getting really bad, so I'm just, you know, I just want  
 2 to, sort of, like wrap things up a little bit. We'll be  
 3 here for a little while. We can continue this  
 4 conversation, you know, after the meeting officially  
 5 ends, but if people are getting a little bit concerned  
 6 with the weather and wanted to take off, I feel like that  
 7 might not be a bad thing. So I'm going to have Emily  
 8 just do a real quick overview of what we just heard here,  
 9 and then we can, you know, have more individual  
 10 conversations right after that.  
 11 MS. KISH: So I know you all were here and  
 12 heard everything everybody said, and be assured that we  
 13 have taken very detailed notes, but in summary,  
 14 obviously, the landlord, absentee landlord tenant issue  
 15 is an issue. The blight in the neighborhood,  
 16 improvements to the homes that aren't being done.  
 17 Obviously, code enforcement needs to be stricter. We  
 18 need to figure out ways to, sort of, hold these landlords  
 19 more accountable and making sure that those improvements  
 20 are getting done and not taking a long time and allowing  
 21 them to, sort of, evade the process by just paying fees.  
 22 Also, we all know snow is an issue. I think we'll  
 23 hear that in all of these meetings and any kind of  
 24 meeting we attend from here on out.  
 25 Sidewalks, consistent and continuous treatment

1 the concerns of the community. I'm sure these are not  
 2 the concerns of exclusively the individuals here. These  
 3 are communitywide, neighborhoodwide concerns. We want to  
 4 use this information, want it to be more responsive as a  
 5 city. That takes some internal process changes at the  
 6 city level, so that's part of the conversation. Part of  
 7 the process on the tail end is to really think about how  
 8 we are going to change our internal processes to address  
 9 some of these concerns.  
 10 Secondly, is the consolidated plan, which is  
 11 basically the guidance document for how we deploy  
 12 Community Development Block Grant funds. So these  
 13 conversations help inform the development of this  
 14 consolidated plan.  
 15 So we'll have more meetings throughout March and  
 16 April. We are going to be writing a draft. That draft  
 17 will be available for public review. If you've given us  
 18 your contact information, we will be in touch with you to  
 19 get your public comment on the draft version of the  
 20 consolidated plan. If you have particular issues or  
 21 concerns that aren't addressed in the consolidated plan,  
 22 that's the time to let me know, to let us know. The  
 23 final draft is in May. We send that final draft to the  
 24 federal government and they approve it. That's sort of  
 25 what we use as our guidance document to help inform us

1 when we use, deploy CDBG grants to organizations and  
 2 infrastructure projects throughout the city.  
 3 This website that I'm listing, this will be all  
 4 available online. This website will have continually  
 5 updated information about the entire process through  
 6 these community meetings, highlights that we get from the  
 7 community meetings, the draft version of the consolidated  
 8 plan, and, sort of, the public hearing process for the  
 9 consolidated plan itself.  
 10 We are going to be here for awhile still. If folks  
 11 want to talk to us individually, the council members, any  
 12 of the City staff, we are happy to hear.  
 13 MS. KISH: Also, the survey is online, so if  
 14 anybody, you know, doesn't get a chance to come out  
 15 tonight and wants to fill out this survey and provide  
 16 comments, it's on that website.  
 17 MR. HULL: It will be on that website as  
 18 well.  
 19 MS. YOUNG: I have a suggestion regarding  
 20 the landlords that refuse to clean up the mess the  
 21 tenants make. If you warn them two, three times and they  
 22 don't come and pick it up, just clean it and then bill  
 23 them. If you bill them \$5,000, they won't do it again.  
 24 All they understand is money talking.  
 25 MR. HULL: We have a program that is more

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the  
 foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of  
 my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand  
 this 11th day of March 2015.

TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
 NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: March, 3 2015  
 IN RE: Public Hearing  
 HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of  
 Planning and Development

1 for boarded-up houses, but, yes.  
 2 Thank you, all, very much.  
 3 (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:37)  
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1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
 3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING  
 4  
 5 PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING :  
 6 IN RE: :  
 7 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT :  
 8 :  
 9  
 10 PLACE: Fox Point Boys & Girls Club  
 11 90 Ives Street  
 12 Providence, Rhode Island  
 13 DATE: March 4, 2015  
 14 TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
 15 LEADING DISCUSSION:  
 16 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development  
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1 where the money is best used, it's really helpful to  
 2 get public input, because we would like to be able  
 3 to do so much, and it's been a challenge over time  
 4 in terms of the cuts that have happened.  
 5 But I think that this is a great  
 6 opportunity to have a dialogue. And, again, I  
 7 appreciate everybody for coming out. Thank you.  
 8 Sam?  
 9 MR. ZURIER: Thank you. This is  
 10 actually my first year of this, because they  
 11 adjusted the map so that more of the East Side is  
 12 eligible for this funding. And I really am looking  
 13 to learn more from Brian in the planning department  
 14 about how the money can be used.  
 15 As my colleague said, there's not  
 16 enough of it, and the federal government puts a  
 17 number of restrictions on what you can and cannot  
 18 use the money for. But by being here and listening  
 19 to all the needs, that gives the City the best  
 20 chance to match up the limited resources and  
 21 restrictions to what you can do.  
 22 I will just say one more thing. It  
 23 happens that tonight is a Jewish holiday called  
 24 Purim. It's about not being exterminated in Persia  
 25 many years ago. But in any event, I cannot stay for

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:37 P.M.)  
 2 MR. HULL: Thank you, everyone. Thank  
 3 you. My name is Brian Hull. I'm the director of  
 4 community development for the City of Providence. I  
 5 just wanted to introduce the two council members  
 6 that represent sort of the, most of the East Side,  
 7 Fox Point, Downtown: Councilman Seth Yurdin, Ward  
 8 1, and Councilman Sam Zurier, Ward 2.  
 9 I want to let them have some brief  
 10 remarks, and then I will take over, and we'll kind  
 11 of go through the whole process. A couple ground  
 12 rules because we have a sizable crowd, so we have to  
 13 manage the conversation in a particular way. So  
 14 without further ado, the council members.  
 15 MR. YURDIN: Thanks, Brian. Thanks so  
 16 much, everybody, for coming out. This is a really  
 17 important process to have the public come out and  
 18 provide input, specifically around the Community  
 19 Development Block Grant program.  
 20 I think there are people here that have  
 21 a number of issues, so the planning department will  
 22 take that information in and try to work in coming  
 23 up with solutions, figure out people's priorities.  
 24 It's frustrating, because there's limited resources.  
 25 So when we're in the role of trying to figure out

1 the whole evening, because I have to go celebrate  
 2 Purim, but I'm going to listen as closely as I can  
 3 while I'm here, and I'd like to thank you all for  
 4 coming.  
 5 (Applause)  
 6 MR. HULL: So just a couple ground  
 7 rules right off the get-go before we start. In  
 8 order for everyone to hear what people are saying,  
 9 only one person can be speaking at a time. Can I  
 10 have everyone's acknowledgment that only one person  
 11 is going to be talking at a time? Yes?  
 12 AUDIENCE: Yes.  
 13 MR. HULL: Awesome. So, again, because  
 14 we have so many people here, speak as if you're  
 15 talking to the furthest person in the room. That's  
 16 going to allow everyone to hear what people have to  
 17 say. Does anyone here need Spanish translation?  
 18 I said that in English. They probably  
 19 didn't understand me. So it doesn't look like  
 20 anyone here needs Spanish translation, so that's  
 21 good. That will help us move this along a little  
 22 bit quickly. So I want to just briefly run through  
 23 the agenda. This is not set in stone; we're going  
 24 to have a conversation.  
 25 So, check in. Everyone checked in,

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1 hopefully. When you checked in, you should have  
 2 been given three dots. These are dots that go on  
 3 our priority needs board. I see that lots of people  
 4 have already done that. If you did not get three  
 5 blue dots, make sure you get them before you leave  
 6 so you can identify the priority needs.  
 7 We also have maps on the wall. If  
 8 there are particular geographic areas of the  
 9 neighborhood that you have a concern with, feel free  
 10 to write a note on a Post-it note, slap it to the  
 11 map. We aggregate comments in that way, as well.  
 12 So just real quickly, we're going to go  
 13 over what community development block grants are.  
 14 This is not going to be a full in-depth tutorial on  
 15 what community development block grants are. I  
 16 don't want to subject anyone to that pain.  
 17 So we're just going to go over briefly  
 18 what it is, and what it can be used for, and then  
 19 that will be the framework for a conversation  
 20 further on about what some of the priority needs  
 21 are. So I want to also address a lot of the things  
 22 that we have heard previously from other community  
 23 meetings.  
 24 And I want to make sure that what we  
 25 heard still makes sense, are we still on the right

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1 track, what are we missing, these kinds of things.  
 2 We're going to have a brief discussion about some of  
 3 the investments that we have made in the area, and  
 4 then we're going to break up into two groups to have  
 5 a facilitated conversation about what you think are  
 6 the most important issues in the neighborhood, okay?  
 7 So when we break up into those two  
 8 groups, one will be led by me and Margi, one will be  
 9 led by Emily, and we'll manage that when the time  
 10 comes, okay? So with that, what is Community  
 11 Development Block Grant? So this is something I  
 12 don't expect anyone to really be super familiar  
 13 with.  
 14 It's a fairly esoteric program from the  
 15 federal government. What's cool about it is it's  
 16 federal money that comes into the City. The City --  
 17 the money is fairly flexible. There's lots of rules  
 18 attached to how it can be used, but it can be used  
 19 for a lot of different things.  
 20 So some of those things are affordable  
 21 housing development, home loan programs, ownership  
 22 programs, rehabilitation programs, lead remediation,  
 23 public services, sidewalks, streets, neighbor parks.  
 24 So lots of things we can use community development  
 25 block grants for. When we are having the

Page 7

1 conversation about what some of the priority needs  
 2 are, some of those priority needs can actually be  
 3 addressed with community development block grants.  
 4 Some of them might not. We are not going to really  
 5 make that distinction now. We want to just elicit  
 6 the feedback from the crowd about what some of those  
 7 priority concerns are, okay?  
 8 So, quickly, I mentioned it briefly.  
 9 We want to have sort of active participation. We  
 10 have the priority needs boards, we have the maps.  
 11 And then we also have surveys on the back of the  
 12 agenda. I would appreciate it much if you could  
 13 fill out this survey and leave it at the front.  
 14 We have a little envelope we're going  
 15 to stick all the surveys in. Feel free to complete  
 16 it however much you want. If you don't want to put  
 17 all of your contact information, that's fine. What  
 18 we're going to use this for is to sort of collect  
 19 information about attendees, so as we start having a  
 20 fuller discussion and a proofing of the draft of the  
 21 consolidated plan -- which is basically the guidance  
 22 document for community development block grants --  
 23 we want to have citizen participation and  
 24 involvement in that process, as well.  
 25 We will create a draft. You all get to

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1 review that draft, offer comment to us so that we  
 2 can update that draft. I will get into that a  
 3 little bit further, but I just want to put that in  
 4 your brain for now. The fourth way to really  
 5 participate is today, during the conversation.  
 6 So I'm going to try to manage that  
 7 conversation as best as possible, but, you know, I  
 8 want to make sure that we hear as many voices as  
 9 possible during that. So that's just a map. You  
 10 all saw it when you came in.  
 11 So previous meetings that we have had,  
 12 public meetings that we have had, about the  
 13 neighborhood have solicited a lot of information  
 14 that we take seriously. Some of this information,  
 15 you know, I have bucketed it into particular  
 16 categories just because it made sense to me that  
 17 way. It might not make sense to everyone that way.  
 18 But regarding mobility and  
 19 accessibility, we have heard some of these things,  
 20 like a really strong support for pathway  
 21 connections, public access to the waterfront. I  
 22 feel like that's probably still really important.  
 23 Sort of the wall at the back end of Brown University  
 24 along Arlington Avenue, and the lack of penetration  
 25 for that wall. Same thing with Butler Hospital.



1 More amenities; way-finding signage; access to  
 2 transit; pedestrian safety, and biker safety, as  
 3 well; Westminster Street should connect all the way  
 4 through to the other side of the highway, through  
 5 Cathedral Square; lots of better connections with  
 6 Downtown, with the West Side along specific avenues.  
 7 Same thing, connections with the  
 8 Jewelry District, the Hospital District, Promenade  
 9 and Kinsley Street. And then strong support for the  
 10 pedestrian bridge and the park near India Point  
 11 Park. I saw that someone mentioned a comment about  
 12 the impending Red Sox, Rhode Island Red Sox stadium.  
 13 That's, we have a lot to work through.  
 14 That's not a foregone conclusion, it's not a fait  
 15 accompli. There's lots of things to discuss about  
 16 where that stadium will be located. Some people  
 17 have certain ideas, other people have other ideas.  
 18 So that's going to be an internal conversation, as  
 19 well.  
 20 Other topics that we heard that were  
 21 really important to the community, parks and open  
 22 space, burying the power lines along India Point  
 23 Park, you know, green practices, park operations,  
 24 more recreational amenities, promoting active ground  
 25 for uses in buildings along open space, views along

1 that's not because we don't like the East Side,  
 2 that's because there are particular areas of the  
 3 East Side that are ineligible for CDBG funds.  
 4 Again, I don't want to get, kind of, into the weeds  
 5 on that. This is more of a conversation about what  
 6 the priorities are, and then we can really decide  
 7 how we can align CDBG funds to meet those  
 8 priorities.  
 9 This is the road bond, \$40 million road  
 10 bond. Over the past two years, the City has made an  
 11 incredible effort on road improvement. We could  
 12 probably spend another \$40 million in another few  
 13 years, and the roads still won't be as best as they  
 14 could be, but we have made significant improvements  
 15 in road conditions, as well.  
 16 So I do not want this to be a  
 17 monologue, so I'm going to stop. I just wanted to  
 18 kind of set the groundwork with those opening  
 19 remarks. Now, we're going to break up into two  
 20 groups, sort of somewhere around here. We're going  
 21 to have some people over here, and some people over  
 22 there.  
 23 When we think about the group  
 24 discussion we're about to do, I want you to be  
 25 thinking about these four questions. So I just told

1 different viewing routes. And then the Waterfront  
 2 Park pedestrian bridge, again, we heard that. I  
 3 just wanted to acknowledge it, as well. And the two  
 4 other issues that sort of came to the fore in some  
 5 of our previous meetings were retail street-level  
 6 activity along specific corridors; integrating the  
 7 streetscape, pedestrian amenity signage, et cetera,  
 8 kind of thinking about it holistically to connect  
 9 specific corridors.  
 10 The train station park seems to lack  
 11 some liveliness around it; and obviously  
 12 infrastructure problems about some of the conditions  
 13 of the sidewalks throughout, and then, as well as  
 14 Downtown. So some of the investments that we have  
 15 made in the area previously, I sort of mapped out.  
 16 So this might be hard to read; we're not in the best  
 17 location for that.  
 18 So basically these are CDBG  
 19 investments, and home partnership investments, as  
 20 well, so affordable housing developments,  
 21 investments made to public service agency,  
 22 community-based organizations. You know, in the  
 23 Downtown area, we have quite a bit.  
 24 Over on, sort of, the East Side, Fox  
 25 Point area, there's not a lot of investments, and

1 you what we think we understand are the priority  
 2 needs: India Point Park, park access, Downtown,  
 3 some of the connections between Downtown and other  
 4 neighborhoods, healthy living, healthy communities.  
 5 Are we right? Did we get it right? I  
 6 know there are probably a lot of things that are  
 7 missing from that list, so let us know what we are  
 8 missing. What should our priorities be as a city,  
 9 and fundamentally what do you all want to see in  
 10 your neighborhoods.  
 11 So that's kind of, if you think about  
 12 four questions when we are having a conversation,  
 13 those are the four questions you should be thinking  
 14 about. I see on the list over here, we have certain  
 15 -- I can't really see, actually. Emily, help me  
 16 out.  
 17 EMILY: We have senior services,  
 18 education, jobs, economic development, and public  
 19 safety are our front-runners on this wall. On that  
 20 wall, I think the front-runners are senior services,  
 21 park sports and recreation, and public safety.  
 22 MR. HULL: So it seems like we have a  
 23 few issues that came right to the top immediately.  
 24 So when we break up into our two working groups, our  
 25 two discussion groups, we can talk about any issues.

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1 I feel like there's going to be specific issues that  
 2 we're going to talk about most, and that's fine.  
 3 What I would hope is that we give everyone an  
 4 opportunity to speak, to kind of offer their  
 5 comments. We'll have a lively conversation.  
 6 And then we're going to end that  
 7 conversation and bring everyone back together, and  
 8 we'll have sort of a wrap-up, you know, what did we  
 9 see, what did we get out of each of those two  
 10 groups? And we'll have a little bit of a  
 11 conversation.  
 12 WOMAN: Is there going to be a  
 13 notetaker, so these thoughts don't get lost?  
 14 MR. HULL: Absolutely. So myself and  
 15 Margi are going to be in one group. Emily and Darcy  
 16 are going to be in the other group. And we're going  
 17 to be leading those two groups, we're going to be  
 18 writing copious amounts of notes.  
 19 And if you have questions for us, we  
 20 are more than happy to answer questions. What we  
 21 really want to do is we want to get your  
 22 information. We are taking this incredibly serious.  
 23 This is really, really important to me personally,  
 24 to the Department of Planning and Development, to  
 25 the new administration that comes in.

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1 necessarily have that time, so don't concern  
 2 yourselves with that. This is just an exercise for  
 3 us to understand what those priority concerns are so  
 4 that when we develop a consolidated plan, we can  
 5 say, Yes, this is a priority concern that can be  
 6 addressed with CDBG, with community development  
 7 block grant.  
 8 And the other part of the concerns come  
 9 to the fore, we still detail them, but we just  
 10 acknowledge that Community Development Block Grant  
 11 cannot be a partner in that. So we bring it to, you  
 12 know, DPW or another department so that they can  
 13 understand what those concerns are.  
 14 WOMAN: And develop a plan?  
 15 MR. HULL: And develop a plan to  
 16 address those concerns. So again, I put forth four  
 17 really important questions, in my mind. So are we  
 18 on the right track? What are the concerns that you  
 19 have? Are we meeting those concerns? If not, what  
 20 are we missing? And then really think about, what  
 21 are your priorities.  
 22 So with that, I am just going to open  
 23 it up. When you speak, if you could just announce  
 24 your name, and then, you know, offer your comment  
 25 loudly so we can all hear it. And then we'll kind

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1 So, you know, we're taking your words  
 2 to heart. And this is going to be really  
 3 informative for the consolidated plan process moving  
 4 forward. I will describe that a little bit more  
 5 after we get together, but for right now, let's say  
 6 maybe around here (indicating), all of you folks go  
 7 over this way, and all you folks come on over here.  
 8 Feel free to bring your chairs with you, and we will  
 9 kind of bring it all back.  
 10 (Community members separated into groups)  
 11 MR. HULL: So I want to have a  
 12 conversation about the concerns that you have in the  
 13 community. What I would like to do --  
 14 WOMAN: Question: I was unaware that  
 15 this was having to do with community block grants.  
 16 These are issues we want to concern ourselves with  
 17 our neighborhood, they might not even fall into the  
 18 guidelines of community block grants. Would they  
 19 still be concerned as being a priority for this  
 20 neighborhood?  
 21 MR. HULL: What I would like to do is  
 22 have a conversation about your priority concerns in  
 23 the neighborhood, regardless of CDBG. We do not  
 24 have -- a full tutorial on community development  
 25 block grants would be months long. We don't

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1 of begin the conversation.  
 2 MS. FRAPPIER: I'm Mary Frappier. I  
 3 have lived in Rhode Island almost 78 years, and I  
 4 have lived here in Providence about 35. And I think  
 5 we have a wonderful asset with Narragansett Bay  
 6 going out into the Atlantic Ocean. I mean, this is  
 7 land formed by a glacier.  
 8 And we already have \$17 million that  
 9 has been raised to bury the power lines. And I have  
 10 been going to those meetings forever, and I'm  
 11 hoping, before my 90th birthday, that we bury them.  
 12 I mean, if we have that amount of money, we have  
 13 this beautiful coastline there.  
 14 This connects to the bike path, it  
 15 connects to the walks for WaterFire, we're  
 16 developing all these places, beautiful places to  
 17 live, and we should get that done. East Providence  
 18 is going to absorb some of the cost of it. And I  
 19 think the time is really to act on it now.  
 20 AUDIENCE: Agreed.  
 21 MS. FRAPPIER: If you look over there,  
 22 you notice the two highest ones are "burying the  
 23 power lines" and "senior services." And I think  
 24 they're connected, because we think we'll die before  
 25 it happens.

1 MR. WORRELL: My name is Richard  
 2 Worrell. I'm also going to join in your lament and  
 3 your preaching to see if we can motivate the City to  
 4 take a leadership role in burying those power lines.  
 5 I was a city councilman back in the '60s, and I was  
 6 involved with creating India Point Park.  
 7 And it's a wonderful, marvelous part of  
 8 the city, and it's used by tens of thousands of  
 9 people every summer, that is, when the snow is not  
 10 three feet deep out there. We have had a history,  
 11 and I've been very much involved with this  
 12 particular issue.  
 13 We have had a history in the city of  
 14 talking about what a great idea it was, and then  
 15 giving no strong leadership to make it happen. The  
 16 City has been right there with National Grid  
 17 worrying about how much it's going to cost, whether  
 18 we really need to do it, how are we ever going to  
 19 justify the expense, et cetera, et cetera, et  
 20 cetera.  
 21 Well, look, we've been working at this  
 22 thing since, for ten years now, we have had that \$17  
 23 million that she referred to. That has been  
 24 targeted and tagged for this project. And if we  
 25 don't do that, if we don't use that money now --

1 to make sure I acknowledge, power lines, we get it,  
 2 I totally understand. If there are other issues  
 3 that maybe...  
 4 MS. NELSON: Meredith. I came here  
 5 specifically because I'm familiar (inaudible) senior  
 6 services offered here recreationally. And I  
 7 noticed, about mid-December, there was no more  
 8 money. The person in charge, our director, wasn't  
 9 paid, and it finally had to close down.  
 10 There was a grant of some sort, but  
 11 somehow it didn't last out, and then it was lost.  
 12 And it would be nice to know that the seniors were  
 13 being considered for what we need. Because I know  
 14 people who, their blood pressure, they're off  
 15 medication.  
 16 There are places people can get  
 17 together and eat. And it's a small amount of money,  
 18 but makes a big difference for people who live in  
 19 this neighborhood and use these services. And  
 20 recreational things, there's water, there's yoga,  
 21 there's a lot of things we can do.  
 22 But just to keep that funded, it would  
 23 be something very beneficial to the whole  
 24 neighborhood. And I'd also like it if it was safer  
 25 to walk in the streets.

1 there's several different federal funds, some from  
 2 the governor, some from National Grid's litigation  
 3 efforts going back ten or twelve years where  
 4 National Grid had to commit. Instead of paying a  
 5 fine, they committed to putting money into burying  
 6 those power lines.  
 7 The last thing National Grid wants to  
 8 happen is to have those power lines buried. I can  
 9 say that without fear of any condemnation from  
 10 anybody, including anybody from National Grid who  
 11 wants to argue the point. But the City needs that.  
 12 It will bring \$17 million into the economy of the  
 13 City.  
 14 It will create -- albeit, for a  
 15 relatively short period of time -- it will create a  
 16 lot of construction jobs. People all over the state  
 17 are lined up to want to make it happen. And we can  
 18 make it happen, but it requires leadership from the  
 19 City.  
 20 And it's not going to happen until the  
 21 City leadership stands up, gets out front, and makes  
 22 it happen. And I hope to see that that's something  
 23 that is going to happen.  
 24 MR. HULL: Thank you. So that we don't  
 25 talk about power lines for 45 minutes, I just want

1 MR HULL: Yes, I totally understand,  
 2 and I acknowledge you. We had to do some work on  
 3 our end to get it reopened in December. It was  
 4 something that we really worked hard on to make  
 5 sure, so we're aware. And Councilman Yurdin is  
 6 incredibly gracious and committed to making sure  
 7 that that works, as well.  
 8 MS. TRIH: My name is Cassandra, and  
 9 I'm in this area. I provide one of the services at  
 10 the senior center. I also provide a (inaudible  
 11 mandated service for seniors in this area. And one  
 12 of the things I have noticed, and the people I work  
 13 with have noticed, is that we love the emphasis on  
 14 the pedestrian walkways and the linkage, but we see  
 15 that it only goes to a certain age range, and that  
 16 issues of mobility with the aging population aren't  
 17 being taken into account.  
 18 And Fox Point is at a difficult growth  
 19 stage, because there is definitely a senior  
 20 community here that is very strong. There's a  
 21 rising population in their 40s, but those people, in  
 22 10 or 15 years, are going to need those mobility  
 23 services in the senior centers.  
 24 And if you don't build them now,  
 25 there's really going to be no money and no space on

1 the East Side to put a new thing in place.  
 2 MR. HULL: That's really important.  
 3 MS. TAYLOR: I'm Janet Taylor, and I  
 4 live on Williams Street, and I have been in Fox  
 5 Point since 1965. Anyway, I would like -- where it  
 6 says, "What are we missing," I would like to see  
 7 something on the website or in the newspaper where  
 8 these topics are issued, and then a progression of  
 9 what is being done, it isn't just dying there in  
 10 committee, but it has gone to this of that date, and  
 11 then a time line, what action is being done on it,  
 12 and where the study is being taken on, and a  
 13 prognosis sort of thing.  
 14 In other words, we can check it all the  
 15 time. And we don't have to for all the issues, you  
 16 can't take them all. And maybe you just say, "Okay,  
 17 we couldn't do all of this, but we can do this many  
 18 this year, and this is what we're going to be  
 19 doing." You know what I mean? Be honest about it.  
 20 Thank you.  
 21 MR. LAY: Hello. I'm John Lay. I live  
 22 on the corner of Gano and Pitman. And the issue  
 23 that I'm concerned about is economic development and  
 24 job creation in the neighborhood. And while it is  
 25 true that certain parts of the East Side may be

1 condition of the city, about how we manage our  
 2 environmental and natural resources in the city. I  
 3 think that needs to be in there. And I believe that  
 4 the CDBG can be used to match other federal funds.  
 5 It's one of the few federal grant programs that can  
 6 be used to match other federal funds.  
 7 And so we have an opportunity to use  
 8 those in a more holistic way, so that we look at  
 9 transportation, we look at job development, we look  
 10 at parks, we look at stormwater management in a way  
 11 that takes advantage of this particular block grant  
 12 there.  
 13 So I'd like to see more attention being  
 14 paid within the city for environmental issues in  
 15 general. If you look at DPW, the only thing they  
 16 look at there is trash pickup. There is like nobody  
 17 home on environment. There is a sustainability  
 18 office, but it's disconnected from the management of  
 19 the city.  
 20 So I guess what I would like to see is  
 21 the Shooters site, the Shooters site is very  
 22 critical for that connectivity that we'd like to see  
 23 with city walk. Right now, I'm not sure why, you  
 24 know, the citizens of the state voted millions of  
 25 dollars to procure that site, and it's being held

1 ineligible for CDBG money, the immediate  
 2 neighborhood right now happens to have, believe it  
 3 or not, a substantially higher population of people  
 4 under, at, or below the 200 percent poverty line.  
 5 And we have a lot of underutilized resources,  
 6 particularly along Ives Street. And several  
 7 commercial places have been vacant for way too long  
 8 right across the street.  
 9 I have been living in this neighborhood  
 10 about 15 years now. One business after another goes  
 11 in there and just seems to come out. And if you can  
 12 get some more sustainable businesses moving in  
 13 there, it might have a great impact on, you know, on  
 14 the neighborhood.  
 15 Another thing, too, is that I'm not  
 16 sure about how much the, well, the development at  
 17 the old Shooters place in the park is entering into  
 18 this, but that is definitely a very, very key  
 19 resource that should receive a lot of City  
 20 attention.  
 21 MS. PRYOR: My name is Margherita  
 22 Pryor. I'd like to follow up on yours and your  
 23 comments because I was going to say something about  
 24 both of them. When you ask what's missing, there's  
 25 literally nothing there about environmental

1 up, and it's vanished into a black hole, the  
 2 decisions about it. Transportation on senior  
 3 issues, you know, we have bus stops that are buried  
 4 in snow, we have bus routes that are poorly signed.  
 5 There's no shelters on any of them.  
 6 We need to sort of think about  
 7 transportation as a whole system, not just ad hoc,  
 8 buses here, bikes over here. I'd like to see the  
 9 City be more influential in the DOT transportation  
 10 improvement plan. I know that the City sits on that  
 11 committee, but rarely raises its voice.  
 12 And finally, I just think that we need  
 13 to have green operations and recreational resources  
 14 that really serve to bring this city together.  
 15 Because right now, the East Side is its own enclave,  
 16 and they see themselves as besieged in paying taxes,  
 17 and the rest of the City sees us as privileged Jews.  
 18 I'd like to see us come together.  
 19 MS. OLIVIERA: My name is Sandy  
 20 Oliviera. I work at the Fox Point library. And  
 21 just recently, with all the snow, one thing that I  
 22 started doing because of the lack of parking around  
 23 here was to park my car at East Side Market and use  
 24 the bus, RIPTA, to come into Fox Point.  
 25 We do things for people in the

1 summertime to help with transportation and get  
2 people out of the city. It would be nice if maybe  
3 the City could kind of suggest to RIPTA, maybe they  
4 could do something in the wintertime to get people  
5 to park outside the city. That would allow more  
6 freedom.

7 Because you have a really dangerous  
8 situation with emergency equipment, they can't get  
9 through. Buses have had to change their routes.  
10 And that's really a very serious thing. So I  
11 happened to think of that.

12 MS. TAYLOR: Janet Taylor. I was  
13 thinking the same thing, and about the, to bring  
14 back our trolleys, because the buses are too big for  
15 our streets, and the little houses shake when they  
16 go down the street.

17 MARJORIE: Marjorie. Also, the cars  
18 have to back up all the way down Wickenden Street to  
19 let the buses go by. And they are not needed to be  
20 that big, it makes no sense on our streets,  
21 especially in the winter, but all the time.

22 MS. DILL: Judi. Speaking about  
23 businesses, for small businesses in the  
24 neighborhood. You go along Wickenden, you see them  
25 opening and closing. Just they don't stay there

1 and he can't have a relationship during that. So  
2 now that the election is over, we're going to  
3 reestablish those relationships.

4 MS. DILL: One other thing. Once the  
5 business closes, some of them stay empty for years.  
6 Now, is that because they just can't rent it, or is  
7 the landlord living down South, an absentee  
8 landlord, or just doesn't care that it's a blight to  
9 the neighborhood?

10 There has to be some, like, watchdog  
11 committee on top of these landlords. Do they just  
12 reject applicants for whatever reason when they  
13 should be renting them? Something has to be done to  
14 put pressure on them to rent those stores again as  
15 quickly as possible. It's a blight on the  
16 neighborhood.

17 MR. HULL: I have my own personal  
18 comments on it, but...

19 GENTLEMAN: Are any of these impossible  
20 to rehabilitate for environmental or structural  
21 reasons?

22 MR. HULL: There are historic buildings  
23 that have, sort of, remediation problems, and  
24 they're Brownfield sites. That's not a lot of them,  
25 but there are some that are like that. I think your

1 long, many, many businesses. You have empty  
2 storefronts there constantly. And the small  
3 businessman is always saying, you know, it's very  
4 hard to do business in Providence. Now, why -- I  
5 don't know if that is, but maybe -- and I don't know  
6 the reasons why they're opening and closing. It  
7 could be all kinds of different things.

8 But does the City have, like, training  
9 classes for people who are thinking of going into  
10 small businesses?

11 MR. HULL: What the City does is, so we  
12 had a relationship with the Small Business  
13 Administration to provide technical capacity, you  
14 know, training for entrepreneurs, existing  
15 businesses, to really develop the technical capacity  
16 to run a business.

17 There's a lot of individuals that want  
18 to start a business, want to do a certain thing, but  
19 there's a whole lot of other stuff on the back end,  
20 like financial management, marketing, these things  
21 that they might not know. So we were developing  
22 programs as part of the SBA to really do that.

23 That has since stopped. But now that  
24 the election -- it stopped particularly for a  
25 reason, because the mayor was running for governor,

1 point is more, up and down Wickenden Street, there  
2 will be a vacant storefront for an extended period  
3 of time, and you're wondering why that is. I feel  
4 like everything I know about commercial rentals,  
5 there is a price point with which they want to get  
6 rental income.

7 And they will not go below that  
8 specific price point, because it drives down the  
9 rents everywhere in the city. So they would much  
10 rather see a vacant storefront for months or years  
11 than lower their price. It doesn't make sense to  
12 me. That is just what I understand the problem to  
13 be. I might not be right, but that's sort of...

14 MS. DILL: Can't they give good tax  
15 write-offs or something so that it's not their --  
16 they don't have that incentive to really try and  
17 rent them.

18 MR. HULL: Let me ask you, so along  
19 Wickenden Street, along, you know, maybe Ives, along  
20 Gano Street, to some degree?

21 MS. DILL: All that area. Yes.

22 MS. OLIVIERA: Sandy Oliviera again.  
23 The building across the street had a lovely  
24 restaurant in it. And I know that the landlord that  
25 owns the building, they are raising the rent so much

1 that the people that were running the restaurant,  
 2 they just couldn't make a living. And it's been  
 3 vacant ever since. And it's a shame because it was  
 4 a great business, and it was bringing people to the  
 5 neighborhood. They had tables outside in the  
 6 summertime, warm weather. It was just a lovely  
 7 place. It was right on the corner of Ives and  
 8 Wickenden.  
 9 MS. GANNON: I'm Kathleen Gannon. One  
 10 of the things that hasn't been spoken of yet is we  
 11 had a couple of very difficult summers with utility  
 12 work going on, with temporary water pipes, and with  
 13 trenches, just a horrible situation for two summers  
 14 now, and the condition of the roads is horrible.  
 15 The trenches are not paved properly,  
 16 they're sinking in. And this goes to pedestrian and  
 17 bike safety issues, as well, and the parking  
 18 situation. And so it's Gano and all the streets  
 19 that come into the neighborhood have been completely  
 20 torn up.  
 21 And by the end of this winter, with  
 22 this weather, when it all finally melts, I think  
 23 we're going to see it's a big, big mess. So  
 24 something has to be done to address the surface of  
 25 the streets.

1 this year tearing it up and doing it again. There  
 2 are so many areas in this neighborhood that, every  
 3 few months, they tear it up, they put a pipe in,  
 4 they cover it up, and they're back again in a few  
 5 months doing the same thing. And they leave,  
 6 they're half finished.  
 7 That little park, too, they constructed  
 8 most of it, and there's one end of it that's  
 9 incomplete, and they just left. It's like they walk  
 10 away when things are half done, and they don't  
 11 complete the job well. And then they're back again  
 12 to do it all over again.  
 13 WOMAN: I feel like it's a lack of  
 14 coordination. They're doing the sewer, or the  
 15 water, or the electrical. The left hand doesn't  
 16 know what the right hand is doing. So if the  
 17 utilities could coordinate their efforts, they could  
 18 get the other things done at the same time.  
 19 MS. PRYOR: And just to follow up on  
 20 that, the City has said that the utilities have,  
 21 like, five years before they're held responsible for  
 22 poor repair. So Spat's on Angell Street, they did  
 23 that roadwork much more than five years ago. That  
 24 section of the road has been sinking from the day  
 25 they finished it, and it's a gigantic, like, canal

1 MR. HULL: You say it's throughout this  
 2 whole area. Are there particular key corridors that  
 3 are the most problematic?  
 4 MS. GANNON: (Inaudible) two summers in  
 5 a row (inaudible) Governor, Gano, the paving job is  
 6 -- I'm worried for the car sometimes, but I'm really  
 7 worried when I'm on my bike. It's very, very scary.  
 8 And just even people walking (inaudible).  
 9 (MULTIPLE PEOPLE SPEAKING)  
 10 MR. HULL: So you've brought up an  
 11 interesting issue about bicycle safety, pedestrian  
 12 safety. Absent this issue with the road conditions,  
 13 how do you all feel about this in general, overall,  
 14 pedestrian safety, bicycle safety in this area?  
 15 MR. GANNON: I think it's rough,  
 16 because parking is really awful, it's on both sides  
 17 of the street, on relatively narrow streets, and so  
 18 there's just parking everywhere. And so a bike  
 19 rider or a pedestrian trying to cross the street,  
 20 they park very close to the intersections, even just  
 21 to see to try to make it across the intersection is  
 22 difficult.  
 23 MS. DILL: I would like to understand  
 24 how the construction was done, they dug everything  
 25 up, they cover it up, and then they're back again

1 now down to Angell Street. It ices over, it fills  
 2 every time it rains, certainly when it snows, it's  
 3 like a skating rink, and nobody has ever gone back  
 4 and looked at it. There's no enforcement or  
 5 compliance with the requirements.  
 6 WOMAN: In general, I find that there's  
 7 very little enforcement about City rules about lots  
 8 of things. I feel that the reason that the  
 9 overnight parking was put there was to help create  
 10 revenue. And if they had just put parking tickets  
 11 on cars that park too close to the corners -- it's  
 12 supposed to be 25 feet from the corner -- they would  
 13 make so much revenue.  
 14 Every single day, people are parked  
 15 illegally. And we're talking about, you were  
 16 talking about safety of the sidewalks. I feel like  
 17 the overnight parking was really a huge mistake, and  
 18 it's affected the plowing, and you know, it's just  
 19 been -- our city is so, in Fox Point, I mean, it's  
 20 just too tiny to handle it.  
 21 It's kind of like Pandora's box. You  
 22 let it out, and it was supposed to be a pilot  
 23 program, and now are you going to say it's too late  
 24 to take it back because people have all bought their  
 25 cars? You have to get rid of them when they're

1 plowing, anyway. There has to be a place to put  
 2 them. It's just been a disaster for my street,  
 3 between Hope and Governor, and the all-night parking  
 4 has really caused huge problems.  
 5 MR. HULL: So there are other  
 6 individuals in this group that haven't really  
 7 spoken.  
 8 MR. KOLSKY: My name is David Kolsky.  
 9 I live on Irving and Cole, and I run the  
 10 neighborhood group for Wayland Square. And I know  
 11 your CDBG funds must be for the -- because you have  
 12 a meeting at Camp Street and a meeting here, and you  
 13 don't have anything in between because I guess there  
 14 aren't CDBG-eligible areas in between.  
 15 The two things that have bothered me  
 16 for a long time is that there is no bus system that  
 17 gets you around the East Side. I don't drive, I  
 18 don't ride a bike, I don't have a car. But I only  
 19 ride the bus about two or three times a year because  
 20 it's never going where I want to go when I want to  
 21 go  
 22 I look it up on Google Maps to get to  
 23 Point X maybe 40 minutes by, you know, foot, and 25  
 24 minutes by bus with a transfer, providing that the  
 25 bus comes on time and you make your connection. And

1 about the loop. So the 92 bus does come out here,  
 2 but that's at East Side Market. Well, by the time I  
 3 get to East Side Market, I'm halfway to Fox Point,  
 4 anyway, you know. So I'm sure there's people in Fox  
 5 Point who would like to go to Hope Street or Wayland  
 6 Square, or even Thayer Street, but they don't have  
 7 -- so it's two things that sort of make Wayland  
 8 Square a bit disconnected. I mean, maybe I would  
 9 take a library book out three times a year, because  
 10 not only, you know, once I have taken it out, then I  
 11 have to return it.  
 12 MR. HULL: So there's a couple of  
 13 people here who I haven't heard their voice.  
 14 MR. RAYMOND: I'm George Raymond, and I  
 15 live down in Corliss Landing. Most of the issues  
 16 that people have raised are the issues that I am  
 17 interested in. I'm highly concerned with pedestrian  
 18 safety. It's taking your life in your hands trying  
 19 to get from Corliss Landing into the Wickenden  
 20 Street area.  
 21 And you know, it's a combination of  
 22 things. Obviously, the construction recently has  
 23 caused some of the problems, but it's also the  
 24 traffic stop laws that Rhode Island seems to breed.  
 25 And now there's a different traffic pattern, and

1 I mean, I mentioned this at the Providence  
 2 (inaudible) Hearing way back in 2007, 2008, but of  
 3 course, it's the usual problem: It's not my  
 4 department, and we don't have the money. It is a  
 5 RIPTA problem, and I know it's somewhere in a long  
 6 list of ten priorities way below a duplicate of  
 7 streetcars, or something.  
 8 But my other point is that Wayland  
 9 Square doesn't have a library. Like when my  
 10 computer went bust in 2006 or 2007, I actually  
 11 organized this group without a computer, but it  
 12 meant I had to go walk half an hour to Rochambeau or  
 13 half an hour here. So there's no library, or  
 14 services, anywhere near Wayland Square. So that's  
 15 point one.  
 16 But point two is that you can't get --  
 17 you know, I had to walk, normally it's half an hour,  
 18 but today it was 40 minutes to walk from Wayland  
 19 Square to here in the snow. So there's things to  
 20 get you across the river into Downtown. And the bus  
 21 will take you most of the way down Blackstone  
 22 Boulevard, but it won't take you to the end, it  
 23 won't connect up with Hope Street.  
 24 So there's no loop. People are saying  
 25 there will be a loop, but I haven't heard anything

1 people just flaunt it completely, and there's no  
 2 attempt to try to enforce it. And the parking is  
 3 another terrible issue. And in Corliss Landing, our  
 4 biggest issue is the Whiskey Republic and Lola's,  
 5 and the Hot Club, you know.  
 6 MR. HULL: So I totally understand.  
 7 What I haven't heard, and I'm not sure if it's  
 8 because it's not a big issue, but other areas of the  
 9 city that we have been in, we have heard that  
 10 housing condition is a real big priority. But it  
 11 doesn't seem that that's a big issue here, the  
 12 condition of housing, affordable housing, code  
 13 enforcement.  
 14 WOMAN: I would say it doesn't affect  
 15 me directly, because I'm two streets over. But I  
 16 would say the Section 8 housing across the street  
 17 from the Boys & Girls Club on Ives Street and on  
 18 Trenton Street is, you know, it's not in good  
 19 condition.  
 20 And I feel like, I don't know, it's  
 21 something that doesn't affect my daily life, but  
 22 there's a big turnover in the warm weather. It's  
 23 just like, you know, I think it seems like there's,  
 24 sort of, the girls and boys here are coming out of  
 25 the Boys & Girls Club, and there are people that are

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1 looking like they're selling drugs and things, you  
 2 know, right across the street. It just doesn't seem  
 3 like a good influence on the Boys & Girls Club.  
 4 MR. KOLSKY: I think the availability  
 5 of housing -- I mean, there's a lot of condo  
 6 conversions, or that have been in the past. I've  
 7 been displaced twice. My family moved to the  
 8 neighborhood in 1961. The landlady died, and her  
 9 daughter sold the property in 1996.  
 10 And then we looked at property. And  
 11 then the landlord there moved to California two  
 12 years ago, and we haven't moved again. And so  
 13 Wayland Square, like parts of Fox Point, is  
 14 different from the rest of the East Side because it  
 15 has a lot of multiple -- people think of it as like  
 16 big single-family lots, one and two units, but  
 17 there's a lot of multiple housing in both Fox Point  
 18 and Wayland Square.  
 19 And if it becomes unaffordable, I think  
 20 1200 a month is, for two bedrooms, is about the  
 21 standard, you know. But a lot of people are getting  
 22 displaced by that. And it's not like it's a big  
 23 community issue, because the people who don't come,  
 24 aren't here. People have to move over to Fox Point  
 25 or Mount Pleasant or Olneyville aren't here to

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1 complain. They will complain to you in Olneyville.  
 2 I don't think it's as pressing an issue as it would  
 3 be in Olneyville or the south side. But I don't  
 4 think it's an issue.  
 5 MS. TRIH: Fox Point Manor, which is  
 6 the low-income housing on Wickenden and Ives, has  
 7 about a hundred units in it that's mostly elderly,  
 8 disabled, and some Section 8. A pinpoint problem  
 9 that's come up big this year is people can't come  
 10 out of the building to cross the street to use the  
 11 senior center, because either the intersection is  
 12 flooded, or the cars go too fast, and a lot of them  
 13 just blow the stop sign.  
 14 So a lot of them, I think, would come  
 15 out, and use, and even be out in the neighborhood  
 16 more, but even if they walk up, there's still no  
 17 identified pedestrian crossing, except during school  
 18 time, so they can't go anywhere.  
 19 MR. HULL: Okay. So I think we're  
 20 going to come back together and do a debrief. So,  
 21 thank you. We had a great conversation. What I  
 22 want to do is, let's bring everyone back together  
 23 real quickly. We're just going to do a quick  
 24 debrief, and then I'm going to have a couple  
 25 minutes. Or just stay there, let's just do it.

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1 We're just going to do a quick summary of what both  
 2 groups heard. So because we were in two different  
 3 groups, we want to have a real quick summary to see  
 4 if there's any overlap between the two groups'  
 5 conversations.  
 6 Our group was, we were Group Awesome  
 7 over here, and then Team Better. So one of the  
 8 major concerns with our group really started off  
 9 with was the power lines, burying the power lines.  
 10 There's such an enormous asset in India Point Park,  
 11 and we could really enhance that asset by burying  
 12 the power lines.  
 13 Another issue was senior services,  
 14 particularly the facility that we're in, with the  
 15 Fox Point Senior Center had some issues with it  
 16 closing temporarily. We were able to get that back  
 17 open. We understand and acknowledge the importance  
 18 of the senior center in this community.  
 19 There was also a topic brought up about  
 20 pedestrian safety, and sort of some of the craziness  
 21 with parking around here. But then, across the  
 22 entire age spectrum, there is an aging population in  
 23 this part of the city that, mobility issues and  
 24 pedestrian safety are not just for the youth and  
 25 people on bikes, it's also for, you know, the entire

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1 spectrum.  
 2 We have economic development, job  
 3 creation is a problem. We have a lot of vacant  
 4 storefronts on some of the main corridors, so that  
 5 was another issue that was brought up. There's the  
 6 Shooters site, what to do with that. I would love  
 7 it if someone had a great idea for that.  
 8 Some more transportation issues. Some  
 9 of the bus connections over on the East Side don't  
 10 really facilitate transportation among different  
 11 locations on the East Side, versus East Side to  
 12 Downtown and back. Small businesses, a lot of  
 13 closing.  
 14 Some of the issues with the road  
 15 repairs, both from the city, and then also from  
 16 utility, National Grid or the sewer company coming  
 17 in and tearing up parts of the road. And then those  
 18 sort of fall in disrepair because it's not a real  
 19 close alignment between the City's repairs and the  
 20 utility repairs. More parking issues. Pedestrian  
 21 safety. Overnight parking.  
 22 MARGI: We talked about training for  
 23 small business owners. Someone brought up a  
 24 watchdog committee for landlords, absentee  
 25 landlords. Mobility issues for senior citizens.



1 That's about it. Environmental issues.  
 2 MR. HULL: So, Team Better?  
 3 EMILY: I would say many of our issues  
 4 were stated by Team Awesome. So also way-finding is  
 5 an issue, you now, getting on and off 195. Also new  
 6 interchanges that are being developed at Wickenden,  
 7 Point Street, those areas down there, pedestrian  
 8 accessibility from Wickenden Street to India Point  
 9 Park.  
 10 Jobs, employment, also huge issues.  
 11 The senior center, senior services in general, a  
 12 major issue. Making sure funding is supplied to  
 13 support those services. The bus issues, also a  
 14 problem, primarily just creating more direct access  
 15 to the senior center from different areas on the  
 16 East Side.  
 17 Absentee landlords, code enforcement.  
 18 Fixing facilities at Gregorian, particularly the  
 19 wall facing the highway.  
 20 WOMAN: Although, you might not be able  
 21 to go there. If you live here, you might be bused.  
 22 EMILY: Yes. So that was an issue that  
 23 was brought up, the Choice Schools Program versus  
 24 neighborhood schools, and that that is not well  
 25 communicated, I guess, by the City. A community

1 what, our draft of the consolidated plan is ready to  
 2 review." We're going to have a public hearing  
 3 process so that you can express your concerns or  
 4 comments about the consolidated plan. You can also  
 5 respond directly to us through e-mail or phone  
 6 calls. So these community meetings that we're  
 7 having throughout the city are really informative  
 8 for us. We take this information seriously.  
 9 And it helps us really guide community  
 10 development block grant funding. We can't do  
 11 everything with community development block grant  
 12 funding, but what we can do, we really articulate  
 13 that in the consolidated plan, and that plan really  
 14 helps us target those resources.  
 15 There's always so much more need than  
 16 there are resources, so we use these processes,  
 17 these meetings, to really guide the right areas  
 18 based on the community feedback that we receive.  
 19 Cycle for CDBG funds: So every year we put out sort  
 20 of an announcement, a solicitation for organizations  
 21 to receive community development block grant funds.  
 22 We are currently in that process now.  
 23 We have an application phase that goes until April  
 24 30. The application then closes. We review the  
 25 applications internally at the community development

1 center, sort of a full-service community center for  
 2 adult, child, and senior needs is highly desired  
 3 here. Burying the power lines. Several  
 4 improvements to India Point Park, and just repairing  
 5 existing facilities. Am I missing something else  
 6 that wasn't already stated? Public access along the  
 7 river.  
 8 MR. HULL: So it seems like there's a  
 9 lot of overlap between both groups, and a lot of  
 10 similarity from what we have heard in previous  
 11 meetings. Again, we take this to heart, we take  
 12 this seriously. I know these are fairly large  
 13 problems. We, the City, honestly, we are doing our  
 14 best.  
 15 What I want to do is I just want to  
 16 wrap up with a little more conversation, discussion,  
 17 about the consolidated plan. What is a consolidated  
 18 plan? I'm glad you asked. The consolidated plan is  
 19 a five-year guidance document for CDBG funding for  
 20 the city. We are developing that plan right now.  
 21 We are going to write a draft and put  
 22 that draft up on our website so that we can get  
 23 public review of that draft. So if you have  
 24 provided us with your information, we will be  
 25 reaching out to you directly to say, "Hey, guess

1 office. We prepare our budget. The mayor reviews  
 2 that budget. We introduce that budget into the city  
 3 council. The city council works its magic on the  
 4 budget, passes it. At the tail end of that, we then  
 5 have a budget that is submitted to the federal  
 6 government, and that's what we use. Yes?  
 7 WOMAN: Is your plan going to be  
 8 integrated with other plans that the City is  
 9 developing? So one question would be, if an  
 10 organization could come in and say, "We would like  
 11 to apply for a grant," for example, "for the  
 12 Shooters site"?  
 13 Because putting something there that  
 14 would have economic development, that would provide  
 15 access to the bay, that would be an iconic sort of  
 16 asset to the City would be a marvelous way to  
 17 integrate a variety of different issues, but we  
 18 never see that integration.  
 19 You're doing your planning process, the  
 20 City is doing neighborhood comprehensive plans that  
 21 never seem to end. So where does this all fit  
 22 together?  
 23 MR. HULL: So I'm the director of the  
 24 division of community development. We are within  
 25 the Department of Planning and Development here. We

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1 have representatives of the Department of Planning  
 2 and Development here. I am in a meeting tomorrow  
 3 with the director of Planning and Development, all  
 4 the senior leadership, and the mayor, to discuss how  
 5 we align CDBG grants with planning and development  
 6 plans for the City. There are particular targeted  
 7 areas for development in the city.  
 8 We want to be able to overlay what we  
 9 can do with CDBG grants to help facilitate that  
 10 development to really target what some of those  
 11 growth areas are, what some of those community  
 12 assets are so that we can layer this and really  
 13 target investments in a strategic way.  
 14 Again, there are trade-offs to every  
 15 decision that we make, there is an opportunity cost.  
 16 And so we need to be sensitive to that, as well.  
 17 Like, I wish we had a lot more money to dole out to  
 18 do some of these stuff, but we don't, unfortunately.  
 19 GENTLEMAN: If I missed it earlier, I  
 20 apologize. How much CDBG money --  
 21 MR. HULL: About \$5 million.  
 22 GENTLEMAN: Is that consistent over the  
 23 years?  
 24 MR. HULL: It fluctuates, but it's  
 25 around \$5 million, give or take a couple hundred

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1 thousand.  
 2 GENTLEMAN: Brian, I'm just wondering,  
 3 I asked Emily this, but can any of this money go  
 4 toward generating more revenue, rather than just  
 5 remediation? Can it go toward, as she mentioned,  
 6 can it go toward a site such as Shooters that could  
 7 become something that would generate revenue for the  
 8 City, and taxes for the City, and employment to the  
 9 City, or do you have to spend it on just  
 10 remediation?  
 11 MR. HULL: Yes. Simple answer, yes.  
 12 There are lots of different uses for the money. We  
 13 can address basic needs, we can do public service.  
 14 But there's a whole component for economic  
 15 development, for job creation.  
 16 We are in conversations now about how  
 17 to better leverage CDBG funds for these types of  
 18 economic development activities, aligned with  
 19 Department of Planning and Development, and sort of  
 20 development plans throughout the City.  
 21 So, yes, we are really focused on being  
 22 much more targeted and focused to have  
 23 transformative projects within the city. I see  
 24 things exactly the same as you, based on that  
 25 initial comment. Like, we need jobs, we need jobs

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1 in the city, we need to grow our tax base. We can't  
 2 keep taxing individuals at a higher and higher rate.  
 3 We need to expand the tax base and create employment  
 4 opportunities for people throughout the city, and we  
 5 have to get this right. So I'm very, very critical  
 6 and very energized about getting this right, but we  
 7 have lots of competing, continued priorities that we  
 8 need to really think seriously about.  
 9 Just let me finish with this. So  
 10 please provide us with your contact information. I  
 11 mean, that's goal number one, so we can reach out to  
 12 you. In May, the consolidated plan will be  
 13 finished. Here is a website link. All the  
 14 information for the consolidated plan will be up  
 15 there soon. If it's not up there yet, it will be up  
 16 there very, very soon.  
 17 You can follow along with some of the  
 18 other resources that we're going to be making  
 19 available through that, through the planning  
 20 department's website. I'm going to be here for a  
 21 while, so if you have any specific questions, let us  
 22 know. We do have additional community meetings in  
 23 other parts of the city if you are eager to make  
 24 your voice heard again. With your agenda, there was  
 25 another sheet.

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1 So I thank you all very, very much for  
 2 coming out, and I look forward to hearing your  
 3 comments.  
 4 (MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:47 P.M.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, PATRICIA A. MAGNONE, do hereby certify that the  
going is a true, accurate and complete transcript of  
notes taken at the above-entitled meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
s 16th day of March 2015.

*Patricia A. Magnone, RPR*  
*Notary Public*  


PATRICIA A. MAGNONE, RPR/NOTARY PUBLIC  
My Commission Expires January 10, 2017

RE: Community Engagement Meeting  
E: March 4, 2015

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7  
 8  
 9 DATE: March 10, 2015  
 10 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 11 PLACE: West Broadway Neighborhood  
 12 Association  
 13 1560 Westminster Street  
 14 Providence, RI 02909  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19 PRESENT:  
 20 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 21 Providence  
 22 Margit Liander, Planner  
 23 Kari Lang, West Broadway Neighborhood Association  
 24  
 25

1 Development Block Grants, is it really is a great vehicle  
 2 to invest money into our community, and it's a great  
 3 thing to talk about, because we can get away, as Kari had  
 4 mentioned, happy spring. We can get away from the snow.  
 5 We can get away from the ice and actually dream a little  
 6 bit and talk about some of the things that we are looking  
 7 for in our city and in our neighborhood.  
 8 So, just to let you know, one of the items that we  
 9 were able to get done with utilizing Community  
 10 Development Block Grant money was getting a new  
 11 playground built right next to the Zuccolo Recreation  
 12 Center that not only includes a new basketball court, new  
 13 play equipment, and new swings, but also the first splash  
 14 park in the neighborhood. So, it's just, we can really  
 15 get amazing things done, and I really look forward to  
 16 hearing everyone's ideas on what we can do.  
 17 So I appreciate Representative Lombardi being here  
 18 tonight. I appreciate each and every one of you being  
 19 here tonight, and without further ado I would like to  
 20 pass it off to Brian Hull, who is our Director of  
 21 Community Development for the City.  
 22 MR. HULL: My name is Brian Hull. I'm the  
 23 Director of Community Development for the City, and I  
 24 just, in deference to the representative, Representative  
 25 Lombardi, did you have any welcoming remarks or comments?

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 MS. LANG: Welcome, everyone. Welcome to  
 3 good weather. Hooray, huh? I would like to welcome you  
 4 all to the West Broadway Neighborhood Association. We  
 5 are so pleased to have you here. This is your  
 6 neighborhood association, so we welcome you to come back.  
 7 It's really fun to have the City here and neighbors to  
 8 have a community conversation, and so I'm going to hand  
 9 it off real quick, but I would like to recognize  
 10 Representative Lombardi, and thank him for being here.  
 11 Everyone else is going to introduce themselves in a  
 12 minute, but a quick couple of advertisements about the  
 13 WBNA. Our spring cleanup is coming April 25. If anybody  
 14 wants to be a street captain, you're welcome. On May 30,  
 15 we are having our yard sale and neighborhood open house  
 16 stroll. You're welcome to do that. And we also have our  
 17 solar panel program if anybody is interested in solar  
 18 panels, but let's talk about what we love about our  
 19 community and what we would like to have happen. I'm so  
 20 happy to have Councilman Principe here, and I will give  
 21 it to him.  
 22 COUNCILMAN PRINCIPE: Thank you, Kari. I  
 23 want to say welcome and thank you to everyone for coming  
 24 out tonight. One of the best things about the topic we  
 25 are going to talk about this evening, Community

1 REPRESENTATIVE LOMBARDI: Sure. Have you  
 2 ever known an elected official that doesn't have  
 3 something to say? Actually, we don't say -- our lips  
 4 flap, and we say nothing sometimes, but anyway. WBNA has  
 5 always been a great example, I think not only for the  
 6 City of Providence but for State of Rhode Island. When I  
 7 was, I remember being with the City a few years ago, we  
 8 raised probably about 15 and a half million dollars and,  
 9 basically, people told me I was crazy, the CDBG money,  
 10 the bond money, they said, "Don't let them decide what's  
 11 going to happen." And Kari and the WBNA literally went  
 12 door to door, sidewalks, trees, you know, asphaltting the  
 13 streets, some of the good things that we did together,  
 14 because it's truly a neighborhood thing. The concerns  
 15 over the last couple of weeks in the neighborhood have  
 16 been how the streets were plowed and now graffiti. We  
 17 are having problems with that, and I just hope that those  
 18 are some of the things that we can address, but more  
 19 importantly, with the CDBG money, it's shrinking, it's  
 20 shrinking, it's shrinking. So I think what we need to do  
 21 is figure out how we can best utilize that, collaborating  
 22 with the State, with Federal government, and even with  
 23 some private industry. I think that's what we have to  
 24 do.  
 25 Kari just asked me something about a building on

1 Broadway and how we can collaborate. That's the answer.  
 2 That's what we have to do.  
 3 So, I look forward to working with you. Obviously,  
 4 whatever is needed from the State level, if I can do it,  
 5 certainly you have my commitment. I think I can safely  
 6 say that Senator Paul Jabour would be supportive, because  
 7 I think we have a great relationship. We have been  
 8 working together for years.  
 9 So with that I want to thank you for your time. I  
 10 know Brian. I see him in the gym. If he works half as  
 11 hard as he works out in the gym, he's going to be a very  
 12 successful person, I can tell you that. So thank you  
 13 very much.  
 14 (APPLAUSE)  
 15 MR. HULL: I just also wanted to recognize  
 16 that Councilman Jennings came in the room, Councilman  
 17 Jennings. So to begin, what I want to do is just sort of  
 18 go through a quick agenda and talk about the frame for  
 19 the discussion today. It's going to be pretty light on  
 20 my end, and then it is going to be pretty heavy on the  
 21 conversation. That's what we want. We are here to  
 22 listen to you. I don't want to be up here talking at you  
 23 for very long.  
 24 So we want to go through some overview of what  
 25 Community Development Block Grants are and what we can do

1 whole assortment of other types of eligibility  
 2 requirements, and activity requirements and national  
 3 objective requirements that we have to meet in order to  
 4 qualify particular projects.  
 5 I don't want to get bogged down in the rules and  
 6 regulations of Community Development Block Grants.  
 7 That's going to be a very, very painful conversation. I  
 8 don't want to subject anyone to that, but I just want to  
 9 just put in your minds we can do lot of different things  
 10 with Community Development Block Grants. So use your  
 11 imagination when we start going into the conversation.  
 12 Think about what your needs are in the community, and  
 13 whatever percolates to the top we'll see if CDBG is a  
 14 good fit for that.  
 15 This event requires some active participation. You  
 16 have done some of it already. You have shown up, which  
 17 is really important. Thank you very much. We are going  
 18 to have a conversation later, but there is three other  
 19 things that you can do. One, is our community needs a  
 20 board. If you did not get your three blue dots when you  
 21 came in, make sure you get your three blue dots. What  
 22 you're going to do with these, you're going to go up to  
 23 that community needs board and identify the three top  
 24 issues that are of your concern for the neighborhood.  
 25 There is another way. We have this neighborhood map that

1 with that. We are going to talk about some of the  
 2 previous community meetings that we have had, what we  
 3 have heard, what we have learned from those, to, sort of,  
 4 set up a larger conversation about that.  
 5 We are going to talk about some of the previous  
 6 investments we have made in the community, both from the  
 7 perspective of CDBG money but also from the road bonds,  
 8 and then I'm going to shut up. I'm going to introduce a  
 9 couple of framing questions, and then we are going to  
 10 have our conversation here.  
 11 So, with that, what is Community Development Block  
 12 Grants? That's a really important question, because  
 13 that's what we are here to talk about. Community  
 14 Development Block Grants are a federal program that  
 15 releases funds to the City of Providence to do a bunch of  
 16 of different types of things. The funds are flexible, in  
 17 as much as any federal program can be flexible. We can  
 18 do lots of things with it, but there's a copious amount  
 19 of paperwork involved in every single thing that we do  
 20 with it, but some of the examples, affordable housing  
 21 development, homeownership programs, home repair  
 22 programs, park cleanups, streets, sidewalks,  
 23 infrastructure programs, weatherization, tree planting,  
 24 health centers. So we can do lots of different things  
 25 with Community Development Block Grants, but there is a

1 is really, really pretty. Thank you, Margit. So if  
 2 there's particular areas of the community that you want  
 3 to talk about, you can write on a Post-it note. You can  
 4 slap this Post-it note right to the thing. So, say, you  
 5 know, on the corner of Messer and whatever street, you  
 6 know, this house is abandoned, vacant, and there is drug  
 7 activity, put it on it. Let's make sure that we are made  
 8 aware of those types of activities.  
 9 When you came in you got an agenda. On the reverse  
 10 side of that agenda is a community survey. I would hope  
 11 that every single one of you would fill out this survey  
 12 and leave it behind so that we can collect them, and we  
 13 can aggregate this information. All of this information  
 14 is stuff that we would like to get from you. If you want  
 15 to leave it anonymous, that's totally fine. We'll just  
 16 aggregate the information from the survey. So, that's  
 17 the map. They look very similar, as you can see.  
 18 In some of the previous meetings that we have had,  
 19 community meetings, there are certain things that came  
 20 out of those meetings that I just want to highlight.  
 21 These are some of the top issues that we heard in  
 22 previous community meetings. I want to just put these  
 23 out on the table so people can think about these, so when  
 24 we move into the community conversation I want to make  
 25 sure, are we right. Is this still an issue of concern

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1 for the neighborhood? So regarding mobility and  
 2 accessibility, some of them, you know, we heard that we  
 3 want to connect, you know, we want to connect Federal  
 4 Hill back to Downtown through Westminster Street. We  
 5 want to have better pedestrian accessibility throughout  
 6 the neighborhoods, we want to, particularly at certain  
 7 major intersections that are really difficult to cross.  
 8 We want to have improved bike connections between the  
 9 neighborhoods and Downtown, Roger William Park, et  
 10 cetera.  
 11 Housing was another big topic that we heard quite a  
 12 bit about. So we have, there is a very unique character  
 13 among this neighborhood, so how do we really preserve  
 14 that character through, you know, strategic code  
 15 enforcements. There is also some abandoned, foreclosed  
 16 vacant property. How do we think about rehabilitating  
 17 that property to maintain property values, and then just  
 18 this general concern about more affordable housing  
 19 throughout the neighborhood, throughout the City, but we  
 20 are dealing with the neighborhood here.  
 21 So healthy neighborhoods, we heard that, the  
 22 community gateway, like neighborhood gateways are really  
 23 important, particularly along the main commercial  
 24 corridors. More trees and flowers in the community  
 25 gardens that are available around here. Widen the

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1 sidewalks on Atwells to allow some more room for outdoor  
 2 seating. More street sweeping to keep the neighborhood  
 3 much cleaner, public trash cans along the commercial  
 4 corridors, recycle bins in the parks, storm drain  
 5 cleaning because that causes flooding, which I'm sure is  
 6 probably a pretty big issue during the winter, too. Some  
 7 commercial district, economic development issues that we  
 8 heard of. Westminster Street lacks their identity for a  
 9 commercial strip, and then revitalize the neighborhood  
 10 markets program. There are storefront improvement  
 11 programs that the City ran. We actually do have  
 12 something like that running now.  
 13 Parks and open space, improve maintenance in the  
 14 parks, improve lighting, trash pickup, improvements to  
 15 the recreation fields, playgrounds. The Zuccolo Park is  
 16 a great example of what we can do with CDBG money, some  
 17 of the dead trees and stumps in the parks need to get  
 18 removed, more green space between Broadway and  
 19 Westminster. There is this effort to use vacant parcels  
 20 as smaller parks, pocket parks, and we would like to see  
 21 Mashapaug Pond Boathouse reused, and the public safety.  
 22 I see that. Public safety is a pretty big concern still,  
 23 particularly in these certain neighborhoods.  
 24 Speeding, we obviously had issues with speeding with  
 25 one of the councilman. So, as well, that was a big

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1 problem, more lighting in some of the parks, particularly  
 2 Ridge Street Park, to prevent some of the criminal  
 3 activity, and then some concern about large industrial  
 4 vehicles going down Broadway instead of Westminster  
 5 Street. So there is kind of like signage issue, perhaps,  
 6 and then just overall infrastructure concerns about road  
 7 conditions, sidewalks, potholes, traffic lights at some  
 8 of the main pedestrian intersections, directional  
 9 signing, repair the arch to the Federal Hill. That would  
 10 actually be really cool, and then some overarching  
 11 parking issues, particularly along Atwells Avenue, sort  
 12 of the back street, Spruce Street.  
 13 So these are just things that we have heard in  
 14 previous meetings. We are working on some of them. We  
 15 can't do everything, unfortunately, I wish we could, but  
 16 we have been working fairly closely with the  
 17 administration and with the council to identify what are  
 18 the major top concerns for the area.  
 19 Here are some investments that we have made. So  
 20 blue dots are CDBG money. Red dots are the affordable  
 21 housing home projects. So, you have seen, you know,  
 22 obviously, we have made some significant investments  
 23 over, this is from 2012 to 2014, we have made some  
 24 significant investments up and down Broad Street,  
 25 Elmwood, along sort of Westminster as well. The facility

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1 we are in is a beneficiary of some of the investments  
 2 that we have made.  
 3 Over the past couple of years, the City has done a  
 4 40 million dollar road improvement project. This is sort  
 5 of the largest investment that the City has done in  
 6 number of years. So this is just, highlights in blue the  
 7 roads that we have done, red are roads that, I think,  
 8 have been done, but as of this map were roads that were  
 9 in process.  
 10 So, I just, I want to pause. I don't want to keep  
 11 talking at you. I want to have a conversation, so when  
 12 we break out, actually, I think we are just going to have  
 13 the conversation just like this. We normally break out  
 14 into smaller groups, but we are in such a small space  
 15 that that might get really loud, so I'm going to  
 16 facilitate the conversation right here.  
 17 The four framing questions as we think about what  
 18 the priorities are, are these. One, are we on the right  
 19 track? Is what we just went over still relevant? If  
 20 it's not, let us know. Second, is what are we missing?  
 21 We know we are missing something. This is why we are  
 22 having this conversation. Ideally, what should the  
 23 priority be for this neighborhood, and then what do you  
 24 want to see in your neighborhood? Like, what is it? And  
 25 here are some, again, just listing some other things like

1 services for adults and children, you know, that could be  
 2 recreational services, educational services, parks,  
 3 recreation, sports, community centers, affordable  
 4 housing, blight removal, code enforcement, commercial  
 5 districts, economic development, streets, sidewalks. So  
 6 all of these things are perfect examples of what CDBG  
 7 money can be used for, but don't limit your thinking to  
 8 only those. Let's have a conversation about what are  
 9 some of the priorities.

10 So as just a rule, we need to make sure that only  
 11 one person is talking at a time. I will try to  
 12 facilitate that as best I can. Can I have your promise  
 13 that only one person will be talking at a time? It will  
 14 make things easier. So I'm going to keep it on this  
 15 slide, but let's open it up. In the back. And I'm  
 16 sorry, when you speak, if you could say your name and the  
 17 general area you live. If you don't want to give your  
 18 exact address, that's fine, and then your comments.

19 MS. ELIZABETH: I'm Pam Elizabeth. Mine is  
 20 very close to home. I'm the third building in on  
 21 Marshall Street. Marshall is one-way, so a lot of cars  
 22 come flying up Broadway, zoom into Marshall to get over  
 23 to Westminster, and I don't know the feasibility of the  
 24 speed bump, but when the weather gets nice people cruise  
 25 around the corner and throw their garbage out their

1 lived around this area my whole life. I went to Rhode  
 2 Island College for my undergrad, Political Science, went  
 3 to Harvard for my Master's Degree in Community and  
 4 Economic Development, and have been with the City since  
 5 last April. I worked for Mayor Taveras doing, I was a  
 6 liaison between the mayor and the city council, and then  
 7 they appointed me as Director of Community Development  
 8 during the transition, and the new mayor, in his infinite  
 9 wisdom, kept me on, which I'm incredibly grateful for.

10 This is something that is truly a passion of mine,  
 11 community and economic development. I know that there is  
 12 lots of things that we can and should be doing in the  
 13 community. I take my job incredibly seriously. I don't  
 14 know if there were --

15 MS. DRIVER: Have you lived and worked in  
 16 other cities to bring experience into Providence?

17 MR. HULL: Yeah, so when I, after school I  
 18 worked for a consulting firm up in Boston called The  
 19 Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. It's an  
 20 economic development, community development consulting  
 21 firm, and I worked in cities across the country, Los  
 22 Angeles, Detroit, Baltimore, Newark and New Orleans doing  
 23 community economic development planning for cities and  
 24 towns that were really associated with, really relevant  
 25 to targeting regional economic development and community

1 window, even glass bottles. So it's a problem right  
 2 where I am, exactly where I am. And I just have a second  
 3 quick issue, and I'll be done.

4 MR. HULL: Please, please.

5 MS. ELIZABETH: My second quick issue is, I  
 6 got a little driveway that only fits my car. When my son  
 7 visits from Upstate New York, I can't legally park him on  
 8 the street, and I shouldn't have to pay the full fee for  
 9 on-street parking since I don't park on the street. So  
 10 there needs to be something for residents to have guest  
 11 parking.

12 COUNCILMAN PRINCIPE: I will talk to you  
 13 about that, because there is a mechanism, an option for  
 14 the On-Street Parking Program where you can have someone  
 15 park in the street five times a month, up to five times a  
 16 month.

17 MS. ELIZABETH: That would be perfect.

18 COUNCILMAN PRINCIPE: So I will talk to you  
 19 about that, Pam. So we can figure that out.

20 MR. HULL: Solving problems already.

21 MS. DRIVER: Could you tell us a little bit  
 22 about yourself? Jane Driver. I live on Broadway.

23 MR. HULL: So the question was a little bit  
 24 about myself. My name is Brian Hull. I live on the East  
 25 Side of Providence. I grew up in Attleboro, sort of

1 development strategies with low-income communities. So  
 2 we're really thinking about how to engage low-income  
 3 communities into broader economic development to make  
 4 sure that economic growth is benefiting larger slots of  
 5 the population.

6 We had incredible success in certain areas across  
 7 the country, and we really think, and I was sort of  
 8 leading the research, and sort of the thought leadership  
 9 behind the anchor institution framework for the  
 10 organization, and that is something where we really  
 11 target large institutions and communities, try to  
 12 identify what their, what their market demand is, and  
 13 make those linkages to small local minority-owned  
 14 businesses to make those connections between the market  
 15 demands and the market supply to really try to generate  
 16 sort of like really huge growth opportunity for small  
 17 businesses in low-income communities.

18 Those are the things that I have been doing for  
 19 years. I love it, absolutely love it. And there are  
 20 huge opportunities in the City of Providence to be  
 21 creative about this. The Association of Independent  
 22 Colleges and Universities is thinking about a procurement  
 23 strategy for the large colleges and universities in this  
 24 state, and I have a particular expertise to really  
 25 analyze that market demand and link it to opportunities

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1 to market ecosystem a particular community. So it's  
 2 another, with the council's help, it is something we are  
 3 going to start moving down the road with community  
 4 development.  
 5 MS. NEWMAN-GREENE: Hi, I'm Rachel  
 6 Newman-Greene. I'm with West Elmwood Housing, which is  
 7 right here in the neighborhood, but until just a few  
 8 months ago I was a neighborhood resident here. I now  
 9 live in Washington Park. So my priority that I wanted to  
 10 ask about, talk about, is specifically around foreclosed  
 11 abandoned properties, and blight, and nuisance properties  
 12 and what the City's strategy is for addressing those. I  
 13 understand there is kind of, the new administration is  
 14 taking a new direction in trying to figure out a  
 15 receivership program or how to use CDBG funds into that  
 16 mix, and I guess my concern is that community development  
 17 corporations have been working in these neighbors for  
 18 decades now and have resulted in millions and millions of  
 19 dollars in investment being brought into this  
 20 neighborhood. My concern is that they be actively  
 21 involved in the conversation about strategy around the  
 22 blight of Providence and that sort of thing. I  
 23 understand maybe you can correct me if I'm wrong, but  
 24 that there is some interest in trying to figure out how  
 25 to get private investors and private developers, which I

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1 think everybody is good in the mix, but my biggest  
 2 concern is that organizations that have boards that are  
 3 representative of the residents of this neighborhood and  
 4 that have long histories in this neighborhood are really  
 5 actively involved in developing those strategies.  
 6 MR. HULL: The mayor in his inaugural  
 7 address spoke of 500 abandoned and boarded-up homes  
 8 throughout the City. It is our task to clean up 500  
 9 abandonment and boarded-up homes in the City. There is  
 10 different ways that we are approaching that. We are  
 11 using a receivership process. For those who are not  
 12 aware, the receivership process is something that is a  
 13 program that is instituted by the City, goes through the  
 14 Superior Court in order to clean title on abandoned  
 15 properties. It allows an individual selected by the  
 16 Superior Court to go through the rehabilitation and sale  
 17 of abandoned properties and at the tail end of that is  
 18 able to sell that property. There is lots of intricacies  
 19 in that, but I feel like that's fairly high-level  
 20 overview.  
 21 MS. NEWMAN-GREENE: So I guess one of the  
 22 issues or concerns is how determinations are being made  
 23 about the quality of work of the people who are rehabbing  
 24 those properties and how the communities are being  
 25 involved in determining the quality of work, the

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1 homeownership versus renter mix and all those sorts of  
 2 issues, making sure that that sort of community voice is  
 3 all in that conversation.  
 4 MR. HULL: That's great. We're still  
 5 developing the internal strategy for the administration  
 6 for how broad the receivership program is, how to use the  
 7 Providence Redevelopment Authority, how to use community  
 8 development and the CDBG funds to supplement this  
 9 overarching goal of cleaning up 500 abandoned houses, so  
 10 we have regular meetings internally to really start  
 11 navigating that.  
 12 There are a myriad of different pools at the City's  
 13 disposal to really think about these types of properties.  
 14 CDBG money is a small pool of money, so if we were to  
 15 only rely on CDBG going through community development  
 16 corporations, our impact would be very, very small. We  
 17 would be doing maybe like five, or six, or seven houses a  
 18 year, and that's going to take us a long time to clean up  
 19 500. So, we think there is, there is a role for CDBG in  
 20 doing this, and there is a role for community development  
 21 corporations in doing this. We haven't fleshed out  
 22 everything. I mean, this is kind of, I hear you, and I  
 23 acknowledge, I know what your concern is, and it's a  
 24 concern of mine as well. We don't want to have the same  
 25 type of problem happen that caused all this abandoned and

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1 foreclosed property happen again. So I think that there  
 2 is a role in sort of, like a land bank, sort of a land  
 3 trust even, to really think about once properties go  
 4 through a cleanup process, how do we preserve the  
 5 affordability of those properties, maintain the quality  
 6 standards of those properties in perpetuity, and I feel  
 7 like that is part of the conversation that we are having  
 8 internally. We have properties throughout the City that  
 9 private sector, private market has failed, so kind of  
 10 relying exclusively on the private market to correct  
 11 might be a little shortsighted and foolish, in my  
 12 opinion. So I'm aware of the --  
 13 MR. SNEIDER: My name is Howie Sneider.  
 14 MR. HULL: Could you say that again?  
 15 MR. SNEIDER: My name is Howie Sneider. I  
 16 live right on the edge of the map, and we are right at  
 17 the edge of the map at the steelyard, on the corner of  
 18 Olneyville and Federal Hill, and all of that. And my  
 19 question is really about the industrial pockets that are  
 20 sort of throughout the area, that, you know, certainly in  
 21 light of last night's fire and tragic loss of another  
 22 historic building in the City, I think that, you know, I  
 23 guess I have a question about pending investments and how  
 24 to support continued development in some of those pockets  
 25 so that buildings that are unoccupied or underoccupied



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1 can be supported in new development plans and creating  
 2 space for small businesses. Cultural organizations have  
 3 been a huge success throughout the Valley artist studios  
 4 and things that are coming back again, so I want to know  
 5 if there is a way that the City could support that  
 6 potentially through CDBG funds as matches for Cultural  
 7 Facilities Bonds or for Historic Facilities Bonds which  
 8 were both passed on the ballot initiative last fall, and  
 9 I don't know if CDBG can match that, but it seemed to me  
 10 that certainly shares some of the priorities, or I would  
 11 hope.  
 12 MR. HULL: The short answer is, yes. CDBG  
 13 can be used to match that. There is a fairly broad  
 14 economic development component of CDBG funds to allow  
 15 these types of activities to happen. Mixed use  
 16 development, entrepreneurship training, microenterprise  
 17 development, small artist startups. These types of  
 18 things, incubator spaces. These types of things can be  
 19 supported through CDBG funds.  
 20 It is another priority of the mayor to really  
 21 infiltrate the arts in everything that the City does.  
 22 So, again, I think this is a huge opportunity to really  
 23 think about how we can leverage the arts throughout the  
 24 City in new and creative ways to really think about  
 25 different types of development, different types of

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1 projects. Again, the development cost of some of the  
 2 industrial buildings is of a magnitude fairly, much  
 3 greater than we have resources to deal with. We are  
 4 trying to navigate that. There are other programs that  
 5 we are trying to, also, leverage to bring more resources  
 6 into the City to do these types of wholesale  
 7 developments, like, if we can leverage a nine million  
 8 dollar grant to do a development on a particular part of  
 9 the City, I mean, that's going to be transformative.  
 10 What I hope to see is more of a strategic alignment of  
 11 winnowing resources and sort of like blending things  
 12 together more to have a much larger impact in particular  
 13 areas of the City.  
 14 I would apply for a CDBG grant to do economic  
 15 development with, for an artist basement when out in the  
 16 steelyard, FYI.  
 17 Please, more. I want to hear. What's your name?  
 18 MS. BOGUK: Lyubov Boguk.  
 19 MS. LOPEZ: And I'm Kelly Lopez.  
 20 MS. FOFANA: And Shelby Fofana.  
 21 MS. BOGUK: And we are Rhode Island College  
 22 students, who are doing their Master's in social work  
 23 right now. So we're working on policy and advocacy  
 24 within the City of Providence. So, I mean, our main goal  
 25 here was just to see if there were any specific issues

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1 that the residents of Providence had in regards to  
 2 policy. We are kind of focussing on recreation and  
 3 parks, where we could help, and we could kind of be part  
 4 of that, or at least to see what the City is doing as of  
 5 right now in regards to parks and recreation for youth.  
 6 MR. HULL: Again, I don't want, this isn't  
 7 the Brian Hull hour, so we're going to move away from  
 8 that. So they bring up a great point, like parks and  
 9 recreation throughout the City. Let's have a  
 10 conversation about the importance of that.  
 11 MS. GAGNON: I will chime in on that.  
 12 Adrienne Gagnon, G-A-G-N-O-N, and I live over on Hammond  
 13 Street, and I'm also the Director of DownCity Design,  
 14 which is an organization based in the neighborhood over  
 15 on West Fountain Street, and one of the things that I  
 16 have noticed is that there are some parks throughout the  
 17 City with really active friends groups that can advocate  
 18 for the park, that can raise funds to provide additional  
 19 resources, to build new amenities to program within the  
 20 parks, but some of the parks with the greatest needs are  
 21 the parks that have the hardest time organizing that kind  
 22 of advocacy around them, and I guess one of the things  
 23 that I have been wondering is how do you find ways to  
 24 create champions for those parks which are really  
 25 underutilized partially because there isn't a lot of

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1 programming? There aren't a lot of services, and there  
 2 aren't a lot of amenities there. So, it is a little bit  
 3 of a vicious cycle.  
 4 COUNCILMAN PRINCIPE: And if I may just add  
 5 to that, it is timely, because we were just, literally,  
 6 talking about this this morning, but perhaps as a test  
 7 case there is a park that is going to be redone down the  
 8 road on Ellery Street, and it's one of those parks that,  
 9 you know, to say the least, it's in dire need of some  
 10 investment and maybe some refiguring, and there is a  
 11 small but meaningful amount of money that is allocated  
 12 towards repurposing or reutilizing that park, and we are  
 13 trying to get the community input on what it is we can do  
 14 to really broaden the appeal across, perhaps, a greater  
 15 range of people who, you know, live in the neighborhood.  
 16 So, for instance, you know, new equipment for kids,  
 17 that's great, but also something that is appealing to  
 18 much older kids or adults, or the elderly, and then how  
 19 to bring it all together, and that really helps broaden  
 20 the appeal of a park, and getting more people who are  
 21 keeping an eye out for it and feel its importance to the  
 22 neighborhood.  
 23 So if you guys are interested in talking more about  
 24 that to use it as a springboard to help find funding, and  
 25 perhaps other people who are interested in helping redo

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1 some of the other parks in the neighborhood, too, and  
 2 then maybe bring it all together, we are really looking  
 3 out for all of the parks in the neighborhood. It can be  
 4 a Neighborhood Friends Group for our Parks, in plural.  
 5 MS. BOGUK: That's kind of where we're going  
 6 with it.  
 7 Ms. JAMISON: Hi, I'm sorry. I'm Caitlin  
 8 Jamison. We actually have, through WBNA, we have a  
 9 Friends with Dexter Training Ground, that committee, so  
 10 we actually will be having a meeting tomorrow evening at  
 11 7:00 P.M. here, so that will be our monthly meeting,  
 12 looking at Wednesdays right now. And so our goal right  
 13 now is to at least understand what people's priorities  
 14 are, what they want to go after, and then, for now it is  
 15 being rescheduled and moved to April, but there is also  
 16 going to be kind of a parks walkabout where we actually  
 17 look at, see what the issues are associated with the  
 18 parks, and I think Brian, and Kari, and myself, and some  
 19 other people are going to be involved, to understand the  
 20 Ellery Street Park and, as well as Dexter Training  
 21 Ground, all originally based in this vicinity, what kind  
 22 of needs to be done in the order of maintenance and kind  
 23 of where everything falls. So if you want to get  
 24 involved --  
 25 MS. BOGUK: Thank you.

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1 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.  
 2 MS. FOFANA: Thank you.  
 3 MR. HULL: So just to piggyback on that.  
 4 There is an organization called the Partnership for  
 5 Providence Parks. A wonderful, wonderful, wonderful  
 6 organization. I am more than happy to be the convenor of  
 7 everyone to really start something here that really  
 8 leverages their thoughtfulness and the program that they  
 9 deliver and have been delivering at other parks  
 10 throughout the City. I think parks really need to  
 11 integrate the desire and the culture and the nature of  
 12 the City. It's really difficult for the city to come in,  
 13 the city as this sort of entity to come in and say, let's  
 14 just put Monkey Bars here and this slide here. It  
 15 doesn't really capture the desire of the community.  
 16 There is certain preferences that the community really  
 17 wants to see in their parks, and this organization, the  
 18 Partnership for Providence Parks, really helps try to  
 19 tease out what that is, and I think it's incredibly  
 20 valuable conversation to have if we are going to think  
 21 about it, if we are thinking about that. Right over  
 22 here.  
 23 MR. DUPRE: Hi, my name is Vijay Dupre  
 24 (phonetic), and I live on Broadway. I have been involved  
 25 in the neighborhood here for about 30 years. Anyway, one

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1 of the things about just the parks only because it's one  
 2 of the things that you will see if you look back on the  
 3 list, we talked about overseeding Dexter Park, and, like,  
 4 fertilizing the lawn on the park. Like, if somebody were  
 5 to take a, just a little, you know, go and put some  
 6 fertilizer, the areas that got fertilized you see the  
 7 grass would be high, and it would seem that this is one  
 8 of the things that you want in your park. You want it to  
 9 be like a little green oasis, and then a multitude of  
 10 people can use that oasis. As it stands, lots of people  
 11 use it, but we have seen the playground get changed out  
 12 three times, but I don't think that it's been overseeded  
 13 or fertilized once in all of this time. So one of the  
 14 things that you want in your parks is to have them be  
 15 green, and it's not so much sex appeal and say we are  
 16 going to irate the lawn, and we are going to lime it, and  
 17 we're going to fertilize it, and we're going to top dress  
 18 it, but this is one of the things that we need at the  
 19 park. You will see that it's on the list. Same thing  
 20 down on Ellery Street. Just to have your parks be green  
 21 when you have lots of the people running back and forth  
 22 playing soccer or volleyball or walking their dog, not so  
 23 much sex appeal, but it's important, and it doesn't get  
 24 done, because we get new Monkey Bars.  
 25 So, anyway, something to consider in terms of the

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1 parks and recreation, but one of the things that I have  
 2 seen over the past 30 years working in the neighborhood  
 3 here, and you should know that our company The Armory  
 4 Revival when the ICIC had its inaugural inner city 100,  
 5 we were thirteenth on the list.  
 6 MR. HULL: 1997.  
 7 MR. DUPRE: Something like that. We have  
 8 been working in the neighborhood, but one of the things  
 9 that goes on is that this money in Providence in the past  
 10 30 years, Providence seems to, is having, we see less and  
 11 less resources here. When we look at our snow plowing,  
 12 we look at our city service, it continues, and we keep on  
 13 hearing the same story. There is no money. So we have  
 14 seen the past administration just spend a lot of time  
 15 cutting everywhere they could, because the taxes are  
 16 already incredibly high, and you don't get that much  
 17 service for that. So in the past it seemed that the CDBG  
 18 money was used to buy fishes that they would pass out  
 19 instead of buying fishing poles, and I think that we  
 20 really need to be looking at how we stop just passing  
 21 plums to people who say I need the new Monkey Bars and  
 22 really use it to create systems that are going to make  
 23 Providence more livable and not be a poor city. We need  
 24 to figure out how we are going to create wealth in our  
 25 city and how CDBG monies might be used to do that.

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1 A couple of things on the city services. I know I'm  
 2 going on, but whatever, city services, snow plowing, I  
 3 think that it's time that the City uses some CDBG money  
 4 to create an APP, so anybody can put the APP on their  
 5 phone and register how their city is done. Is their  
 6 street curb to curb? Is it good, bad, terrible? Fire  
 7 them. And then you can see on the streets you have a  
 8 little map, and it will show you what streets were done  
 9 and what streets were not done, but I look around some of  
 10 these streets, and it's horrible, but we as taxpayers, we  
 11 paid to have those done, because some were done by the  
 12 City, but a lot of them were done with private  
 13 contractors. Me as a private individual or a company, I  
 14 would never pay for the job that I see out there on the  
 15 streets. This is the kind of APP that would improve  
 16 quality of life.  
 17 The other thing I would like to speak on a little  
 18 bit about is graffiti. We have a Graffiti Task Force.  
 19 It goes around cleaning up after the people have already  
 20 done thousands of dollars worth of vandalism. Well, most  
 21 recently on Broadway in the neighborhood the format has  
 22 gone from little tags to big tags, and the City just  
 23 seems to, like, oh, well, in the spring we'll get the  
 24 Graffiti Task Force out there. We need something a  
 25 little more proactive. Maybe CDBG can put some money out

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1 there as a reward for the arrest and conviction of the  
 2 people who are doing it and thinking about some clever  
 3 way to actually stop some of the graffiti rather than  
 4 just cleaning up after the graffiti, but anyway.  
 5 Welcome to Providence, and I'm excited to have  
 6 somebody with your background and education here, because  
 7 we certainly need all of the brainpower we can bring to  
 8 bear on the problems.  
 9 MR. HULL: We have problems. You're right.  
 10 MS. JAMISON: I did have a question  
 11 regarding the affordable housing situation/the abandoned  
 12 houses. So does the City have any kind of program to  
 13 help people that are trying to purchase some of these  
 14 foreclosed properties or rehab them? Because I just, as  
 15 a private person who recently, I purchased my home in the  
 16 area three years ago. The climate with the banks is  
 17 very, very difficult, and even as somebody who is  
 18 gainfully employed I still find it very difficult to  
 19 manage, and, for example, you get kind of boxed into, for  
 20 example, 203(k) loans, and there are only certain banks  
 21 that offer 203(k) loans. You end up with some weird  
 22 mortgage situations. It can be pretty difficult to  
 23 navigate. So I know some cities have set up -- I know  
 24 Boston has Boston Redevelopment Authority. I know it's  
 25 under some discussion right now whether that was handled

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1 the best way or not, but I didn't know in terms of the  
 2 City what kind of outreach programs are under way.  
 3 Obviously, it would be great to get people in these  
 4 houses and, obviously, get them affordably being able to  
 5 purchase these houses if they want to be owner-occupied  
 6 plus rent out a unit or something. That's obviously a  
 7 path for people having some sustainability as well as  
 8 keeping the houses off the market. So I didn't know if  
 9 there is any programs under way, or --  
 10 MR. HULL: Yeah, you bring up an important  
 11 point that we are thinking about. So, sort of the legal  
 12 status of some of these properties is challenging to  
 13 navigate for individual home buyers, because there is a  
 14 lot of interested parties, not interested as in oh, hey,  
 15 that seems like a really cool house, but interested in  
 16 there is some sort of vested money involved in that, a  
 17 lien placed on the property from banks, financial  
 18 institutions, like contractors. So there is lots of  
 19 legal issues on these properties that makes it very  
 20 difficult for individual home buyers to do anything with.  
 21 It is something that we are thinking about internally to  
 22 figure out how to make available properties to individual  
 23 home buyers, what types of programs can the community  
 24 development office provide? We should really think about  
 25 it. I mean, there are programs. I would love to see

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1 something where the City, where we develop a program, and  
 2 maybe I'm speaking out of turn, but we develop a program  
 3 that provides a subordinated loan to cover the  
 4 debt-to-value ratio to below 80 percent and that way home  
 5 buyers are taking out a mortgage with a debt-to-value  
 6 ratio of under 80 percent, and they don't have a PMI, and  
 7 that would be a huge savings for individual home buyers  
 8 and not have to deal with paying a mortgage insurance to  
 9 a mortgage company for no reason. So that's totally  
 10 allowable with CDBG money. So we can develop programs  
 11 like that. The issue is all of that costs money, and to  
 12 your point, all of it costs money, and there is an  
 13 opportunity cost for every single thing that we do. So  
 14 it's like really trying to, you know, like, so the mayor  
 15 has a vision for community development that involves  
 16 doing something with these properties, and I think, I  
 17 have been thinking quite a bit about various different  
 18 types of programs and opportunities to leverage CDBG  
 19 funds for that type of thing. Nothing is written in  
 20 stone yet. I want to say over the next several weeks  
 21 we'll start unveiling it and testing some programs and  
 22 projects, and I hope to have some good news for you,  
 23 like, you know, maybe Frank Shea can help out with that.  
 24 MS. DRIVER: There was a program a few years  
 25 ago, I think Mayor Taveras's administration, that if you

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1 were owner-occupants, and you bought either a  
 2 single-family or a multi-family, if it was a foreclosed  
 3 property, you would get 20 thousand dollars per unit that  
 4 you would only have to pay back when you sold the house,  
 5 and every year you owned it a little bit of that loan was  
 6 forgiven, and it was very poorly advertised. Very few  
 7 homeowners knew about it. I don't know why that was, but  
 8 I would suggest doing that again. It really helped out a  
 9 lot of people.

10 MR. DUPRE: Do we know of any houses that  
 11 have actually gone through the receivership process?

12 MR. HULL: There is about 50 of them making  
 13 their way through the process right now. About seven or  
 14 eight are complete, and other ones are at different  
 15 stages.

16 MR. SHEA: Have any been sold to buyers?

17 MR. HULL: It's a question for Sean Creegan,  
 18 and I'm not, and I don't know where they are in the  
 19 process, if they've just identified a receiver for  
 20 particular pockets of homes. I just know there is  
 21 somewhere around 50 that are either in the process or  
 22 identified for the process.

23 MS. LANG: Just so you know, Sean Creegan is  
 24 coming to the next WBNA Finance Committee meeting, which  
 25 is the fourth Tuesday of this month.

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1 MR. HULL: Sean Creegan works in the City  
 2 law department and is a, kind of a catalyst for the  
 3 receivership program, so if you have questions about that  
 4 you might want to talk to Sean about it.  
 5 I have hands over here.

6 MS. GIFFORD: My name is Gayle Gifford. I'm  
 7 actually from the Summit neighborhood but couldn't make  
 8 the meeting over there. So my question is more around  
 9 this whole issue of opportunity cost versus city plan for  
 10 investment. For example, the street car that is going to  
 11 cost --

12 MR. HULL: A lot.

13 MS. GIFFORD: -- one hundred fifty million  
 14 or more. I don't know what the price of that is. A  
 15 sense of what, if that's taking Brown students down to  
 16 the hospital and hospital students back up to Brown, is  
 17 that the best use of that money versus a lot of the other  
 18 issues that you're hearing in this room, and you will  
 19 hear from the neighborhoods, and you will hear about  
 20 economic development? So how can the City take all of  
 21 this and really create an investment plan that is  
 22 community driven that balances those different kinds of  
 23 opportunities, you know? I know my neighborhood, the big  
 24 conversation right now is the stadium, and how can we do  
 25 this, and not that people want it, but it shouldn't be is

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1 the conversation, and use of public money to finance  
 2 that, whatever the City is going to invest in that or not  
 3 invest in that. So I just think that conversation needs  
 4 to be clearer around opportunities and investment and  
 5 what we get for that, including, for example, creative  
 6 community capital, and how that can be used to spur real  
 7 growth for people.

8 MR. HULL: Yeah, we need jobs more than --  
 9 let me not interject my own personal feelings.

10 MS. GIFFORD: But we also need to sort of  
 11 reduce the cost of living. So how does that influence  
 12 energy? There is the article in the paper today where, I  
 13 thought it was great, and the hospital is basically  
 14 saying if you got us, right, there are no jobs, but on  
 15 the other hand we can't afford healthcare because of  
 16 high-tech healthcare. So we have got this real quandary.  
 17 It seems like nobody is doing any planning around that.  
 18 Michael Fine is saying we can get rid of 900  
 19 hospital beds in the State if we cut, you know, the need  
 20 to drop healthcare costs by 45 percent, we would actually  
 21 have a huge economic growth because of the competitive  
 22 nature of being here, and also the other kinds of  
 23 investments.

24 MR. HULL: We are being thoughtful, and we  
 25 want to have a very clear agenda for what the City's

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1 investment strategies are and should be that integrate  
 2 all different types of funds, including CDBG. It's not  
 3 appropriate for me to lay out what the City's investment  
 4 agenda should be over the next five years. I have an  
 5 idea. Other people in the City have different ideas. So  
 6 the conversation is what makes the most sense. From my  
 7 perspective, I'm here to listen. I want to understand  
 8 what the community's concerns are and bring that back,  
 9 bring that back to the table when we are having larger  
 10 conversations about what the strategic investments are  
 11 for the City.

12 I work incredibly closely with the council on CDBG  
 13 investments, and we have a very, very good relationship  
 14 and a very good partnership about how to leverage CDBG  
 15 money in new and different ways that have a long-term  
 16 sustainable, let's have some sort of, how can we make it  
 17 self-sustained, not just meeting basic needs and sort of  
 18 giving people the fish. How do we use CDBG money to give  
 19 everyone a fishing pole and teach them how to fish  
 20 themselves? I think that's a much better use while we  
 21 still are also thinking about the basic needs that need  
 22 to be met in the City.

23 MR. SELLECK: My name is Shawn Selleck. I  
 24 just live a few blocks away, and just to piggyback on  
 25 what Gayle was saying just about the planning, and maybe

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1 because it's already being done in this area, but when  
 2 she said, you know, planning how we are making these  
 3 investments, it just made me think of the one thing I saw  
 4 on the screen about Cranston Street, and like facade, you  
 5 know, investments, and I haven't lived in Providence very  
 6 long, but I have been in other cities where they've had  
 7 those facade programs, and there is no guidelines,  
 8 really, whatsoever, so I would hope that maybe there was  
 9 more thought to how it was done here in the past, but I  
 10 think it would be nice to think about what we would like  
 11 Cranston Street to look like and how investments in  
 12 facade could result in better economic development  
 13 outcome than just saying, hey, if you provide this  
 14 matching or if you buy these types of things, then we'll  
 15 subsidize that investment.  
 16 MR. DUPRE: I think that one of the things  
 17 that Providence seems to miss out on is that we have a,  
 18 our built environment here in Providence is really  
 19 beautiful, and the past couple of administrations don't  
 20 seem like they really get that this is something that's  
 21 important to Providence, and that, in fact, if we are  
 22 going to change the mix, that if we are actually going to  
 23 keep more people who come to school and graduate from one  
 24 of these great institutions that we have here, we are  
 25 going to keep them here and keep their friends who come

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1 down from Brooklyn to visit them, they say, wow, what a  
 2 great place Providence is -- people gravitate to  
 3 beautiful cities. Cities that aren't covered with  
 4 graffiti, cities that are well maintained, cities that  
 5 have a sense of place, and this is one of the things that  
 6 it doesn't cost that much, and it's something that the  
 7 planning department and the community development could  
 8 be working on. Say, listen, we need to attract people to  
 9 come here. We need growth, because we are not going to  
 10 be able to just, like, continue to cut our way into a new  
 11 future. That's not happening. We need to have more  
 12 growth.  
 13 I think Gayle's thing, for people who are not really  
 14 clear on this, the light rail thing is Brown University  
 15 is, basically, going to get the City of Providence to put  
 16 in a light rail so that the Brown University students can  
 17 actually go and, stop and go through the Jewelry District  
 18 where they can go and take classes and then continue on  
 19 to the hospital, and so it's really convenient for Brown  
 20 and those folks, and granted Brown and the hospitals are  
 21 big employers, but it's a lot of money being spent, and  
 22 do we, in fact, need to subsidize Brown University and  
 23 the hospitals anymore? So, I think this is what Gayle  
 24 was sort of nicely getting to, but a lot of people are  
 25 not aware that this is the, this is the conversation

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1 that's going on, that we are going to spend all of this  
 2 money, and it's basically Brown and the hospital.  
 3 MR. HULL: We have maybe like three or four  
 4 minutes left.  
 5 MS. NEWMAN-GREENE: I just wanted to concur  
 6 that big projects like that, it really has to be  
 7 considered to bring economic development where economic  
 8 development is needed and that kind of plan leaves the  
 9 part of the city that needs economic development the most  
 10 completely out of the picture, so it's very shortsighted.  
 11 But the other thing I wanted to build on was the  
 12 conversation about the 203 loans, and I think that that  
 13 as a, it's a loan for people to be able to buy and rehab  
 14 a property, could be an enormous tool for community  
 15 revitalization. The problem is that it's not just the  
 16 sort of gap financing that you were talking about. That  
 17 would be enormously helpful if you didn't have to have  
 18 the mortgage insurance, but on top of that, that process  
 19 is actually very, very complicated for a homeowner, and  
 20 especially a first-time homeowner, to negotiate. You  
 21 basically have to serve as your own general contractor,  
 22 and you have to be fronting money before you're getting  
 23 reimbursed, and you have to be managing subcontractors,  
 24 which is really not a reasonable thing to ask if we are  
 25 trying to encourage homeownership in the City.

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1 MS. JAMISON: Not all the contractors will  
 2 do it. If you're working with plumbers and electricians,  
 3 some of them will take it. Some of them will wait for  
 4 reimbursement money, some won't.  
 5 MS. NEWMAN-GREENE: So some of the CDBG  
 6 funds, I think a good use would be to develop a program  
 7 to ease that process so people aren't, I think it's a  
 8 really underutilized tool, because it's just so  
 9 exclusionary of people who aren't experienced in all of  
 10 these complicated things, so some kind of process that  
 11 makes that easier for people to become homeowners.  
 12 MR. HULL: The Federal Government likes to  
 13 make things complicated.  
 14 MS. NEWMAN-GREENE: But a CDBG program might  
 15 be well used to have an intermediate for homeowners to  
 16 help lubricate that.  
 17 MR. HULL: So I want to bring Margit up here  
 18 who is taking copious amounts of notes. Does anyone have  
 19 just one last comment before we move into sort of a  
 20 wrapup and then the next steps?  
 21 MS. ROSENBERG: My name is Deb Rosenberg,  
 22 and I'm a resident and also a student at RISD. I have  
 23 lived here for about six years, seven years now, and I  
 24 live pretty close to Dexter Training Ground, and I just  
 25 wanted to make a plug for additional public safety

1 measures around the park area in terms of the traffic  
 2 speeds going down Parade Street, in particular. I know  
 3 there have been some improvements, surface painting of  
 4 medians, and that has helped, I think, but there is no  
 5 real barrier to excessive speed on that street currently.  
 6 The other issue, I mean, there have been shootings,  
 7 and I know that's been discussed a lot in the  
 8 neighborhood, but sort of the police response to that I  
 9 think is maybe a little bit concerning. I personally  
 10 called the police when I heard what sounded like gunfire  
 11 just like a day after another shooting incident, and I  
 12 was sort of berated for not knowing the difference  
 13 between fireworks and -- so it really didn't make me want  
 14 to call again, but I have also had really positive  
 15 experiences with the local police, so that's not to be  
 16 judgmental of them, too much.  
 17 And then the other issue is it is hard to recall  
 18 summer weather at this point, but I have had a problem  
 19 with people drinking and being passed out and drunk in  
 20 the park a lot, and this is really uncomfortable when  
 21 you're walking through with your toddler. It's  
 22 uncomfortable as an adult as well, but to know how to  
 23 deal with that, and I don't want to exclude anyone from  
 24 using the park, and our park certainly gets a lot of use  
 25 from different groups, but I don't think that's one of

1 parks, looking at sort of a strategic investments that  
 2 are not necessarily for sexy, but necessary, and just  
 3 overall being strategic in how to create wealth in the  
 4 City. We also talked about a potential APP for snow  
 5 plowing and graffiti, sort of just looking at ways to  
 6 stop the graffiti before it happens and not just clean it  
 7 up, and affordable housing, foreclosed properties, trying  
 8 to create some sort of outreach program for people to  
 9 help them navigate the difficult process, and someone  
 10 brought up sort of the issue of opportunity cost,  
 11 creating a city investment plan that's really needed,  
 12 just creating a, having a more clearer conversation about  
 13 it, sort of a guideline for facade investment and really  
 14 just prioritizing attracting people to the City and  
 15 preserving our built environment. That's about what I  
 16 had. I didn't know if anyone wanted to jump in.  
 17 MR. SELLECK: I have one more thing. I'm  
 18 just going to put out something that I'm personally  
 19 interested in, that's just performance, government  
 20 performance, and that really can't be measured unless  
 21 you're tracking data. So, someone touched on before like  
 22 an APP where someone could report their snow plow. Very  
 23 few governments are not guilty of measuring output  
 24 instead of outcome, and so we're spending all of this  
 25 money on plowing without measuring anything. We have no

1 them that should be there, and I'm not really sure how to  
 2 address that, but something on my mind.  
 3 MR. CANE: George Cane, Hudson Street.  
 4 Mostly, it's going back to clearing the streets, not also  
 5 just for traffic but also emergency vehicles, literally.  
 6 If I can't get my small truck through it, I can't imagine  
 7 how a fire truck could get through, or whatever else.  
 8 MS. LIANDER: Should I just summarize my  
 9 notes?  
 10 MR. HULL: We are going to just go into a  
 11 brief wrapup of what we just heard and make sure that we  
 12 have it.  
 13 MS. LIANDER: Yeah, and if I forgot  
 14 anything, please, jump in. You guys mentioned speeding  
 15 is a big issue as it pertains to speed bumps, visitor  
 16 on-street parking. You also expressed concern about  
 17 foreclosed abandoned properties, sort of the general  
 18 City's strategy towards this, incorporating CDCs in the  
 19 process, and sort of questioning the quality of work and  
 20 how this is regulated. We also talked about industrial  
 21 areas, sort of leveraging the arts and how the City can  
 22 support the creation of more cultural facilities.  
 23 We talked about friends groups for parks, sort of  
 24 what can be done for the parks that have the greatest  
 25 need which doesn't seem to have these groups, fertilizing

1 idea. Like, there is no data being collected, as far as  
 2 I know, about how that performed, and even before that  
 3 the gentlemen said what I was thinking. We just spent 50  
 4 million dollars on paving roads, and if there is a single  
 5 pothole in any of those streets next month when the snow  
 6 melts, that contractor should have an issue, because it's  
 7 only a few months old, but I don't know if anyone is ever  
 8 going to look at that, and that should be done with a lot  
 9 of city services, but, you know, it's just, I'm hoping  
 10 that there is going to be a focus on that with this new  
 11 administration and people that are supposedly interested  
 12 in data and managing operations.  
 13 MS. GIFFORD: And with that there is, I  
 14 actually just watched a very interesting TEDx Talk from  
 15 New York City that is about data projects there that is  
 16 about the city actually putting data out online in usable  
 17 format so that the community can do that data analysis  
 18 and actually make discoveries that are of great benefit  
 19 to the city. So it might be something to think about,  
 20 knowing that the ability to continue to crunch data is  
 21 very difficult when you have limited staff, but if you  
 22 throw it up into the community that lots of good can come  
 23 from that, so that's another way to think about that.  
 24 MR. HULL: Great. So these conversations  
 25 that we are having are to really help in forming the

1 drafting of a consolidated plan. A consolidated plan is  
 2 a five-year guidance document that the City uses to  
 3 really think about the investments of CDBG funds moving  
 4 forward. So we have eight of these community meetings  
 5 set up across the city. We are collecting feedback from  
 6 these community meetings, from surveys. We have online  
 7 surveys as well, and we keep soliciting that information.  
 8 If you provide your contact information in the  
 9 survey, we will contact you when the draft consolidated  
 10 plan is complete. We want you to respond to that draft  
 11 plan, make sure that we get it right. If there are  
 12 things, comments that you want to add, suggestions that  
 13 you want to make to that plan to make sure we are more  
 14 inclusive of particular priorities that weren't addressed  
 15 in the plan, we would be happy to hear from you on that.  
 16 MS. GIFFORD: What's the total amount of  
 17 CDBG money that you're talking about?  
 18 MR. HULL: So for this year it was 4.98  
 19 million dollars, a reduction from last year, a reduction  
 20 from the year before that. Unfortunately, it's not a ton  
 21 of money, so when we think about the strategic  
 22 investments, like, the word strategic really needs to be  
 23 highlighted, and how do we leverage that with other types  
 24 of grant funding, private sector funding, things like  
 25 that, so. This website is where you can follow along

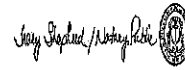
1 with the exciting process of the drafting of the  
 2 consolidated plan. The final draft plan will be  
 3 completed in May. So prior to that we'll have a draft  
 4 reading out there for people to review. And if you're  
 5 interested in attending another community meeting, we  
 6 have a schedule up on the table over there next to the  
 7 food, but here are when the other community meetings are.  
 8 We did just add one on March 31 at Capitol Ridge, too, so  
 9 that's another opportunity.  
 10 Thank you all for showing up. Oh, on your survey,  
 11 you can hand them to Ani. Ani, hold up your hand. Hand  
 12 your survey to Ani.  
 13 Thank you very much. I appreciate your coming out.  
 14 (MATTER CLOSED AT 7:53 P.M.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March 2015.



TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: March 10, 2015  
IN RE: Public Hearing  
HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of Planning and Development

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7  
 8 DATE: March 18, 2015  
 9 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 10 PLACE: SWAP  
 11 500 Broad Street  
 12 Providence, RI 02907  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17 PRESENT:  
 18 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 19 Providence  
 20 Ron DiOrio, Department of Planning and Development/City  
 21 of Providence  
 22 Margit Liander, Planner  
 23 Ani Haroian, Neighborhood Liaison for Planning and  
 24 Development  
 25

1 I guess the most important thing for me -- Councilman.  
 2 COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO: Councilman.  
 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was just going to  
 4 sneak in the background.  
 5 COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS: You can take your coat  
 6 off, I guess, if you want to. So it's really, really  
 7 important to have you tonight to come out and give your  
 8 input on something that's very, very important, which is  
 9 our community and what we would like to see happen in the  
 10 community. All the times we have visions and we have  
 11 dreams, and we never get a chance to put them in one  
 12 place. So I'm so happy to have folks that are able to  
 13 make it tonight to come out, and we're here to listen.  
 14 As your city council, I would like to know from the  
 15 community what the community's most, what most impacts  
 16 the community, so I can do my job just as well as the  
 17 rest of the folks that's in the City. So this is big.  
 18 This is something new for me as well. So I'm looking  
 19 forward to enjoying it just as much as the rest of you,  
 20 and you know, we give our input and see where we go from  
 21 there.  
 22 Thank you for coming out tonight.  
 23 MR. HULL: And we have Council President  
 24 Aponte just showed up.  
 25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: Just showed up.

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 THE COURT: Hello, everyone. How are you?  
 3 My name is Brian Hull. I'm the Director of Community  
 4 Development for the City of Providence. Thank you, all,  
 5 for coming out and showing up. It's cold out there, so I  
 6 appreciate everyone braving the weather. At least it's  
 7 not snowing, so we can be grateful for that.  
 8 I just wanted to recognize both Councilwoman  
 9 Castillo and Councilwoman Harris are in the room. If  
 10 they would like to come on up and just offer a couple  
 11 welcoming remarks that would be great, and we'll go from  
 12 there.  
 13 COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO: Hi, my name is  
 14 Carmen Castillo, the Councilwoman for Ward 9. I  
 15 represent the Elmwood area, and I work right now with  
 16 Mary Kay, you know, that fighter woman like me. I'm so  
 17 happy to get her in there. So we are here to listen to  
 18 you guys to see how hard they work, and we want to know  
 19 how you think about that.  
 20 COUNCILWOMAN HARRIS: Okay. Thank you.  
 21 Mary Kay Harris. This is my ward, Ward 11, and I see  
 22 some familiar faces in the room that I have been able to  
 23 have an opportunity to visit with since I have been newly  
 24 elected to the council position.  
 25 It is really, really great to have you here tonight.

1 MR. HULL: Just arrived, just arrived,  
 2 stealing the show.  
 3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: So, welcome. I  
 4 hope that you will all be active participants in this  
 5 exercise. The future of our community is not a decision,  
 6 or not decisions that should be left to other folks.  
 7 They should be left to people who live in this community,  
 8 work in this community. It should be our vision of what  
 9 we want our neighborhoods to look like, not only our  
 10 neighborhood, but the entire city. So those decisions  
 11 about what happens in our neighborhoods, what gets put in  
 12 our neighborhoods, how those things happen, shouldn't be  
 13 left to other folks. And I tell people, I often talk to  
 14 folks and people tell me they don't like politics, and  
 15 they don't do politics. So the exercise I do with them  
 16 is if you took a shower this morning raise your hand, so  
 17 you do politics. If tomorrow the garbage in front of  
 18 your house gets removed, you do politics. The real  
 19 question is whether you are active or passive, and the  
 20 opportunity to be an active participant in what goes on  
 21 in your city is an opportunity like this.  
 22 So that's my little two-minute soapbox, but we are  
 23 going around the City having these same conversations.  
 24 Council people in other neighborhoods are saying the same  
 25 thing that I said, that Councilwoman Harris and



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1 Councilwoman Castillo said.  
 2 The future of what our cities look like, what our  
 3 neighborhoods look like, what we would like to see in  
 4 them is really up to us.  
 5 So thank you for taking the time. I know everybody  
 6 is busy. There are a lot of demands on all of our time,  
 7 but I'm glad to see so many folks here. Brian.  
 8 MR. HULL: Thank you. I'm actually going to  
 9 stand right here next to my laptop, so I'm not blocking  
 10 anyone's view.  
 11 All three of the council members really emphasized  
 12 why we're here. We are here to listen. I take my job  
 13 incredibly seriously. I take my job incredibly seriously  
 14 in as much as all of you take your community incredibly  
 15 seriously and have priorities and preferences and needs.  
 16 So we are doing community meetings across the City.  
 17 We have eight of them, which is more than any other time  
 18 any other community development director has ever done.  
 19 I get that. I get that award, and it's important to me.  
 20 I really want to hear.  
 21 So, brief agenda, I know it's hard to see because of  
 22 the sun, but I'm going to briefly go over what we're here  
 23 to talk about are Community Development Block Grants. I  
 24 will get to that in one second. I want to go over  
 25 quickly what it is, what it can be used for, and that's

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1 going to help us frame a conversation.  
 2 We are going to talk about some of the previous  
 3 community meetings that we have had in the neighborhood,  
 4 and just, I will offer some comments about what we think  
 5 we heard, and then understand if that's still right. I  
 6 want to know that. I want to talk about some of the  
 7 previous investments that we have made in the area, and  
 8 then I'm going to stop talking, and then it is going to  
 9 be your time to talk. All of that is just to preface a  
 10 conversation about what you want to see in your  
 11 neighborhood, what your important concerns are.  
 12 With that, we are here to talk about Community  
 13 Development Block Grants. So what are Community  
 14 Development Blocks Grants? They are federal funds that  
 15 come into the City from the Federal Government. They  
 16 have a wide range of uses. They can't do everything, but  
 17 they can do a lot of things. We are not here to talk  
 18 about what they can and can't do, but I have listed a  
 19 bunch of things that CDBG, Community Development Block  
 20 Grants, can be used for, affordable housing development,  
 21 homeownership programs, job training, economic  
 22 development, microenterprise development, sewers,  
 23 streets, parks, neighborhoods, bike lanes,  
 24 infrastructure, neighborhood cleanups, lead abatement.  
 25 So we can do food banks. We can do direct services for

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1 after-school programs. So we can do a lot of things with  
 2 community -- it sounds like -- can someone let her in.  
 3 So we can do a lot of things with Community Development  
 4 Block Grant money.  
 5 We are here today to have an active dialogue, an  
 6 active participation, and there is more than one way to  
 7 do it. So one is going to be the conversation we have in  
 8 a bit. Another is these priority need boards. When you  
 9 came in, you should have been given blue dots. If you  
 10 did not get your blue dots, get your blue dots. You're  
 11 going to put your blue dots on your priority issue areas.  
 12 Another way is this neighborhood map. If there are  
 13 particular areas in the neighborhood that are areas of  
 14 concern for you, you can write it on a Post-it note, and  
 15 stick it to the map. That way we know specifically which  
 16 areas have, you know, either blighted houses, boarded up  
 17 houses, crime, prostitution, things like that, so we are  
 18 aware of the specific areas of the city, and another way  
 19 is when you arrived you should have gotten an agenda. On  
 20 the back of that agenda is a survey. If you can fill out  
 21 that survey, and leave it with Ani in the front, that  
 22 would be great. We are collecting these surveys from all  
 23 over the City, and we want to make sure that we get your  
 24 survey as well. So those are additional ways for you to  
 25 be a part of the conversation. This is the same map, so

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1 we don't need to talk about that.  
 2 So we had previous community meetings throughout the  
 3 City. In this particular area here are some of the  
 4 things that we heard. We want to make sure that this is,  
 5 they're still the concerns for the community, so,  
 6 accessibility, and mobility. These are some of the  
 7 issues, like, we need to improve the connections between  
 8 Elmwood and Lower South Providence into Roger Williams  
 9 Park. There is a lot of traffic congestion along Elmwood  
 10 and Broad, Eddy and Public Streets. There is a desire  
 11 for access to the waterfront, local attractions and  
 12 events that draw people to the water.  
 13 Regarding public services, folks want more  
 14 recreation services, community services targeted to  
 15 children and the elderly seniors. Many residents feel  
 16 that there is not enough library services in the area.  
 17 Some of the school facilities, as well, need improvement.  
 18 Regarding housing, there is, we want to see more  
 19 affordable housing, better access to affordable housing,  
 20 improving and maintaining the character of the  
 21 neighborhood. There is a lot of dilapidated-looking  
 22 buildings, and that could either be from absentee  
 23 landlords or owners, lots of the vacant, foreclosed,  
 24 abandoned and boarded-up property as well. There is a  
 25 lack of information regarding the historic nature of the

1 area and some of the homeowners that are violating some  
 2 of the historic code violations.  
 3 Regarding economic development, Broad Street is a  
 4 main commercial corridor in the City. So there is  
 5 interest in retaining some of those businesses and  
 6 finding opportunities to help them grow. There is a need  
 7 for jobs in the neighborhood, both jobs in the  
 8 neighborhood, and then jobs accessible for residents of  
 9 the neighborhood.  
 10 Healthy neighborhoods is a big concern across the  
 11 City. School facilities should be open after-school  
 12 hours to allow for more activities from the neighborhood  
 13 residents, and the, you know, public performances, local  
 14 displays from artists, lots of parking on lawns and  
 15 sidewalks, and double parking primarily on Broad Street.  
 16 Who here double parked? Good. Okay.  
 17 There is a whole lot of trash and litter. We need  
 18 more public trash cans in the area, lots of flyers all  
 19 over the telephone poles. We need to reuse the empty  
 20 vacant lots, get rid of all of the chain-link fences,  
 21 preserve and utilize the abandoned synagogue. More parks  
 22 and open space. We need more gathering spaces for  
 23 individuals to do recreational activities outside, more  
 24 community gardens and amenities, more green space,  
 25 recreation opportunity for youth, more sport activities

1 sidewalks, and roads, and streetlights need to be  
 2 repaired, and better streetscaping throughout.  
 3 So these are the things that have come up in  
 4 previous community meetings. I just wanted to highlight  
 5 those as a baseline. Some of the investments that we  
 6 have made, you know, I think you might have this, the red  
 7 dots are affordable housing investments that we have made  
 8 in the area through some of the federal funds that we  
 9 have. These are leveraged by other nonprofit developers  
 10 such as SWAP to create affordable housing in the area.  
 11 The blue dots are more like public service and  
 12 infrastructure projects that are delivered by the City  
 13 and through other organizations.  
 14 So over the past three years we have delivered,  
 15 deployed 1.6 million dollars in CDBG money, and then  
 16 another, we leveraged another five and a half million  
 17 dollars in affordable-housing development throughout  
 18 these neighborhoods.  
 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I ask a question  
 20 about --  
 21 THE STENOGRAPHER: Can I get your name for  
 22 the record?  
 23 MR. HULL: I'm sorry, whenever you are  
 24 speaking or asking a question, please, just state your  
 25 name and where you live. It doesn't have to be an exact

1 as well, more opportunities for community gardens,  
 2 fountains in Roger Williams Park. Are they still broke?  
 3 I don't know. Are they still broke?  
 4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They are.  
 5 MR. HULL: Okay. Expanding the athletic  
 6 fields, getting rid of the ATVs. We really need to  
 7 address the graffiti and the trash throughout the area as  
 8 well.  
 9 Public safety, some of the public safety concerns, I  
 10 think, legitimately, there needs to be a better  
 11 coordination between the neighborhoods throughout the  
 12 City and the police department, and I know that they're  
 13 working on that. Lots of broken streetlights need to get  
 14 fixed, and, sort of, thinking about crime prevention  
 15 through the way the environment is designed,  
 16 prostitution, loitering, littering are serious issues  
 17 throughout the neighborhood, more efforts for promoting  
 18 pedestrian safety. If you want to cross the street in  
 19 some of these neighborhoods you're taking your life into  
 20 your hands.  
 21 On-street parking and issues with the public  
 22 drinking in front of the liquor stores in the  
 23 neighborhood as well.  
 24 And, finally, this sort of infrastructure bucket  
 25 about bicycle parking, bicycle lanes, some of the

1 address if you don't want to give that.  
 2 MS. KNIGHT: Maryclaire Knight. Maryclaire  
 3 is one word, and I live on Miller Avenue.  
 4 Can you talk a little bit about the public service  
 5 project, because I don't know if I understand what those  
 6 might be?  
 7 MR. HULL: So, for instance, we have, oh, I  
 8 have a list. So, we have been able to deliver, so for  
 9 instance, Sackett Street Park, we have done improvements  
 10 there, Community Works, Direct Action for Right to  
 11 Equality, they received money for public services to do  
 12 foreclosure remediation. The Genesis Center has CDBG  
 13 grants to do ESL training, computer training, things like  
 14 that. Living Histories received money to do training and  
 15 programming for historic renovation. So things like this  
 16 are types of activities that, we help organizations, we  
 17 fund organizations with some of the money that flows to  
 18 the Office of Community Development.  
 19 MS. KNIGHT: Is there a reason why the dots  
 20 are, some are larger and some are smaller?  
 21 MR. HULL: Yeah, so these are individual  
 22 projects, and the dot size is reflective of the amount of  
 23 money.  
 24 MS. KNIGHT: Oh.  
 25 MR. HULL: It's kind of inartful, but I just

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1 wanted to give a visual depiction of where some of the  
 2 investments were made. And recently the City has  
 3 completed a 40 million dollar road improvement project  
 4 over the past two years. Now, this is some of the, I  
 5 know the streets aren't perfect, but this is some of the  
 6 heaviest road improvements that the City has made in a  
 7 very, very long time. And these are some of the streets  
 8 that were paved recently.  
 9 Now, we are going to, I'm going to frame a break-out  
 10 conversation. We are not actually going to break out.  
 11 We are just going to have a conversation. I'm going to  
 12 seed this conversation with these for questions. So when  
 13 we start talking about what your priority needs are in  
 14 the area, let's think about it from these four questions.  
 15 So previously we talked about what we heard. Are we on  
 16 the right track? What are we missing? We know that we  
 17 are missing stuff. So what are we missing? What should  
 18 the City's priorities be, because they are your  
 19 priorities. So think about it from that, and then,  
 20 ultimately, what do you want to see in your neighborhood?  
 21 What do you want your neighborhood to look like? And  
 22 again, I'm going to leave it on this slide. This has  
 23 some examples of what we can do with Community  
 24 Development Block Grant money.  
 25 So I'm going to pause. If you are interested in

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1 speaking, raise your hand. I will recognize you. When  
 2 you do speak, again, state your name and where you live.  
 3 It doesn't have to be an exact address, and then state  
 4 your question or comment, and we will just have a  
 5 conversation. It's going to be really important that one  
 6 person speak at a time. So if we could just make sure.  
 7 Can I get your promise that you will? Okay. Carla.  
 8 MS. DESTEFANO: Carla, SWAP, 439 Pine  
 9 Street. I just want to be clear. When you were showing  
 10 the things that people had been concerned about before,  
 11 was that previous iterations from the South Side, or is  
 12 that from previous meetings you held this year?  
 13 MR. HULL: That was previous meetings  
 14 throughout, like, both for the neighborhood plans, for  
 15 the, for the rezoning plan, and they were --  
 16 MS. DESTEFANO: So it's not just this.  
 17 MR. HULL: No. It was specific to these  
 18 neighborhoods. I want to say Wards 8, 9, 10. So, you  
 19 know, it was like geographic based. It wasn't citywide,  
 20 what I just rattled off.  
 21 MS. DESTEFANO: Okay.  
 22 MR. HULL: Yes, in the back. Your name,  
 23 please.  
 24 MS. SMITH: Mary Smith, and I live on  
 25 Wesleyan Avenue. What I would really like to see is

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1 affordable housing for senior citizens, people  
 2 approaching senior citizenship, and not in a high-rise.  
 3 MR. HULL: So is this --  
 4 MR. SMITH: It seems that all housing for  
 5 seniors is high-rise. We don't want to live in  
 6 skyscrapers.  
 7 MR. HULL: So, you're thinking like small,  
 8 like this kind of development, like three, four-story  
 9 mixed-use development.  
 10 MS. SMITH: Mixed-use that's not just for  
 11 seniors. I mean, we don't want to just look at  
 12 ourselves. We want to see little kids. We want to see  
 13 teenagers, some variety. We don't want to be put into  
 14 this place where everybody is as feeble as everybody  
 15 else.  
 16 MR. HULL: Understood.  
 17 MR. GOLDMAN: I'm Rob Goldman from Living  
 18 History. I live on Moore Street. Two thoughts, I want  
 19 everything, okay. I want that to continue, so I think  
 20 there is a missing piece here maybe in the discussion  
 21 which is how do we get more money to do this. Okay? It  
 22 keeps going down, down, down, down. We all know that,  
 23 and it's not going to get much better in the next two  
 24 years with the Congress being the way they are. So how  
 25 do we get, we need some folks to help the department and

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1 the City get more resources. There is some  
 2 opportunities, I think, that are there if we can pull  
 3 some muscle from the neighborhood, and we can make some  
 4 more resources happen.  
 5 The other thought I have is this kind of a forum  
 6 needs to be done with young people. You have got to take  
 7 this stuff to the kids who are in high school. They've  
 8 got to start to feel like they're part of the City. The  
 9 best kids that I have, the smartest, the most, you know,  
 10 go-getter kids they can't wait to get out, okay. So we  
 11 have got to change that dynamic. So these meetings ought  
 12 to be done in a slightly different way so kids can get  
 13 it, but they need to be done with high school kids.  
 14 MR. HULL: So do you think, just to push on  
 15 that, do you think exclusively a meeting for youth and  
 16 then a meeting for non youth, or one meeting with  
 17 everyone? I feel like we can learn a lot from youth as  
 18 well.  
 19 MR. GOLDMAN: I feel like if we had a  
 20 meeting with youth initially, then some of these kids  
 21 would get the spirit and start to come in front of this--  
 22 MS. GORINI: I'm Nika Gorini representing  
 23 City Arts on Broad Street, and just riffing off of that  
 24 in terms of what your priority would be I definitely  
 25 would say youth and creating an environment where the

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1 youth in this city are, and in particular in this  
 2 neighborhood, are feeling comfortable, are feeling  
 3 confident, are practicing their own voice.  
 4 At City Arts we have after-school, free after-school  
 5 art programs where the kids are doing projects, learning  
 6 from artists and community members about these very  
 7 subjects that we are talking about, and it's in those  
 8 environments that they can start to really imagine these  
 9 futures for themselves and really start to have these  
 10 conversations. For example, we are currently doing a  
 11 class with an urban planner and architect, and the kids  
 12 are talking about urban design and creating, it is a  
 13 cardboard city, a model of a city, and they're talking  
 14 about these issues and conceiving of really creative  
 15 ideas, of ways to make a more perfect city for  
 16 themselves. So creating more spaces like that, putting  
 17 more money into the organizations that are already  
 18 thriving so that we can continue to thrive and grow so  
 19 that kids can be really feeling good about themselves and  
 20 can become active participants in these kinds of  
 21 conversations.  
 22 MS. BELANGER: I'm Ashley Belanger. I  
 23 represent the Rhode Island Urban Debate League, and we  
 24 work in multiple schools in the City with high school  
 25 youth, I think, could be active for discussion in this

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1 and other conversations. I have one really disruptive  
 2 question and then comments. The one disruptive question,  
 3 would it be possible to move our chairs into a circle, so  
 4 it feels like a conversation, because it's really hard to  
 5 have a conversation. Like, I feel like I want to be  
 6 talking to you all --  
 7 MR. HULL: Yes, go. Do it. Go.  
 8 MR. BELANGER: -- and hearing you all.  
 9 MR. HULL: Ashley, now your question.  
 10 MS. BELANGER: My question was what I feel  
 11 like should be a priority is sort of --  
 12 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry, Ms. Belanger.  
 13 I'm having a hard time hearing you. If you could just  
 14 repeat that.  
 15 MS. BELANGER: I feel like one priority  
 16 should be in sensitizing collaboration that particularly,  
 17 I'm working in the youth-serving population, I think  
 18 there are a whole bunch of nonprofits operating on like  
 19 \$200,000 or below operating budget. It makes absolutely  
 20 no sense for all of us to be each sharing a bookkeeper,  
 21 each buying a copy machine, et cetera, et cetera, and I  
 22 notice the Temple on Broad Street up there is one of the  
 23 possibilities. I know some of my board members have had  
 24 conversations with members of city council, and just  
 25 talking among others serving in other organizations there

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1 is definitely an interest in collaboration and reducing  
 2 inefficiencies, and, you know, working together, because  
 3 I think we can have a much bigger impact if we did so.  
 4 MR. HULL: Yeah, no, I absolutely agree with  
 5 that.  
 6 MS. KNIGHT: Brian, I want to go, I will  
 7 talk just a quick second. I think as we discuss these  
 8 priorities, I think there should be a look back so that  
 9 we understand what the investments were that were made  
 10 and what happened because of them, because I feel like if  
 11 you're seeking investments from people that live in the  
 12 neighborhood we should know what kind of things are being  
 13 invested into that neighborhood and how does it work.  
 14 MR. HULL: Right.  
 15 MS. KNIGHT: And not just, there is a report  
 16 out, right? So we have a sense of when you're building  
 17 investments, how are they addressing the priorities that  
 18 we set, and then what can we, what do we think about that  
 19 in our life experience of being here?  
 20 MR. HULL: So let me just respond to that  
 21 really quickly. You're right. Part of the conversation  
 22 is here's what we have done. Here's the benchmark  
 23 metrics that we, you know, we try to accomplish. We  
 24 actually do that. We have to do that for the Federal  
 25 Government. This is like really scarce, valuable time

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1 that we have.  
 2 MS. KNIGHT: I don't want to do it right  
 3 now. I'm just saying in the future there should be a  
 4 mechanism like this, we can come and hear what the  
 5 results were in this year. Right?  
 6 MR. HULL: Yes, I think that's a great idea.  
 7 I saw other hands. Yes.  
 8 MS. PENFIELD: I'm Joyce Penfield. I live  
 9 on Pomona Avenue, and I'm here from Blessing Way and St.  
 10 Peter's and St. Andrew's and for myself, because I'm a  
 11 resident. There are two things I'd like to see in the  
 12 neighborhood, some way to get the drugs out. I don't  
 13 know about you, but I know where they are, and I'm  
 14 working with people to keep them drug free, and they can  
 15 hardly get down the street without having them pushed in  
 16 their face. I don't know how the children handle this.  
 17 I have addressed this to Mayor Elorza for the public  
 18 safety. We do all we can in Blessed Way to work with  
 19 people that want to stay crime free and drug free and  
 20 socially responsible, but they're surrounded, and I'm  
 21 surrounded. So I don't have a solution other than trying  
 22 to provide hope for people, and the population I work  
 23 with are people who come out of prison who have a record,  
 24 who have everything stacked against them. They have  
 25 wonderful talents, but no job availability, because of

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1 that mark on them for life, and in the State you can't  
 2 get it out for life, and we need, not just job training.  
 3 Training is nice. It looks really nice on the paper, but  
 4 my experience from having done three or four of them, one  
 5 right on this street, is that afterwards there wasn't  
 6 anyplace to have a job after you have been trained,  
 7 because you still have the thing behind you. So we do  
 8 our best to try to provide training that get people right  
 9 into something or to start their own business. That's  
 10 where we are headed right now, to do something very small  
 11 to have them have some sort of income, but these things  
 12 are not unrelated, and I didn't see anything under public  
 13 safety, which to me is preventive if people have an  
 14 opportunity to make something of their life. They want  
 15 to put their life together.  
 16 This is not one person. Every one person has six  
 17 other family members or more that are implicated, so the  
 18 social cost goes really sky high in this circle.  
 19 So, I guess, in concrete words, it would be more  
 20 connection to drug prevention, albeit, all the way up and  
 21 down, and more community policing, which I work a lot  
 22 with, and I'm trying to address those issues in the  
 23 community, and something that economically gives help to  
 24 people who have a felony record in this state, not just  
 25 training to help give them hope and then no door opens.

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1 So those are very, very important to our community,  
 2 because we all live together, and everybody is trying to  
 3 make something of their life, but they get stopped.  
 4 MS. REED: I'm Kelly Reed. I'm from  
 5 Community Music Works on Westminster Street, and I have  
 6 two questions. The first, I noticed that somebody had  
 7 mentioned in the list of things that they'd like to see  
 8 improved to, kind of, remove all of the spam and the  
 9 paraphernalia on telephone poles and stuff. I'm  
 10 wondering if there's any kind of community board  
 11 somewhere that's going to, I don't know who would manage  
 12 this, because it might be a big job to do so, but to have  
 13 some sort of centrally located information board in the  
 14 community that really pulls the community together and  
 15 says here are all of the things that are going on this  
 16 week in your community, so everything from health  
 17 services to arts events, to concerts, you know, so,  
 18 again, I don't know who would manage that, but it might  
 19 be a nice kind of focal point somewhere.  
 20 MS. HLYNSKI: My name is Karen Hlynski. I  
 21 live on Lenox Avenue, and I chair Neighborhood  
 22 Association. I put out a monthly newsletter, but I think  
 23 that it's an e-letter, and basically it's focused on  
 24 things we can do to improve the neighborhood, but I think  
 25 what you're talking about is something that might be

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1 better at St. Joseph's Clinic and at the libraries. They  
 2 already have bulletin boards, and I think a lot of  
 3 organizations do use them to post.  
 4 MR. HULL: Let me just ask you a -- I'm  
 5 sorry, Joyce, go ahead.  
 6 MS. PENFIELD: The newspapers and the  
 7 websites have a series of events, because I check on  
 8 them. So I know the young people know how to get those  
 9 since they're electronic.  
 10 MR. HULL: Let me ask you a quick question.  
 11 So if the City were to put together something that, you  
 12 know, kind of, aggregates information from, you know,  
 13 community organizations, like all the sports and  
 14 recreation centers, the community centers, and have some  
 15 sort of citywide distribution of all of the events and  
 16 all of the activities that are going on in the  
 17 neighborhood, would that be something that seems to be  
 18 valuable to you?  
 19 MS. HLYNSKI: Yes.  
 20 MR. HULL: Everyone else, would that be  
 21 valuable?  
 22 SPEAKER TIAN (phonetic): I'm Tian, and I'm  
 23 from South Providence Library, and we do have a bulletin  
 24 board, so it goes back to collaborating and identifying  
 25 what's already there.

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1 MS. HLYNSKI: But, yes, what you suggest is  
 2 also important.  
 3 MS. SMITH: The City used to produce an  
 4 activities calendar that went out to everybody. It was  
 5 actually paper in those days. I mean, we are not talking  
 6 that long ago, about five or six years ago. So it would  
 7 come out, I think it came out quarterly, so it covered  
 8 the entire City and what was going on for everybody,  
 9 little kids, teenager, everybody.  
 10 MS. CONARD-WELLS: My name is Sharon  
 11 Conard-Wells. I'm representing West Elmwood Housing.  
 12 I'd like to change gears a little bit, if that's okay. I  
 13 have been wondering for the past couple of years with the  
 14 Federal Government coming in and looking at CDBG and the  
 15 changes that have been sent down to us at the CDC how  
 16 much opportunity there is to, quote/unquote, push back  
 17 and to ask questions and have a dialogue about the  
 18 changes, because some of the changes are difficult, to  
 19 put it kindly, and we have been working under a set of  
 20 guidelines that's become a moving target, and I'm just  
 21 wondering at what point do the CDCs have an opportunity  
 22 to work with the City and with HUD to have a conversation  
 23 about program design, which leads to my next point. As  
 24 the new administration is designing programs, it would be  
 25 very helpful and very useful if those of us that --

1 (INDIVIDUAL ENTERS THE ROOM)  
 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, Michele.  
 3 (LAUGHTER)  
 4 MS. CONARD-WELLS: But if there's an  
 5 opportunity, whether it's responding to the Federal  
 6 Government or just looking at how to work smarter in the  
 7 current economy for opportunities to look at program  
 8 designs, hearing what we are doing, which I think when we  
 9 get specific to housing, it's not a group like this, it's  
 10 really meeting with those of us that do that work, but we  
 11 have tools that some people may or may not understand,  
 12 and I think it's really crucial that at a time when we  
 13 need to talk about leveraging national and other  
 14 resources that we have a conversation that allows us to  
 15 be best positioned to be able to do that to make the City  
 16 stronger, because we are in position to go after national  
 17 dollars.  
 18 MR. HULL: Absolutely. So you are coming to  
 19 our meeting on the 23rd with all of the CDCs in the City,  
 20 correct?  
 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Twenty-fourth. It's  
 22 Tuesday.  
 23 MS. CONARD-WELLS: Yes, it is on my  
 24 calendar.  
 25 MR. HULL: Okay.

1 MS. CONARD-WELLS: It is an observation that  
 2 goes back from 2012 to now that I'm taking advantage of  
 3 this opportunity to make sure that that is heard. That's  
 4 all I'm doing with that.  
 5 I'm also concerned around some statewide planning  
 6 things around transit. There was this whole plan, and  
 7 I'm not talking about whether I value the idea or not,  
 8 but if there is a plan that's supposed to connect  
 9 community to jobs, and it's talking about the jobs in the  
 10 Jewelry District, and it completely bypasses the West  
 11 End, which is one of the highest poverty, one of the  
 12 highest youth population, one of the, one of the, one of  
 13 the, that's just illogical to me, and I really hope the  
 14 City takes an active role at looking at what the State is  
 15 planning in how things are coming down to us. I'd really  
 16 appreciate having that kind of support.  
 17 I'm all about community gardens, but I'd love to see  
 18 us think about them strategically in terms of even an  
 19 overlay zone, but something that says just because a lot  
 20 is available we need to think about the highest and best  
 21 use for the plans for that neighborhood, not just  
 22 gardens. Just like we wouldn't do it for housing. We  
 23 would not throw up a housing, a building that's, you  
 24 know, 15 stories high in the middle of a three-family  
 25 neighborhood. I think we need to be strategic about

1 MS. CONARD-WELLS: But I think --  
 2 MR. HULL: That's --  
 3 MS. CONARD-WELLS: Because it's not just  
 4 about housing that I'm having that concern, so I think  
 5 it's important to share here so that others are aware as  
 6 well, if that's okay.  
 7 MR. HULL: I appreciate that. So that is an  
 8 initial meeting that the Division of Community  
 9 Development is going to be hosting regular sessions with  
 10 all of the CDCs in the City. You all do really, really  
 11 incredibly important work. We want to be a partner in  
 12 helping you deliver on the work that you're doing.  
 13 To address some of the other concerns, I'm an  
 14 advocate for the City. I'm an advocate for the residents  
 15 of the City. I'm an advocate for the organizations in  
 16 the City. I'm not a representative of the Federal  
 17 Government. So when pushback is necessary or required  
 18 and appropriate and prudent, I push back. When there is  
 19 a particular federal citation that I know exists that  
 20 prevents me from pushing back, I balance that  
 21 relationship, so.  
 22 MS. CONARD-WELLS: This administration is  
 23 way too young for this to be a criticism of this  
 24 administration.  
 25 MR. HULL: Absolutely.

1 community gardens as well.  
 2 MR. DiORIO: Ron DiOrio, Community  
 3 Development. Sharon, the other point that I wanted to  
 4 make on the pushback, we are in the process of setting up  
 5 a meeting now between HUD and the elected officials.  
 6 That will be happening, hopefully, before we get into the  
 7 funding round for next year. So we have had  
 8 conversations with our HUD office in Boston and talked  
 9 about the importance with the new council coming on and  
 10 the new administration coming on, and I also know that  
 11 there's been some meetings already with the mayor's  
 12 office and some of the representatives from HUD. So we  
 13 are trying to get some communications going a little bit  
 14 better between us and them on many levels. Okay?  
 15 MS. CONARD-WELLS: That would be great.  
 16 MS. SCHIMBERG: My name is Debbie Schimberg.  
 17 I live on Dudley Street. I think that this is a great  
 18 start, and I'm really glad that the City is reaching out  
 19 to have a meeting like this, and I know that Mary Kay,  
 20 our councilwoman, had a meeting recently at Community  
 21 Prep to talk about the proposed changes there. So I  
 22 think that there is a real pent-up desire on the part of  
 23 our community to have a voice in what happens here, and I  
 24 don't think that that's been taken advantage of in past  
 25 years, so I really hope that we take seriously the idea

1 of continuing meetings and, in particular, I think that  
 2 the area between the highway where Crossroads is and the  
 3 cemetery right here is, I don't think there is a person  
 4 that thinks that that works, and especially we have two  
 5 high schools. We have a whole, I mean we have a really  
 6 interesting opportunity, I think. We have got private  
 7 enterprise, schools, non-profit organizations, millions  
 8 of, not millions, but many plans that have already been  
 9 created and ignored - --  
 10 MS. CONARD-WELLS: Millions.  
 11 MS. SCHIMBERG: -- plans that have been  
 12 created and ignored. CDBG money that has been invested  
 13 already, and it just seems to me like, perhaps, a format  
 14 that could be a sustained series of meetings with  
 15 stakeholders and interested people could try to get  
 16 together and figure out what can be done to improve. I'm  
 17 not sure that it's a whole lot of extra money. Maybe  
 18 that is what's necessary, but I think also it's a matter  
 19 of people talking to one another, and considering that  
 20 the mayor thinks this is one of the gateways to the City,  
 21 and when you get on the highway, you know, as thousands  
 22 of people do every day, and they pass by all of the trash  
 23 that's collected there, and it just seems to me it's a  
 24 real opportunity to continue this kind of process with a  
 25 real focus on a very specific and pretty small geographic

1 works for our neighborhood. I mean, we have seen, who  
 2 live here, that it doesn't, so, and --  
 3 MS. DESTEFANO: Carla DeStefano from SWAP.  
 4 One of the things we learned when the liquor store was  
 5 sold recently, and it's now Fernandez Liquor Store, we  
 6 did a lot of research at SWAP. We have a lot of  
 7 research, and one of the things that we learned is that  
 8 when you get a liquor license the State dictates by law  
 9 how late you can stay open, but there is nothing in the  
 10 law about how early you can open. So for those of you  
 11 who were at the hearing know that that was the biggest  
 12 concern, of course the front end of the day. And  
 13 although we might like a beer or glass of wine, who needs  
 14 it at six o'clock in the morning, some might need it at  
 15 six o'clock in the morning, but you don't need it, and  
 16 that liquor store has been seen to be open, from the  
 17 previous owners, at six o'clock in the morning. So a  
 18 no-cost option for that section of Broad Street is get  
 19 the Providence Licensing Board to change the rules in  
 20 Providence so that liquor stores cannot open at six  
 21 o'clock in the morning, but maybe a more reasonable hour,  
 22 at least after the kids get to school, and it wouldn't  
 23 cost ten cents.  
 24 MR. HULL: Thank you, Carla.  
 25 MS. SMITH: There is two or three liquor

1 area.  
 2 MR. HULL: Margit.  
 3 MS. LIANDER: Yes.  
 4 MR. HULL: Is there anything in the Planning  
 5 Department about for this stretch between here and the  
 6 highway?  
 7 MS. LIANDER: Well, 2013 we had a HUD  
 8 sustainable communities grant that was focused on five  
 9 quarters throughout the City, and Elmwood and Broad were  
 10 both two of those corridors, but nothing has been  
 11 implemented yet from that plan.  
 12 MR. HULL: Okay.  
 13 MS. LIANDER: Apart from the art line, which  
 14 was the key component.  
 15 MS. HLYNSKI: Karen Hlynski, again. I think  
 16 going along with that section of Broad Street, and it  
 17 extends to other sections of Broad as well, is the fact  
 18 that there are a lot of establishments selling alcohol  
 19 that are too close to schools, parks, cemeteries,  
 20 churches and how we have been told in the past that even  
 21 though the law now, ordinances now would prevent that  
 22 location from having liquor licenses that there is  
 23 nothing that we can do at this point, because once  
 24 somebody gets a liquor license it's there forever, and  
 25 there ought to be some kind of review of whether this

1 stores within that general area, but I think more of the  
 2 problem is the toleration of public drinking. They don't  
 3 hide. It's out in the open. Those bus stops right there  
 4 between McDonald's and Crossroads are absolutely  
 5 atrocious. You don't want to stand there to wait for a  
 6 bus. That's how nasty they are, because RIPTA,  
 7 obviously, doesn't give a damn, and nobody says anything  
 8 to them, but I think that not to tolerate the public  
 9 drinking and to police the drugs that are on those  
 10 corners, and it's not that the police don't know, because  
 11 they do. They choose to turn a blind eye.  
 12 MR. HULL: Mr. President.  
 13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: I feel compelled  
 14 to tell the whole story, because it's not just the fact  
 15 that there are liquor stores there. The vast majority of  
 16 people who go there are, go somewhere else before they  
 17 get there. So they're at Amos House. They're at  
 18 Crossroads. They're at all of the other social services  
 19 that are provided on this side of town. Yet, those  
 20 organizations, and I will generalize and be corrected if  
 21 need be, take very little responsibility for bringing  
 22 those clients here and what their clients do once they  
 23 get here. That whole Trinity area was like an airport,  
 24 and if you call the fire department they will tell you  
 25 that they would get calls every single day, multiple

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1 times a day, because someone was inebriated and passed  
 2 out in the middle of Broad Street, and what's our  
 3 obligation, we go pick them up, or we, the next call, if  
 4 it goes to Pawtucket, or to Johnston, or to Cranston for  
 5 mutual assistance that ambulance will pick them up, and  
 6 the only thing we can do is drop them off at Rhode Island  
 7 Hospital so they sober up, and then they go back to the  
 8 shelter, and they repeat the same behavior.  
 9 There has to be, it's our community, and, yes, there  
 10 needs to be some regulations around liquor, but I think  
 11 they cannot excuse the fact that they're here for a  
 12 reason.  
 13 A lot of those folks come to the South Side, come to  
 14 this neighborhood because the services that they receive  
 15 are here. It's not like they're residents of the City.  
 16 They're not residents of this neighborhood, and we need  
 17 to find some partnerships here to police, fire,  
 18 especially, who have to be even more vigilant, are the  
 19 folks that are providing the services that attract those  
 20 folks. At the corner of Broad Street and Service Road 8  
 21 on any warm day, it's a free-for-all. It is an open-air  
 22 drug market, drive by, handoffs, and people are off.  
 23 Does anybody watch the Walking Dead? It's like a hoard  
 24 of walkers. That's what it is in the early part of the  
 25 day. There are groups of people walking from Crossroads

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1 to get to the liquor store, to get to the lot behind the  
 2 Salvation Army, to get to the corner of that little  
 3 store, and that is, that's a well-worn path. We have to  
 4 really bring a partnership together that includes the  
 5 Crossroads, and Amos House and those folks so that we can  
 6 begin to address this. The liquor stores are there, and  
 7 if they're not going to use these, they're going to go  
 8 find somewhere else. Somebody will make a beer run or an  
 9 alcohol run. Maybe it is a lot of the talking to the  
 10 liquor stores about what they sell, because folks aren't  
 11 going in there to buy a nice bottle of Merlot, right?  
 12 They're going --  
 13 MS. CONARD-WELLS: 20/20.  
 14 MR. COUNCIL PRESIDENT: They're going to get  
 15 the nips and everything else. We did a cleanup that we  
 16 did at the cemetery, and there were barrels full of these  
 17 little bottles of nips. So, I get it. The liquor stores  
 18 have their part in this community, and they need to be  
 19 part of this conversation, but I think it's a much more  
 20 involved, broader conversation that needs to be had if we  
 21 are going to address that.  
 22 MS. SMITH: And those people don't care,  
 23 because they don't come from the City. They come from  
 24 all over the State to congregate here, because this is  
 25 where the services are.

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1 MR. GOLDMAN: Rob Goldman. These are great  
 2 things that need to be talked about, but I wonder whether  
 3 we are moving away from what community development and  
 4 the funding that community development brings.  
 5 MS. CONARD-WELLS: That's what I want to  
 6 talk about.  
 7 MR. GOLDMAN: This is another, not to say we  
 8 shouldn't talk about it, but that's something I don't  
 9 think the community development department can solve.  
 10 MR. HULL: And that's, you bring up a great  
 11 point. This isn't, you know, the solution here, but I  
 12 acknowledge the importance. I will bring that back.  
 13 That's information that is valuable, and it will get, it  
 14 will get --  
 15 MR. SMITH: Because you control the funding  
 16 that goes to Crossroads and those other places.  
 17 MR. HULL: Yeah.  
 18 MS. PENFIELD: I would like to ask us to  
 19 think a little bit more socially in terms of this. The  
 20 whole thing of housing has a relationship to this  
 21 problem. It's not disconnected. If people have no hope,  
 22 they have no hope of jobs or housing, and they are living  
 23 in shelters. They drink to stay alive. They drink to  
 24 live with themselves. Honest, that's true. So it is a  
 25 community problem. We do need to work together, but

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1 there needs to be services and more housing and more  
 2 opportunity. Ask the Coalition for Homelessness. They  
 3 have figured that out that when there is more  
 4 opportunity, there is less of that issue. It is not  
 5 right to congregate in one community. I agree with that.  
 6 That's why it is not just this community, it's the whole  
 7 of Providence, and development can help with that by  
 8 making the link between, and also to have services that,  
 9 in which these individuals can participate in that will  
 10 give them hope. I just talked about that. There isn't  
 11 hope for some people, and we have to make that linkage  
 12 one step at a time. We will never get totally there, but  
 13 we can dream. Right?  
 14 MS. CONARD-WELLS: So I was actually, before  
 15 Luis spoke, going to say that I think those kinds of  
 16 problems actually present an opportunity for the City to  
 17 leverage other dollars, because we are the social service  
 18 haven for the State, and the West End is the social  
 19 service haven for the City, and if we are going to accept  
 20 they're tired and they're poor we should accept their  
 21 dollars for them. I fully agree. I got people who come  
 22 and say I need 50 cents, because I need to get the bus to  
 23 get back to Coventry. I got to get away from these  
 24 people. I'm like, you're why the neighborhood is looking  
 25 like it is. So I fully agree. I see so many different



1 ways that the problem in our neighborhoods is not  
 2 necessarily the people living here. So, if we can use  
 3 that kind of information to be able to say, okay, well,  
 4 we are putting this kind of dollars in to address this  
 5 issue, because we have got this many people coming from  
 6 the State here, there is an opportunity to leverage  
 7 dollars as well.  
 8 The other part I wanted to say is that there are so  
 9 many groups that are doing a good job and struggling  
 10 financially. I want to be careful about leveraging and  
 11 collaboration, because when it's forced, it doesn't work.  
 12 On the other hand, it needs to be rewarded when groups  
 13 come up with a fine, and a smart, and a unique way of  
 14 getting things done. We used Groundworks on a four  
 15 million dollar job to do landscaping. They're  
 16 struggling. How much landscaping can the City actually  
 17 use a group like that to do or help with vacant lots? I  
 18 think we need to look at our groups and our CDCs and our  
 19 not-for-profits as assets. And keep in mind we are  
 20 not-for-profits, we are not non-profits. We need to be  
 21 viable and allow us to do that. So I wanted us to  
 22 remember that some of us are creating jobs. We are  
 23 hiring, and housing, and training the very people that we  
 24 are sitting here talking about oftentimes, and so, but  
 25 nobody is asking me that. So it's not being registered

1 that comes from that so we can continue to fund or not.  
 2 And I don't know how Crossroads, that's the big one we  
 3 are talking about here, they get money for housing, and  
 4 that's great, so they bring in as many people as they  
 5 want, they need, because that's how they get funded, but  
 6 there has to be outcome saying, okay, the impact of the  
 7 work you do is X,Y,Z. If it's good we'll continue to  
 8 fund the money. If it's not good, then that money might  
 9 be cut, because we need to put that money and leverage it  
 10 in places that's going to be best for the neighborhood,  
 11 the City, and the State.  
 12 SPEAKER PAULA: My name is Paula, and I also  
 13 live on Lenox Avenue, and I think that the point came to  
 14 mind when Rob was speaking about the monies, and I think  
 15 that if the City is investing or the State is investing  
 16 monies in this neighborhood for the positive things, we  
 17 can't help but talk about, you know, what's the negative  
 18 stuff too, because if we are investing money in really  
 19 good stuff and it doesn't succeed, the reason it's not  
 20 succeeding is because we are not addressing the issues  
 21 like the public drinking, the enforcement issues, the  
 22 public drinking, the housing, the condition of the  
 23 housing stock, or, you know, traffic violations, those  
 24 kinds of things. I feel like, you know, we had this big  
 25 Charette, I don't know, seven, eight, nine, ten years

1 anywhere, and I don't know how many others of us are  
 2 actually helping the very people that we are targeting,  
 3 but it's not being counted. It's an opportunity to use  
 4 my numbers and their numbers to go after federal dollars,  
 5 to leverage state dollars, but also to reward us for the  
 6 work we do and to acknowledge it, which leads me to my  
 7 very last point on this. We need to be more positive in  
 8 our conversation. We spend a lot of time on the  
 9 negative. When I write a grant now, I talk about the  
 10 fact that I'm in walking distance to Downtown, five  
 11 seconds from every highway in the State. I acknowledge  
 12 the stuff, but I also celebrate the assets, and I would  
 13 hope that the City could figure out a way to talk about  
 14 the assets that we have as well.  
 15 MR. HULL: Sir.  
 16 SPEAKER MIGUEL: Miguel, Princeton Avenue.  
 17 There is a lot of nonprofits, and I'm happy that some are  
 18 doing well but some are not --  
 19 MS. CONARD-WELLS: I didn't say we are doing  
 20 well. I said we do good work.  
 21 MS. PENFIELD: Half full.  
 22 SPEAKER MIGUEL: But not-for-profit does not  
 23 fall under the auspices of public government, I  
 24 understand that, but if we are giving money to an  
 25 organization there should be some kind of outcome study

1 ago. I looked at the action plan, and I think that one  
 2 thing that seems to be missing, and maybe I'm wrong,  
 3 correct me if I'm wrong, but that the, sort of the  
 4 holistic approach is not communicated to the city's  
 5 divisions, departments, like licensing, like code  
 6 enforcement, that when they're making decisions, they  
 7 need to take the bigger look at the impact of their  
 8 decisions on our neighborhoods, because I don't think  
 9 that they are. We have to fight, and it's hard for us as  
 10 residents, things happen during the day. We are working.  
 11 We can't go to hearings, but we have to fight to have a  
 12 voice at some of these hearings on things that are having  
 13 a very severe impact on us.  
 14 So I think there has to be communication from the  
 15 top level of the City, to the head of their departments  
 16 that this is the vision that we have, and we need you to  
 17 be on board, and we need you to support the residents of  
 18 this city and their efforts.  
 19 MS. GORINI: To bring it back to sort of  
 20 preventative side of this stuff, because we are sort of  
 21 talking about individuals who are suffering from drug  
 22 addiction and poverty, and it was for me a little bit  
 23 jarring, I know you're making light of it, to hear them  
 24 compared to some zombies, because we know that all of  
 25 these individuals started out as young people, and so if

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1 the City is focusing on our youth now and giving them the  
 2 tools that they need as young people to be able to  
 3 express themselves to have confidence in themselves to  
 4 have a voice, that's when -- I mean, a lot of the people  
 5 that I interact with who have dealt with drug addiction,  
 6 it started when they were really young, whether it's  
 7 because their family was living in poverty, because they  
 8 had nothing else to do but start drinking with their  
 9 friends. We have to be giving these kids opportunity to  
 10 see a different future for themselves than this sort of  
 11 really difficult thing that they're seeing around in  
 12 their neighborhood.  
 13 MR. HULL: Any new voices, any --  
 14 SPEAKER DINA: Dina, I live on Princeton  
 15 Avenue as well. The city that I would like to have is a  
 16 city where affordable housing, shelters and social  
 17 services are spread out throughout the city, not  
 18 allocated in one section, and I think now there is a  
 19 movement where there is accountability for the federal  
 20 monies and to make sure that these investments made in  
 21 developing affordable housing and shelters be in a way  
 22 that eliminates segregation. Eliminates, you know,  
 23 clusters of poverty in certain areas. So that's the city  
 24 that I want where other parts of the city also have  
 25 shelter for the homeless and affordable housing.

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1 When I arrived at your meeting, you had a map up  
 2 showing the affordable housing investments for this area,  
 3 and I was wondering, if you had the time, if you could  
 4 show one of the entire city so that way we could have an  
 5 idea of where the money is going to and what  
 6 neighborhoods are the ones receiving money for affordable  
 7 housing.  
 8 MS. CONARD-WELLS: Can I ask a question?  
 9 MR. HULL: These will be the last two  
 10 comments.  
 11 MR. SMITH: Okay. I just have a quick  
 12 comment.  
 13 MR. HULL: No. No. I'm sorry, we'll have  
 14 three comments.  
 15 MR. SMITH: I have a quick comment, and it  
 16 speaks to your issue, and that is that stuff goes to the  
 17 City to the city departments, however, those people, for  
 18 the most part, have no vested interest. They are not  
 19 residents of the City of Providence. At the end of the  
 20 day they get in their car, they go to Cranston, they go  
 21 to Warwick, they go to East Greenwich. They don't give a  
 22 damn.  
 23 MR. GOLDMAN: So are we talking the R word,  
 24 residency for employees?  
 25 MR. SMITH: Absolutely. Never should have

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1 been repealed.  
 2 MS. CONARD-WELLS: Can CDBG money be used  
 3 for cameras in our neighborhoods to look at dumping, and  
 4 crime, and hit and runs, and --  
 5 MR. HULL: It's possible. It can't be used  
 6 for general government operations, and that to me sounds  
 7 like a general government operation. There is a way  
 8 to -- no. We'll have a conversation after.  
 9 MS. DeVOS: I'm Margaret DeVos. I'm with  
 10 South Side Community Land Trust, and I have been here at  
 11 South Side Community Land Trust for two and a half years,  
 12 and I just, not everybody knows me, I don't know  
 13 everybody, but I want to tell you about my dad. My dad  
 14 has a whole bunch of isms, and one of the things he would  
 15 always say is that if you don't have a plan you're going  
 16 to be part of somebody else's plan, and I have been in  
 17 community development for over 20 years, and the people  
 18 in the room with the power are these people. We are the  
 19 ones who can do it and make the change happen. I love  
 20 the idea that the City is putting together a plan for the  
 21 consolidated plan to report to HUD. And what would be,  
 22 what I think would be ideal is if we had a plan, and we  
 23 were fitting our plan into your plan, to sort of,  
 24 inserting it into your plan, and I don't know if that  
 25 exists. I think we have a bunch of pieces. I know South

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1 Side has a plan. I know you have a plan. I know you  
 2 have a plan, but I don't know if South Providence has a  
 3 plan that we can just put in and that we take  
 4 responsibility for and that we manage planfully over  
 5 time, and if we do have one, I would love to know about  
 6 it, and if we don't have one, if anybody wants to go in  
 7 on doing that, you know.  
 8 MR. GOLDMAN: Are you volunteering?  
 9 Ms. DeVOS: I'd be happy to be a part of it.  
 10 MR. GOLDMAN: I will be your first  
 11 volunteer.  
 12 MR. HULL: We'll talk offline. There are  
 13 initiatives going on, both that are citizen driven,  
 14 organization driven, things that we have been working on  
 15 in the Planning Department as well, community  
 16 development, thinking about it as well, so, but, yes.  
 17 But that's a great segue into our wrap-up conversation  
 18 and a conversation about what the consolidated plan is,  
 19 and that process.  
 20 So Margit has been taking copious notes, more  
 21 copious than my notes. She is going to give a really  
 22 brief overview of what we just heard, and I will wrap up  
 23 with a couple more comments after that.  
 24 MS. LIANDER: So anyone feel free to jump in  
 25 if I miss something. So you guys talked about a need for

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1 more mixed-use affordable housing for seniors, the  
 2 possibility of securing additional funding, more  
 3 resources given the limited city funding, the importance  
 4 of involving youth, really allowing them to be active  
 5 participants in all of these meetings, and just community  
 6 and community development in general, the importance of  
 7 drug prevention. Someone else had brought up community  
 8 boards for local events, then potentially bringing back a  
 9 city activity calendar that someone said went out  
 10 quarterly, I think, talked about having more of a  
 11 dialogue between CDCs and the City, about some of the  
 12 CDBG funding changes that have happened. Someone else  
 13 had mentioned concern about statewide transit planning  
 14 effort that was potentially bypassing the West End,  
 15 talked about strategically thinking about community  
 16 gardens. You mentioned that the area around Broad Street  
 17 needs more attention, perhaps having a series of  
 18 community meetings to look at this area between  
 19 Crossroads and where we are now, talked about more review  
 20 of liquor licenses in the area and having the licensing  
 21 board adjusting the time for liquor sales. Someone  
 22 mentioned public drinking is a big problem. There is  
 23 really no, there needs to be better enforcement, better  
 24 policing. There should be better partnerships between  
 25 some of the community service organizations around here

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1 in the area, a bigger need for funding in this area,  
 2 given the number of people that come out of Providence  
 3 for services here. Someone brought up potentially having  
 4 impact assessments, sort of previous funding and having  
 5 more of a holistic approach that someone referenced in  
 6 the neighborhood plans being applied to other city  
 7 departments, the importance of investing in youth,  
 8 address this cycle of addiction and possibly  
 9 incorporating a community-developed plan into the City's  
 10 consolidated plan.  
 11 MS. CONARD-WELLS: Cameras.  
 12 MS. LIANDER: Cameras, yes, I actually wrote  
 13 that.  
 14 MS. PENFIELD: I didn't hear anything about  
 15 community services and public safety. Can I make sure  
 16 that gets acknowledged? It wasn't --  
 17 MS. LIANDER: Okay.  
 18 MR. HULL: Cameras. So this information is  
 19 really, really helpful and valuable for us as part of the  
 20 larger process to develop a consolidated plan.  
 21 A consolidated plan is something that is used as a  
 22 guidance document for the City to think about how we  
 23 deploy CDBG funds strategically based on what the  
 24 community has identified are there priority needs in the  
 25 neighborhood. So the City is not the driver of the

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1 consolidated plan. The community is the driver of the  
 2 consolidated plan, so we're hosting these meetings  
 3 throughout the City. We are collecting lots of  
 4 information. We have opportunities. We have an online  
 5 survey to collect more information.  
 6 What I would like from all of you is to get your  
 7 contact information when you signed up. If you didn't  
 8 sign in, please sign in, give us your e-mail address, so  
 9 that we can reach out to you.  
 10 The consolidated plan will be drafted in a draft  
 11 version. That is going to then be put out for public  
 12 review and public comment. It's incumbent on all of you  
 13 to view that document, offer your responses to that  
 14 document, make sure that we are getting that document  
 15 right, and it is encapsulating your views and your  
 16 priorities of the -- I'll get you to in one second,  
 17 Joyce -- your views, and your priorities of the  
 18 community, and then it goes to the council. The council  
 19 leads this public comment period as well. The council  
 20 offers their ideas and recommendations. The  
 21 administration offers their ideas and recommendations.  
 22 This website that's listed here, and it should be in  
 23 your, it will be in your handout, is where we keep  
 24 updating all of the information as we keep going about  
 25 the consolidated plan. Final draft version is in May and

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1 then that can then be updated regularly.  
 2 MS. PENFIELD: I just wanted clarification  
 3 about the process, because the mayor had a variety of  
 4 committee meetings, and some of us went to them, and  
 5 there were groups that were created from that, and  
 6 they've been working. How do those groups, and what  
 7 they're coming up with --  
 8 MR. HULL: I absorb all of that information  
 9 into what we are doing as well.  
 10 MS. PENFIELD: Really?  
 11 MR. HULL: Absolutely. Absolutely.  
 12 MS. PENFIELD: Because I'm on the Committee  
 13 Safety Group, and I read all of the minutes, and I didn't  
 14 see anything and that's why I'm asking. So those  
 15 different groups that have been working out there so hard  
 16 representing the communities, they're part of the CDBG  
 17 plans?  
 18 MR. HULL: Yeah, they will.  
 19 MS. PENFIELD: How will we see that? How  
 20 will we know that?  
 21 MR. HULL: When the draft version is put out  
 22 there, it will incorporate those notes, those comments,  
 23 those priorities that were identified throughout all of  
 24 the transition committee meetings. All of that is  
 25 absorbed into what we are developing as the consolidated

1 plan so that --  
 2 MS. PENFIELD: That's really important,  
 3 because those voices were really people, mothers and  
 4 fathers from the community, you know, not just us who  
 5 have professional hands in the pie, and that voice is  
 6 really important to keep present there, and that's why I  
 7 wanted to ask.  
 8 MR. SMITH: The community needs to know that  
 9 those groups exist and what you do. We know nothing  
 10 about you.  
 11 MS. PENFIELD: Well, I'm not in charge of  
 12 the group, so.  
 13 MR. SMITH: I'm not killing the messenger.  
 14 MR. HULL: I'm sorry, Margit.  
 15 MS. LANDER: Just to clarify, the  
 16 information that was up here before was from previous  
 17 plans.  
 18 MS. PENFIELD: I read those, but those were  
 19 institutional. Those were, you know --  
 20 MR. HULL: Yeah, the Transition Committee  
 21 Meetings that have wrapped up their work, reported back  
 22 to the administration, to the mayor, those notes, those  
 23 comments, those views, those plans, those ideas are all  
 24 going to be aggregated and integrated into the  
 25 consolidated plan. I assure you. I give you my promise

1 to you that happens.  
 2 MS. PENFIELD: That's a wonderful place to  
 3 start.  
 4 MS. DESTEFANO: The stenographer got that  
 5 one, right? She was really typing there. I promise. I  
 6 promise. I promise. It's in there.  
 7 MR. HULL: If you want to attend another  
 8 community meeting, because if you didn't get to all of  
 9 your ideas, all of your concerns, we are going to have a  
 10 meeting at a Washington Park Community Center next. So,  
 11 that's on Tuesday March 24. So, I thank you, all.  
 12 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 P.M.)  
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 2  
 3 C E R T I F I C A T E  
 4  
 5  
 6  
 7  
 8 I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the  
 9 foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of  
 10 my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.  
 11  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand  
 17 this 31st day of March 2015.  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
 NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: March 18, 2015  
 IN RE: Public Hearing  
 HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of  
 Planning and Development

Page 1

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7  
 8 DATE: March 24, 2015  
 9 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 10 PLACE: Washington Park Community Center  
 11 42 Jillson Street  
 12 Providence, RI 02905  
 13  
 14  
 15 PRESENT:  
 16  
 17 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 18 Providence  
 19 Ron DiOrto, Department of Planning and Development/City  
 20 of Providence  
 21 Margit Liander, Planner  
 22 Emily Kish, Planner  
 23 Ani Haroian, Neighborhood Liaison for Planning and  
 24 Development  
 25 Obed Papp

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1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Hello, everyone. How are  
 3 you? We are going to begin. We are honored to have  
 4 Councilwoman Castillo here. I think Council President  
 5 Aponte will also be here.  
 6 My name is Brian Hull. I'm the Director of  
 7 Community Development for the City of Providence. Would  
 8 you like to give some welcoming remarks, Councilwoman?  
 9 Councilwoman Castillo.  
 10 COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO: Yes. Welcome,  
 11 everyone. I see a lot of faces I know. So thank you for  
 12 being here tonight to share your ideas to us on how we  
 13 can spend, not spend, because we got a lot of things to  
 14 spend the CDBG money, you know, like the idea we do this  
 15 is take the more important thing that you think we can do  
 16 with our CDBG money. So, and thank you for being here,  
 17 because that helps not only the city council, it helps  
 18 the City how we can work together to get much better.  
 19 Thank you.  
 20 (APPLAUSE)  
 21 MR. HULL: Thank you. The reason why we're  
 22 here is to talk about some of the strategic priorities,  
 23 and some of the particular needs of the community. We  
 24 are going to go over a brief overview of what Community  
 25 Development Block Grant is, how we can use that money,

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1 how we think strategically about focusing on particular  
 2 projects in the City. We are not going to get deep into  
 3 the weeds of all of the rules and regulations attached to  
 4 CDBG. That's going to be really problematic and  
 5 difficult and painful and I don't want to subject anyone  
 6 to that. So, briefly, I will just go over some of the  
 7 types of projects that are eligible for CDBG, and then we  
 8 are going to move into a conversation about what we have  
 9 heard at some of the previous community meetings that we  
 10 have been, and that's just a framework to understand the  
 11 baseline information that we have so that we can have a  
 12 conversation about whether or not that still makes sense.  
 13 I want to talk a little bit briefly about some of  
 14 the investments that we have made in the community  
 15 already so that we have another idea of some of the  
 16 activities that we have been doing, both with CDBG money  
 17 and then also with some other money from the City. And  
 18 then we are going to pause. We'll frame a conversation  
 19 of community dialogue based on a few questions that I'm  
 20 just going to leave up there. So we'll have a  
 21 conversation. I will just facilitate the conversation  
 22 about what some of the priority needs are for you all.  
 23 We use this information to inform some of the decisions  
 24 that we make in the Division of Community Development  
 25 particular to the Community Development Blocks Grants. I

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1 don't want to focus exclusively on that. I want to  
 2 understand what your concerns are so that if there are  
 3 other things that fall outside of the purview of the  
 4 Division of Community Development I can still take that  
 5 information to other departments, to the administration  
 6 and have conversations with them about addressing some of  
 7 those needs.  
 8 So, with that, what is Community Development Block  
 9 Grants? So these are federal funds that come in that are  
 10 allocated by a formula basis. I won't get into the  
 11 details. It's fairly esoteric. What's great about these  
 12 monies are these monies are fairly flexible. There is a  
 13 lot of federal regulations that are tied to this money,  
 14 but the money can do a lot of different things. Some of  
 15 those examples are affordable housing development,  
 16 homeownership loans, homeownership programs, park  
 17 improvements, streets, sidewalks. We can do community  
 18 centers. We fund this community center with Community  
 19 Development Block Grants. We can do tree plantings,  
 20 health centers, energy-efficiency programs, food banks.  
 21 So we can do a lot of different things with this money.  
 22 So keep that in mind when we start going through the  
 23 dialogue, the conversation about what some of the  
 24 priority needs are. I don't want you to get hung up on  
 25 what we can do. I want to more have a conversation about

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1 what your needs are, and then we try to fit if CDBG is a  
 2 good tool to address some of those needs.  
 3 There are four different ways to participate in this  
 4 conversation. One is the discussion that we are going to  
 5 have. There are three other ways. Behind you are these  
 6 priority-needs boards. Everyone came in. They got three  
 7 little blue dots. You use those dots, you identify what  
 8 some of your primary concerns are in the neighborhood,  
 9 and then we use that information to inform some of the  
 10 decisions that we make in the Division of Community  
 11 Development.  
 12 We have a map of the neighborhood back there as  
 13 well. So if there are particular areas of the  
 14 neighborhood that are of concern, blighted houses, you  
 15 know, areas with high crime, areas that need lighting  
 16 improvements, these types of things, you can write it on  
 17 a Post-it note, slap it to the map, and then we'll have  
 18 that information as well. And the third is when everyone  
 19 came in they got an agenda. On the reverse side of that  
 20 agenda is a survey. If you could please fill out that  
 21 survey and leave it with us when you exit, that would be  
 22 great. That's another way for us to collect information  
 23 from individuals. We also have an on-line survey. I  
 24 will send you that link. At the end of the presentation  
 25 you will have that. So those are all of the ways that

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1 are sub par and are not sufficient to serve the needs of  
 2 the community. And then some more improvements in the  
 3 existing schools. So those are some of them. Housing  
 4 was another issue that we heard a lot, not just in this  
 5 neighborhood but throughout the City, greater access to  
 6 safe and affordable housing, maintain the character,  
 7 improvements to maintain the housing stock, character of  
 8 the neighborhood. There is some poor property  
 9 maintenance from some individuals who may be absentee  
 10 landlords or owners. There is increasing number of  
 11 vacant lots, foreclosed homes. Many streets have vacant,  
 12 vandalized and boarded-up homes. There is a lack of  
 13 information regarding historic guidelines for new  
 14 homeownership as well.  
 15 Some of the economic development concerns that we  
 16 heard are interest in the local business community that's  
 17 already existing in the neighborhood, and finding  
 18 opportunities to help them grow, and then just this  
 19 larger issue, this larger concern about jobs, both jobs  
 20 located in the neighborhood and then also jobs for the  
 21 neighborhood residents.  
 22 Healthy neighborhoods was another topic. This is a  
 23 larger all-encompassing type of a category. Some of the  
 24 school facilities should be open later than just the  
 25 school hours to allow the public to fully utilize the

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1 you can be involved in this. This is a map in the back.  
 2 We don't really need to discuss that.  
 3 As part of some of the previous community meetings  
 4 that we have had, we learned some things from. So what I  
 5 want to do is just review some of those, some summary  
 6 bullet items from some of those meetings. This is to  
 7 just capture what, what we have heard previously from the  
 8 community about what some of the priority needs are.  
 9 This is, again, just to inform everyone here to make sure  
 10 that we are still on the right track. If some of these  
 11 needs are different, let's have a discussion about how  
 12 that has changed.  
 13 First and foremost, accessibility and mobility. A  
 14 lot of this has to deal with connections from Elmwood,  
 15 Lower South Providence into Roger Williams Park. Upper  
 16 South Providence to Collier Park, some of the traffic  
 17 congestion along Elmwood Avenue, Broad Street, Eddy  
 18 Street and Public Street. We drove here. We get it, and  
 19 this larger desire to access the waterfront, and also  
 20 provide some sort of activities and events to draw people  
 21 there.  
 22 Some of the public services concerns that we have  
 23 heard are about more recreation spaces, more community  
 24 services geared towards children and elderly in the  
 25 neighborhood. Some of the library facilities and schools

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1 space. Public performances and displays by local artists  
 2 throughout the City, throughout the neighborhood.  
 3 Prevalence of parking on the lawns, sidewalks, double  
 4 parking, primarily on Broad Street. There was a concern  
 5 about that, lots of litter, trash, need for public trash  
 6 cans, too much street spam, which basically means all of  
 7 the flyers that are on telephone poles throughout. We  
 8 need to find a way to reuse some of the empty and vacant  
 9 lots throughout the neighborhood. Unpleasant features  
 10 like chain-link fences. I was talking to Ani on the way  
 11 down about some of the chain-link fences, and just a  
 12 larger desire to preserve and utilize the abandoned  
 13 synagogue on Broad Street as well.  
 14 Parks and open space was another big category of  
 15 issue areas, so gathering spaces to accommodate community  
 16 programs and activities, open spaces, community gardens,  
 17 more green space for recreation for youth and families.  
 18 The community wants to preserve opportunities for  
 19 community gardening, additional programs, community  
 20 composting, fountains in Roger Williams Park still don't  
 21 work, expanding the athletic fields, banning ATVs. I  
 22 actually didn't know ATVs was a big problem, so that was  
 23 a surprise to me, and then the graffiti and trash in the  
 24 parks as well.  
 25 Public safety was another issue of concern as well.

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1 And broadly speaking just a better coordination between  
 2 the community and the police department. Some of the  
 3 streetlights need to be fixed, and as we start designing  
 4 the environment, thinking about a way to address crime  
 5 prevention through the actual design techniques of the  
 6 environment. Prostitution, loitering and littering are  
 7 serious problems for residents and the businesses. We  
 8 need more emphasis on pedestrian safety, traffic signs  
 9 and cross signals. There is a lot of illegal parking on  
 10 the street. We need to install the proper signage to  
 11 minimize that and increase the enforcement of that. And  
 12 there is this big issue of public drinking in front of  
 13 the liquor stores, and yeah, we get that. We know  
 14 exactly which liquor stores that happens at, too.  
 15 And, finally, this one big, this one issue about  
 16 infrastructure, bike paths, bike parking was a priority  
 17 concern, roads, sidewalks, streetlights need to be  
 18 repaired throughout, and then enhance streetscapes,  
 19 beautification programs throughout the neighborhood with  
 20 trees and street furniture.  
 21 Some of the investments that we have made, I know  
 22 this isn't the clearest of maps, but we have made a lot  
 23 of investments in the community. The blue dots on this  
 24 are the investments that we have made with CDBG money,  
 25 the bigger the dot, the bigger the investment. The red

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1 dots are investments that we have made with affordable  
 2 housing money. In aggregate we have probably, there has  
 3 been about six and a half million dollars, about seven  
 4 million dollars of investments over the past three years,  
 5 up and down Broad, Elmwood, you know, Lower South  
 6 Providence. So, we have done, we have been able to  
 7 leverage a lot of funds and direct them into this  
 8 neighborhood. I know we still have more to do, but I  
 9 just wanted to give you a brief overview of that. And  
 10 then, finally, was a 40 million dollar road bond that  
 11 was, we were able to improve a lot of streets throughout  
 12 the City. Forty million dollars is a large amount of  
 13 money but still not enough, but it was more money than  
 14 has been spent on streets in a long, long time in the  
 15 City of Providence.  
 16 I want to just pause here. I want to have a  
 17 conversation among all of us, and I want to just frame  
 18 that conversation with these four questions. So, I have  
 19 talked about some of the issues that we have heard  
 20 previously. Are we on the right track? I know we are  
 21 missing something from that list. So what are we  
 22 missing? Third question is, what should our priorities  
 23 be, because they're your priorities? And, finally, what  
 24 do you really want to see in your neighborhood? So, if  
 25 there are certain things that you feel like are missing

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1 in your neighborhood, let us know, and we can see if  
 2 that's a good fit for Community Development Block Grant.  
 3 I'm going to leave this up here for now, so we can look  
 4 at some of the examples again as we have this  
 5 conversation, but let me stop here, and let me just open  
 6 it up.  
 7 Before I do, whoever is speaking, because we have  
 8 someone taking notes, we can only have one person  
 9 speaking at a time, so it's a lot easier for our  
 10 notetaker. So I'm going to facilitate that conversation.  
 11 When you do speak, if you could state your name and where  
 12 you live. It doesn't have to be an exact address, but  
 13 that's also very helpful for us.  
 14 So I want to open it up. Who has something to say  
 15 about what I just covered? Volunteers? Yes, please.  
 16 MS. VEGA: My name is Jessica Vega. I'm  
 17 with Family Services of Rhode Island. I work right off  
 18 of Thurbers Avenue. I'm just wondering and amongst the  
 19 discussion, I see, I think we are all aware of, I'm just  
 20 wondering, is there some sort of component or something  
 21 that's going to be addressed on the youth development to  
 22 support, because we have services for adults and  
 23 children, but I think a lot of times our youth are kind  
 24 of like left behind and that includes our 18- to 24-year  
 25 olds. I'm just wondering is there going to be something

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1 from the City, or maybe just making that more of an  
 2 awareness that they also do exist and need a lot of  
 3 services.  
 4 MR. HULL: I appreciate that. This is a  
 5 listening event. So, you know, youth development, I  
 6 appreciate that. I understand that. It is not something  
 7 that -- we know it's important. We are going to be, we  
 8 focus on youth development through Community Development  
 9 Block Grants. We fund agencies that are focussed on  
 10 youth development. So, absolutely. We have funded, you  
 11 know, I know we funded agencies in the past with youth  
 12 development programs, so it's definitely something that  
 13 is in the purview of Community Development Block Grant.  
 14 Is there anyone else that is thinking about youth  
 15 development as a primary area of concern? Yes, sir.  
 16 MR. MONTEIRO: I have a different question.  
 17 MR. HULL: Please.  
 18 MR. MONTEIRO: Sal Monteiro, Nonviolence  
 19 Institute. How much of this whole project is developing  
 20 new stuff, and how much is it geared towards fixing the  
 21 stuff that's already broken in the community, like the  
 22 housing, the abandoned buildings, like instead of moving  
 23 forward, adding new stuff, stadiums, and stuff like that,  
 24 what about stuff that's there right now that can be  
 25 fixed? How much is -- are we talking just keep building

1 new stuff, development, this and that, new businesses,  
 2 this and that, without, but the community is suffering  
 3 right now with the stuff that's there.  
 4 MR. HULL: Right. So most of the money that  
 5 goes to the Division of Community Development is geared  
 6 towards what's already in existence. So we fund a lot of  
 7 basic-need programs. We fund a lot of after-school  
 8 programs, education. We fund a lot of affordable  
 9 housing. These are both new development of affordable  
 10 housing but then also rehabilitation of affordable  
 11 housing. We do facility improvements of community  
 12 centers and the boys and girls clubs, things like that.  
 13 So we do, you know, but then we have this broader need  
 14 for jobs and economic development, and programs, and  
 15 initiative for social mobility, economic mobility,  
 16 economic development. So, it's a balance, it's trying to  
 17 find, one, how do we respond to the needs in the  
 18 community. There is so many more needs than we have  
 19 resources to really address. So it's finding the right  
 20 balance between the needs that exist in the community,  
 21 and these longer-term strategic investments to develop  
 22 new opportunities for folks.  
 23 MR. MONTEIRO: I see. I'm a very simple  
 24 thinker, take a house around here that's abandoned, hire  
 25 the community to fix it up. We just knocked out three of

1 MS. WEISINGER: Hi, Linda Weisinger from  
 2 SWAP, Stop Wasting Abandoned Property. We appreciate you  
 3 having this as a forum to talk about it. So just to be  
 4 on record, we definitely think part of the City's plan  
 5 and the comp plan should include the continuing of  
 6 housing, affordable housing, rental, affordable rental,  
 7 and affordable homeownership, and coming with the  
 8 homeownership should be a down-payment program to help  
 9 buyers who need some money for down payment and closing  
 10 costs. So to have that shows residents or future  
 11 residents, or residents who want to buy that the City is  
 12 committed to helping them buy their first house.  
 13 MR. HULL: So throughout the City, you know,  
 14 both the condition of housing has been one of the major  
 15 concerns that we have heard from individuals and  
 16 community organizations throughout the City. Not every  
 17 part of the City, but a lot of, a lot of the City, you  
 18 know. The money that we receive is from the US  
 19 Department of Housing and Urban Development. So housing  
 20 is their primary goal as well. So we feel like there are  
 21 opportunities to better, to better develop new programs  
 22 and to help the community afford homeownership  
 23 opportunities. Anyone? Yes.  
 24 MS. FASANO: My name is Mary Fasano, and I  
 25 work with Local Initiative Support Corporation in

1 these things on this list right now.  
 2 MR. HULL: I agree.  
 3 MR. MONTEIRO: It helps with the education  
 4 part, skill development.  
 5 MR. HULL: As part of our, so we have a lead  
 6 grant. We run a lead grant through the Community  
 7 Development Division, and part of that we are partnering  
 8 with Amos House to develop a team that can go out and do  
 9 lead remediation, weatherization. Part of it we work  
 10 with the folks at the Community Action Partnership to do  
 11 the weatherization program, and they're hiring folks from  
 12 the community. We get it. We know that there is a great  
 13 need for individuals in the community to get employment  
 14 opportunities and to get trained and to have some sort of  
 15 economic mobility.  
 16 MR. MONTEIRO: This is great. I think this  
 17 is great, because this information does not get out  
 18 there. This is information that needs, the community  
 19 needs to hear, so more of these in the community, less  
 20 decision-making down in, you know, in the City Hall and  
 21 State House, and more decision-making with the community  
 22 right here, like you're doing today. That definitely is  
 23 needed.  
 24 MR. HULL: I appreciate that. Yes,  
 25 absolutely, sir. More voices. Let's hear more voices.

1 Providence, and I live in Warwick, but right down the  
 2 street in the Pawtuxet Village area, so I'm nearby, and I  
 3 come over in this neighborhood a lot. I think this is  
 4 really good that you're out here doing this. My question  
 5 is how do we keep the momentum? How do we build more  
 6 momentum and keep it going, because you really need to  
 7 have a partnership? We know the City can't just come in  
 8 and fix things, that it really needs a partnership from  
 9 people in the community. So how do we get SWAP, and the  
 10 Institute, and Family Services and expand the people that  
 11 are in this room so that we are all working together, and  
 12 who's the right convener for that, and how do we, so if  
 13 there's a skill we really need, how do we tap into that  
 14 and make it happen so that we can really own, you know,  
 15 the work that gets done here? So, I don't, I don't know  
 16 how to -- that's just more a question than anything.  
 17 MR. HULL: I think it's important. We're  
 18 really engaged in having those community conversations  
 19 and those dialogues with individuals and organizations.  
 20 We don't have all of the answers internally in the City.  
 21 No one does. So we're really trying to figure out how to  
 22 best build that partnership to address, one, to address  
 23 the basic needs that are immediate in the community with  
 24 the long-term vision of addressing the root causes of  
 25 some of these issues that arise in the community.



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1 I feel like because we have an increasingly smaller  
 2 amount of money every year from the Federal Government to  
 3 address an increasingly larger problem, we need to be  
 4 much more strategic. We need to develop the  
 5 partnerships. We need to coordinate and collaborate with  
 6 organizations and individuals and community members to  
 7 come up with, you know, more impactful solutions,  
 8 solutions that deliver more value than what we have been  
 9 having in the past. It's hard to do, but I'm here to be  
 10 an advocate for the City and to be an advocate for  
 11 everyone in the community in these sorts of partnerships,  
 12 and developments. We have some ideas, the City, and with  
 13 SWAP, and with other communities, community development  
 14 corporations, and with the community itself to really  
 15 start thinking more strategically about this.  
 16 So, Family Service, we have, when you think about  
 17 your youth-development programs, are there partner  
 18 organizations that you all are thinking about, you know,  
 19 working in partnership with or thinking about a  
 20 continuum, like, you all are doing certain type of  
 21 program, but then that feeds into another program. So  
 22 there is a continuum of services. Do you all think about  
 23 that, or?  
 24 MS. VEGA: We have had discussion. I think  
 25 my question was more as far as the skill training, job

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1 training, just even with the summer jobs. It's like this  
 2 big bid for, it's first come/first serve, and that's the  
 3 honest truth. I think it's great that we even have it  
 4 for them. So, yes, on behalf of Family Service and my  
 5 department, Providence Students' Initiative, we have, my  
 6 component is who's out there, and think of those so we  
 7 can present it to Family Services, but I'm wondering for  
 8 the City, is there a way to increase the job opportunity,  
 9 the job skill training, and try getting them at a younger  
 10 age, not just when they're 16, 17, or somewhere in  
 11 trouble, but making that possibly even in the school  
 12 systems, teaching them from that age and that kind of era  
 13 there.  
 14 MR. HULL: I know like, Sal, you have, The  
 15 Institute has this larger conversation, this larger  
 16 philosophy that nonviolence should be taught in schools.  
 17 So how does the City be a partner in the teaching of  
 18 nonviolence in schools, teaching of some of the programs  
 19 that -- no, I think that's great. Yes, sir.  
 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. I'm sorry. I  
 21 wasn't here for the beginning part.  
 22 THE STENOGRAPHER: Can I get your name for  
 23 the record?  
 24 MR. SANTURRI: Anthony Santurri from the  
 25 Coliseum Night Club in Providence. I apologize. I came

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1 from a meeting yesterday for planning for the I-195  
 2 development, and it was a great collaboration of all  
 3 different people from different walks, planning in  
 4 different parts of the City, but how to take that  
 5 development and connect it throughout the City. So  
 6 whatever is developed down there, seems to me to just  
 7 stay contained down there as opposed to connecting all of  
 8 the different parts of Providence, and I think it's an  
 9 important issue. They want to do so much down there,  
 10 that we need to be able to have accessibility immediately  
 11 to different parts, so to the South Side, to the East  
 12 Side, connecting there. Especially if we are talking  
 13 about something, and I know we are talking about, so the  
 14 baseball park, we throw that out there. When 12,000  
 15 people, when they're done, they're not going to stay  
 16 right down there. We need to be able to bring them to  
 17 all parts of this City accessibly and be able to connect  
 18 them. So I was hoping we could have part of this  
 19 planning discussion as a connecting to all of this, focus  
 20 on the I-195 redevelopment commission and how we can  
 21 maybe bring that towards each part of the City. If I'm  
 22 not off base with that. It just doesn't seem when we are  
 23 discussing it that we talk as much about branching out  
 24 from it. It seems to be contained right to that Jewelry  
 25 District and that whole area down there.

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1 MR. HULL: Right. I get that. I  
 2 understand, and it's, I mean, I might be speaking out of  
 3 turn, but I think it's because we don't know what's going  
 4 to happen on I-195 right now. So to think about how we  
 5 are connecting economic opportunities to groups  
 6 throughout the City --  
 7 MR. SANTURRI: Well, that's why I think, and  
 8 if I may, that's why I think, we came up, the mayor had  
 9 stopped by, too, they wanted immediate things we could do  
 10 right away with the use of the plan, temporary use. I  
 11 think we need the community surrounding that area to come  
 12 down and be part of this plan so that when something is  
 13 solidified it's already connected here to someone,  
 14 whether it's the Institute and all of that, I think we  
 15 really need to get them in there. We were talking about  
 16 doing things down there that bring youth in and keep them  
 17 there safe with the public safety zone. I think the  
 18 Institute should definitely have been a part of this,  
 19 focus on that.  
 20 MR. MONTEIRO: I know for Pawtucket Red Sox,  
 21 a lot of these kids, especially in this community,  
 22 they're not going to go down there. They're not going to  
 23 go down to that game. And you want that. You want that.  
 24 So there is education pieces involved in that, also.  
 25 MR. HULL: The Division of Community

1 Development sits in the Department of Planning and  
2 Development. I have regular meetings with the Director  
3 of Planning and Development. Our strategy is to really  
4 align the development strategy, the planning and  
5 development strategy of the City with Community  
6 Development Block Grants with other resources that can be  
7 used at our disposal. If we can create the strategic  
8 alignment of various types of funding, we'll have much  
9 more impact.

10 MR. SANTURRI: Absolutely.

11 MR. HULL: I don't operate in a silo  
12 separate from everything else. There is a lot going on  
13 in the City, and, you know, so I engage with the Planning  
14 Department. That information can be brought from the  
15 Planning Department into the community through avenues  
16 and vehicles like this as well. So this is not a  
17 one-time only event. We'll be coming out into the  
18 community on a fairly regular basis to really have these  
19 conversations and to really make sure that we continue to  
20 understand what the community needs are, what the  
21 priorities are for you all.

22 MR. SANTURRI: Thank you.

23 MR. HULL: We do have President Aponte here.  
24 I just wanted to recognize him. And thank you.  
25 Anyone else? You two came in together.

1 information feeds a consolidated plan. The consolidated  
2 plan is our guidance document for the City for Community  
3 Development Block Grants. This is a fairly inclusive  
4 document of how we are using Community Development Block  
5 Grants to address the community needs, how we are  
6 thinking about affordable housing, economic development,  
7 public services, facilities throughout the City. We  
8 can't do everything. So this document really focuses on  
9 what are the very, very specific needs that come up from  
10 the community.

11 We take that information seriously. We put that in  
12 this document. We offer that document up for public  
13 review to make sure that it properly enshrines what the  
14 public feels are their community needs, and then we  
15 develop our strategic plan and our action plan from that  
16 document. So as we start deploying Community Development  
17 Block Grants annually, we use the guidance document as  
18 our reference, and we don't fund anything that does not  
19 comport with the plan, our guidance document. We update  
20 that every four or five years, and now is a unique  
21 opportunity for us to rework the entire plan and really  
22 try to understand what makes the most sense, like what  
23 should be in there. Like I said, we have some  
24 information, but we need to make sure that that is still  
25 accurate and relevant and still really makes sense.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We did, yeah.

2 MR. HULL: So I know you two have really  
3 important comments.

4 MR. COREY: Sure. Chris Corey, my wife,  
5 Erin. We live in Elmwood. Yeah, I mean a lot of this is  
6 just kind of education for me. So we're in a decent  
7 neighborhood but coming up on about a year. It's helpful  
8 to hear about things that have been discussed before, and  
9 back to the point that the man in the back mentioned,  
10 just communication and just getting the word out about  
11 something like this. I saw a sheet at the library. That  
12 was the first I heard about it. So even, small things  
13 like social media, and, kind of, getting that out there.  
14 I don't know if you did or didn't already, and getting  
15 connected with organizations that way, too, I think will  
16 help get that word out there. I just have a question, so  
17 what's the next step in terms of some of these ideas,  
18 trash cans on Broad Street or things like that, how,  
19 because I agree with a lot of those issues, but where  
20 does it go from here and what's the next step?

21 MR. HULL: So this information we are  
22 collecting from community meetings like this throughout  
23 the City, from our on-line survey to the transition  
24 meetings that we have been having when Mayor Elorza came  
25 in. We are taking this information, and all of this

1 We are having eight community meetings. We had,  
2 throughout the transition we had probably another 25 to  
3 30 community meetings. We just want to make sure that we  
4 hear as much information as possible. So, if you, if you  
5 signed in, you will get notified when the consolidated  
6 plan is available for review. All of that is accessible  
7 online, on the website as well. The website on your,  
8 yes, on your, the schedule, lists the website on that, so  
9 you can, you will be able to get information on that.  
10 Yes, sir.

11 MR. SANTURRI: Do community block grants  
12 have any ability to fund festivals, parades, let's just  
13 say the Dominican Festival and Puerto Rican Festival? I  
14 think one this past time did not go off because of the  
15 money. That's economic development, so does it have any  
16 ability to fund any of those?

17 MR. HULL: It's really hard to.

18 MR. SANTURRI: It's hard to. I'm just  
19 wondering, because it draws a lot of people, and  
20 sometimes they don't go off, because they just can't  
21 raise the funds to have them.

22 MR. HULL: Understood. I think it is a less  
23 than ideal use of the money.

24 MR. SANTURRI: Okay. I'm just wondering.  
25 Thank you.

1 MR. HULL: It's not a very good fit for  
 2 that. Any other questions, comments? I told you we  
 3 weren't wrapping up early, so thank you.  
 4 MS. DONOVAN: My name is Paula Donovan. I  
 5 live in the Elmwood neighborhood on Lenox Avenue, and I  
 6 went to the meeting last week on Broad Street and decided  
 7 to come back, because, you know, I was sort of thinking  
 8 through a lot of the comments that were made at that  
 9 meeting. And I thought of a couple of other things. One  
 10 is the Elmwood Community Center needs, I think, a lot of  
 11 help right now. I think it was closed at some point, but  
 12 now there is a new director. It's part of the new, I  
 13 don't think it's called ProCap anymore but, so, I think  
 14 that needs some help, and that's, that's the only  
 15 community center that we have within the boundaries of  
 16 the Elmwood neighborhood.  
 17 The other thing is that the housing piece, and I  
 18 wonder if there's any sort of flexibility with the  
 19 funding for the community development agencies that have  
 20 focused on housing to take a step back and reassess the  
 21 need to build new construction. My concern in our  
 22 neighborhood is the density issue. Any lot that becomes  
 23 vacant is going to be built on, and I would really like  
 24 to see a focus on creating more open spaces, playgrounds,  
 25 say, on the Peace and Plenty Park model and really, sort

1 great job there, but then you have a school like Mary  
 2 Fogarty that has this little box office that's supposed  
 3 to be accessible to parents where someone is supposed to  
 4 be there to help the parent whether, you know, work on  
 5 building a resume, or accessing how do you get ESL  
 6 classes, GED, whatever the case may be. If we are going  
 7 to have these things available for families and say  
 8 they're there, then they should be there in a better  
 9 condition, I guess.  
 10 The schools are, our schools need much more, and I'm  
 11 pretty sure everyone else has it on their agenda and on  
 12 their mind, but it is not listed there. So if it's not  
 13 really listed, we really don't think about it. We kind  
 14 of forget because there is so much more going on, and  
 15 there is only so much we can do. I think it's a big  
 16 focus, and the school is falling apart, and the ceiling  
 17 has water stains. I mean, and if your playground is just  
 18 a bunch of dirt, which now is this pretty playground  
 19 there, I think those things are kind of important to kind  
 20 of tune in on. And I'm interested in knowing through  
 21 CDBG is there a component for actual schools, not the  
 22 education part, but I guess the structure of the  
 23 building.  
 24 MR. HULL: I can give you an example. So  
 25 while it's not the actual school facility, the Mt.

1 of, maybe take an inventory of the housing that we  
 2 already have available, and as the gentlemen in the back  
 3 said, you know, focus on fixing what we already have as  
 4 opposed to building new.  
 5 I'm aware that there was a building that was just  
 6 demolished on Broad Street, and there are four open lots  
 7 right there, and I would really like to see that kept as  
 8 an open space, and maybe some of it could be used for  
 9 parking. Parking is a huge problem on Broad Street. We  
 10 don't have enough parking. That's why we have congested  
 11 intersections, people parking on the corners at  
 12 intersections, because there is no place else to park.  
 13 So, those are my suggestions.  
 14 MR. HULL: I know people have, you came out  
 15 for a reason. Now is the time to talk about why you came  
 16 out here. Yes.  
 17 MS. VEGA: Okay. I guess I will go. Do you  
 18 need me to repeat my name again? Jessica Vega, once  
 19 again. I'm just wondering, is there a focus around  
 20 education, and I'm asking in particular for the schools,  
 21 and I will just highlight Mary Fogarty, who could use  
 22 some support. And I know they have these parent centers  
 23 in a lot of the schools which Bailey, for example, I  
 24 think their center is great, and the accessibility for  
 25 parents, the resources. I think they're also doing a

1 Pleasant High School, the entire sports field, athletic  
 2 field next to it is going to be redeveloped using  
 3 Community Development Block Grant money. So, there are,  
 4 some of the council members are thinking about what other  
 5 investments that they can make in school improvements.  
 6 Hopefully, now that the governor discussed a 20 million  
 7 dollar fund to do school redevelopment that will be able  
 8 to, hopefully, do a little bit more in our schools.  
 9 There is a moratorium on school improvements that  
 10 prevented school improvements in the City and has been  
 11 really problematic. I shouldn't say prevented, the  
 12 moratorium on reimbursing school improvements in the City  
 13 has taken its toll. So I'm glad that there is movement  
 14 at the State level to reverse course on that.  
 15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: Brian, could you  
 16 explain? I'm not sure everybody understands how that  
 17 works, the school, that construction and --  
 18 MR. HULL: So, the State has this  
 19 allocation, I should say, of a reimbursement of 80  
 20 percent of the total school redevelopment cost. That had  
 21 been a program that the State had for many, many years,  
 22 and then with the budget crisis the State decided to put  
 23 that on hold and had a moratorium on that for, I want to  
 24 say seven, seven or so years. It's been a long time. I  
 25 might be wrong on that, but I think it's around seven

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1 years, and they were only approving emergency repairs on  
 2 a 50-percent basis, which in my mind most of the school  
 3 repairs in the City of Providence are emergency repairs,  
 4 but it created a lot of difficulty, because a lot of the  
 5 repairs in the schools are incredibly expensive. If we  
 6 can get an 80-percent reimbursement from the State to do  
 7 those repairs, that facilitates a lot more repairs in the  
 8 City. If the City has to cover 100 percent of the cost  
 9 of those repairs, you know, we can't, our money doesn't  
 10 go very far.  
 11 Right now the governor proposed in her most recent  
 12 budget 20 million dollars to do this 80/20 split for  
 13 school reimbursement, school repair reimbursement. And,  
 14 President, that moratorium has been in effect for about  
 15 seven years, right?  
 16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: Yeah, since, at  
 17 the end of Carcieri's first term.  
 18 MR. HULL: So, over the past seven years  
 19 school repairs essentially ground to a halt, which was  
 20 unfortunate. There were some repairs, but.  
 21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: And the important  
 22 part of that to note is Providence has the largest school  
 23 district, so when you freeze the opportunity to do  
 24 repairs like roofs and heating systems, and windows, it  
 25 disproportionately impacts our students in Providence,

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1 because we have the largest district. We have buildings  
 2 that get used the most. It may not have the same impact  
 3 in a community like North Kingstown or some of the other  
 4 suburban communities that have a smaller school  
 5 population and have younger buildings. Some of our  
 6 buildings are hundreds of years old. So, hopefully there  
 7 is an effort by the mayor and the city council to convey  
 8 upon the General Assembly that we really need to put this  
 9 back in place so that we can look at all of our school  
 10 buildings in the City and develop a plan as to how to get  
 11 all of them up to a code where, at least, kids feel safe,  
 12 and warm, and dry going to a building to learn.  
 13 MR. HULL: But, yes, CDBG money can be used  
 14 for buildings, school improvements. I think that was the  
 15 short answer to your question.  
 16 MS. VEGA: Yes.  
 17 MR. HULL: Are we wrapping up early, or do  
 18 you have more comments?  
 19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: I just have one  
 20 question that I wanted to ask folks if you would permit  
 21 me.  
 22 MR. HULL: Absolutely.  
 23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: One of the things  
 24 that the council folks are thinking about is how  
 25 historically we have looked at these pockets of monies by

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1 neighborhood, and as that money starts to shrink we have  
 2 fewer and fewer dollars for each neighborhood. One of  
 3 the things that we are in conversation is thinking about  
 4 how to be more impactful with these dollars so that we  
 5 are not just spending \$20 in Lower South Providence and  
 6 \$20 in Upper South Providence and \$20 in Elmwood, but  
 7 looking at opportunities to figure out how to spend a  
 8 larger amount of money but have it be much more  
 9 impactful. It may mean that smaller organizations that  
 10 get small amounts of money may have to be off for a year  
 11 or a couple of years from applying for CDBG dollars, but  
 12 the result may be that, you know, we have done something  
 13 that really has a lot of value to more affected folks in  
 14 a greater area. So I'd like to ask the question,  
 15 understanding that there is a consequence to everything  
 16 that you do, if we were to think about pulling dollars  
 17 and making more significant investments that are a little  
 18 bit larger and expand beyond neighborhoods so it may  
 19 include two or three neighborhoods but that may mean that  
 20 some of the organizations that were getting small grants,  
 21 or have been getting small grants for multiple years, may  
 22 not be able to get that small grant every year.  
 23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's always hard to  
 24 do.  
 25 MR. HULL: Yes, there is an opportunity cost

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1 to every decision that we make, and that's the decision  
 2 we didn't make. So, if we think about, if we think about  
 3 pooling resources together and do larger-scale projects  
 4 that the goal is to be transformative of a neighborhood,  
 5 that ultimately means that there are fewer organizations  
 6 that are getting money or that the organizations that do  
 7 get money receive less money.  
 8 MS. D'AMBRA: I'm Linda D'Ambra. I work at  
 9 the library on Prairie Avenue, the South Providence  
 10 Library, and I really think that we need to communicate  
 11 with each other more, because we duplicate services. We  
 12 don't know what other people are doing and that wastes  
 13 the little bit of money that we have. I don't know how  
 14 we can let each other know what we are doing, but I  
 15 really think we need to, and I spend a lot of time at  
 16 this time of year trying to find out which organizations  
 17 hire teens in the summer, because so many kids come to me  
 18 and say, "Miss Linda, Miss Linda, where can I find a  
 19 job?" I mean, there should be some way that we can, we  
 20 can all know that the Institute hires people, or this one  
 21 does, or that one does, and every year in February and  
 22 March I have to call everybody and find out if there will  
 23 be jobs, who they're for, and how the kids apply. We  
 24 need to figure out -- Providence is small. We need to  
 25 figure out a way to communicate with each other. I mean,

1 you're around the corner, Mary Fogarty is around the  
 2 corner from me. Do you know that we have GED classes in  
 3 English and Spanish?  
 4 MS. VEGA: Yes, you have provided us with  
 5 summer programs this past summer.  
 6 MS. D'AMBRA: Yeah, there are so many things  
 7 that, you know, if my class is full, I don't really know  
 8 who else has classes. I have to do all of the research,  
 9 and make ten calls. I think we need to figure out a  
 10 system so that, just us getting together like this is a  
 11 step in the right direction, but I think we need to pay  
 12 more attention to what we are each doing so that we can  
 13 help each other out.  
 14 MR. MONTEIRO: I think that also helps with  
 15 the allocation of money.  
 16 MS. D'AMBRA: Right.  
 17 MR. MONTEIRO: So say, for instance, the  
 18 Institute doesn't get some of that money. It happened  
 19 before. That's what happens in nonprofit. At least I  
 20 want to know where that money went to. I want to have a  
 21 say where that money goes to. Maybe I even have a better  
 22 place where you can save the money. That's only going to  
 23 happen, as you say, when we get together like this.  
 24 Before we can even start making those types of decisions,  
 25 we need more of this first. We need to know each other,

1 that are doing intersectional programming to, say, this  
 2 organization is doing youth development. This  
 3 organization has an arts program that is also teaching  
 4 kids critical-thinking skills. How do we make sure that  
 5 those two organizations are at least aware of each other,  
 6 at least knowledgeable about the activities? How do we  
 7 make sure that those organizations learn from each other?  
 8 All of this is with a, with a much broader wide-view  
 9 picture of improving communities and making sure that  
 10 individuals have all of the opportunity in life to  
 11 succeed. It's hard to do. It's a lot of work. I'm  
 12 committed to this to do incredibly, incredibly important  
 13 work, you know, 14 hours a day, like, that's my  
 14 commitment to this job, and I want to make sure that we  
 15 have this broader picture of what is happening in the  
 16 communities so that these decisions are community driven,  
 17 community-based and percolate up.  
 18 So, we are putting together, we are going to be  
 19 putting together a list of organizations. We are going  
 20 to need to update that list. We are going to need  
 21 information about you, like, we have the information. We  
 22 just need to put it together in a way that's meaningful  
 23 and important, and accessible to everyone.  
 24 SPEAKER ERIN: My name is Erin. My husband  
 25 and I have a heart for homeless neighbors in our

1 who we are, what we have to offer, what we can provide,  
 2 partnerships, all of that. And, again, knowing at least  
 3 the community is making a decision on where that money  
 4 goes, instead of people from over here that are not even  
 5 involved, not even living in this community making those  
 6 decisions.  
 7 MR. HULL: So to your point, the Division of  
 8 Community Development is, I want to conduct a fairly  
 9 rigorous asset map of all of the organizations and what  
 10 they do, population served, to make the linkages between  
 11 organizations, to think about, you know, from my, I'm a  
 12 systems thinker, so I think about what systems need to be  
 13 in place to improve communities and to improve the lives  
 14 of individuals that live in communities. That's not just  
 15 affordable housing. That's not just youth empowerment.  
 16 That's not just economic development. That's not just  
 17 infrastructure, road repairs, healthy parks, things like  
 18 that. That's everything together, and if we think about,  
 19 if we lay an asset map over the City, and we say we have  
 20 these organizations doing these particular things in  
 21 these communities, how do we leverage those to increase  
 22 their impact by working together and collaboratively on  
 23 holistic solutions to root causes of problems within the  
 24 communities, and if we can do that large, citywide, we  
 25 can make those linkages between different organizations

1 neighborhood, so we went online, the Rhode Island  
 2 Coalition for the Homeless. They have these things  
 3 called Street Sheets. You can download them and print  
 4 them off. And it says where all the meals are being  
 5 served at XYZ hospital and XYZ church, and here are all  
 6 of the different organizations where you can get a bed,  
 7 you can get a shower. So we took to the streets with  
 8 those, and as we meet people and are having  
 9 conversations, it's a really easy visual. Ah, this is  
 10 the service you need. So we're not reinventing the  
 11 wheel. So that would be amazing to have a Street Sheet  
 12 of here are the available internships and some  
 13 possibilities.  
 14 MS. D'AMBRA: Yeah, I mean, libraries are  
 15 community centers now. I can't even believe some of the  
 16 things that people walk in the door needing help with,  
 17 like, well, they thought the library was the place to  
 18 come with this problem. Okay. Here we are. So, it  
 19 really, we like playing that role, but it is increasingly  
 20 difficult, because it is so broad. So getting help and  
 21 being supported by the rest of the organizations so that  
 22 we can also support the other organizations would really  
 23 make things work better, and to me this is the way to do  
 24 it. We need to get together, and we need to sit down.  
 25 And here we are, so let's keep doing it, I say.

1 MS. DONOVAN: I was thinking as you were  
 2 talking that, perhaps, and also in response to your  
 3 question is, you know, maybe we could create, sort of,  
 4 centers of collaboration and that could help with being  
 5 more effective with the disbursement of the CDBG dollars.  
 6 I think it's really hard to say, oh, we are only going to  
 7 give to larger organizations as opposed to small ones,  
 8 because larger organizations oftentimes they have the  
 9 fund development staff, and they can go after other  
 10 funds, where if you're, sort of, a small grass-roots  
 11 organization, you don't have those resources, so you rely  
 12 on CDBG money, but I think it's all about how effective  
 13 they are, too. So, I think maybe, and so addressing  
 14 this, how we can keep working together and keep each  
 15 other informed. The Knight Memorial Library the same, a  
 16 lot of the same issues with almost becoming a community  
 17 center.

18 MS. D'AMBRA: Well, not almost. I mean,  
 19 that is what we are. We don't even pretend that we are  
 20 just about being a place where a person comes to get a  
 21 book. We know that day has passed.

22 MS. DONOVAN: And if we could keep having  
 23 these kinds of meetings, I know it would be really  
 24 difficult to do it every month, but maybe on a quarterly  
 25 basis to, sort of, you know, talk about something along

1 organizations \$5,000 to help fix their roof but really  
 2 concentrate some of those dollars in a way that's  
 3 impactful and change as a condition or the energy in a  
 4 part of a neighborhood from something that's negative to  
 5 something that now becomes a community asset.  
 6 And those, you know, as individual council people,  
 7 we struggle, and we fight for our neighborhood. We know  
 8 we need to bring home resources for the neighborhood.  
 9 And what I'm hoping is we can rethink that a little bit  
 10 and say, all right, the folks who live on the left side  
 11 of Elmwood Avenue don't consider themselves to be in a  
 12 different neighborhood from the folks that live on the  
 13 right side of Elmwood Avenue. So could we think about  
 14 these in a way that changes conditions, creates new  
 15 assets and new opportunities in neighborhoods by  
 16 concentrating dollars, perhaps leveraging and attracting  
 17 other dollars to a project that can become a real asset  
 18 to the neighborhood. And like the one in Reservoir,  
 19 there are probably four or five of them around the City  
 20 that could be treated the same way.  
 21 So that was the question that I'm trying to figure  
 22 out. Does it make sense? In theory it makes sense.  
 23 When you apply it, and then you understand what the other  
 24 unintended consequences are, folks call you, oh, our  
 25 community center needed that money to fix the roof, or

1 those lines, be the centers of collaboration.  
 2 MR. HULL: I think that's a good idea. Like  
 3 I said, I think it's important to have these community  
 4 meetings, and I'm happy to be a convener of these types  
 5 of meetings to make sure that the individuals and  
 6 organizations have the opportunity to sit down and talk.  
 7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: The theory that  
 8 I'm trying to get at, it wasn't necessarily pitting a  
 9 larger organization against a smaller organization. It  
 10 will probably help if I give you an example. Just over  
 11 the line in Reservoir behind the Alvarez High School is  
 12 what's left of the Gorham site. We spend a lot of time  
 13 and energy keeping people out of that site. It would be  
 14 a value to Reservoir, to the West End, to Elmwood, if we  
 15 were to make a significant investment, clean the site up,  
 16 maybe attract some Brownfields dollars, make it a walking  
 17 path, some athletic fields, and change the energy of that  
 18 neighborhood so that it's one where we are not spending a  
 19 lot of time and effort keeping people out, but making it  
 20 a welcome asset, an attractive asset to that community.  
 21 That would mean that it would require some CDBG  
 22 allocation from the West End, from the South Side, from  
 23 Elmwood to be concentrated in that project. So, that's,  
 24 sort of, that's what I mean by doing larger and more  
 25 impactful projects as opposed to giving each, some small

1 add a handicapped ramp, or do some disbursements of  
 2 smaller dollars that are equally important, but our pool  
 3 of CDBG money gets smaller every year, and we can do a  
 4 couple of things, we can try and spread it miles long and  
 5 an inch deep, or we can try and do some very concentrated  
 6 turnaround types of projects.  
 7 MS. D'AMBRA: And the secret is you have to  
 8 convince other people that it's worth spending what they  
 9 think is their money on that project.  
 10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT APONTE: But that's  
 11 exactly the point, Linda.  
 12 MS. D'AMBRA: But that's not impossible.  
 13 You can do something like a summer basketball league  
 14 where teams from all over the City would come and play at  
 15 that site and make them feel like they're getting to use,  
 16 speaking of that site, that they're getting to use it  
 17 too, but I know how it is, because we don't want you to  
 18 take our money and go do something over there.  
 19 MS. FASANO: Mary Fasano, I just think  
 20 people are willing to make hard decisions if they feel  
 21 like the process is transparent and people have an input.  
 22 I mean, and we understand that there are scarce resources  
 23 and that everyone, it's not an open purse. The City just  
 24 doesn't have a treasure chest, but if people are engaged  
 25 in the decision and maybe there are ways of everyone

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1 winning or some people winning even though they thought  
 2 they were going to be losers, like if we do more  
 3 collaboration, so maybe someone who is going to be a  
 4 loser we find another way of helping them meet their  
 5 needs, because we are connecting them to another  
 6 resource. So, but it is difficult, and if you're going  
 7 to be more strategic with your -- this is an investment.  
 8 I think you need to look at CDBG money as an investment,  
 9 not as a consumption where someone just kind of needs it,  
 10 so you put it in a bucket and serve them a meal. I think  
 11 it should be more of an investment into the community, so  
 12 that it's catalytic.  
 13 MR. HULL: Right. I think that's a great  
 14 comment to have a wrap-up, and then maybe, like, I will  
 15 explain a little bit more about the consolidated plan  
 16 process.  
 17 So we had Margit over here writing copious amounts  
 18 of notes. So she's going to come over. She is just  
 19 going to do a brief overview of what we just heard. If  
 20 she missed anything, let us know, let's make sure that we  
 21 get all of the comments from today.  
 22 MS. LIANDER: So I heard from you guys about  
 23 more funding for youth development, bringing awareness to  
 24 this issue, funding for maintenance and preservation of  
 25 community assets, funding for existing community needs

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1 versus long-term investments, more community involvement,  
 2 just in general, more funding for affordable housing,  
 3 both rental and ownership properties, creating a down  
 4 payment assistance program through the City, a need for  
 5 better partnership between community organizations, need  
 6 for more job training programs for youth, especially at  
 7 younger ages, connecting the I-195 development  
 8 opportunities to the rest of the City, including  
 9 neighborhood residents in the discussion, just more in  
 10 general, improving communication with communities,  
 11 especially better advertising of community meetings, more  
 12 funding specifically for the Elmwood Community Center,  
 13 creating more open space and not just new construction on  
 14 vacant lots, perhaps using some of the space for  
 15 additional parking, funding for school facility  
 16 maintenance, funding and support specifically for the  
 17 Mary Fogarty School, and offering more family services  
 18 through the schools, more communication between community  
 19 organizations and the city departments just about  
 20 community services, this leads to better allocation of  
 21 funding, and developing centers of collaboration to  
 22 assist smaller organizations, and having regular  
 23 community meetings, or more regular community meetings.  
 24 MR. HULL: And then just a more transparent  
 25 process so everyone is aware of what's going on. And

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1 with that, if you provided us with your information, we  
 2 will be as transparent as possible, because we are going  
 3 to send you all of the information. We want to make sure  
 4 that folks remain engaged in this process as we start  
 5 talking about drafting the consolidated plan, reviewing  
 6 the consolidated plan, the public hearings that are  
 7 involved in the consolidated plan, so just to make sure  
 8 that we get it right, to make sure that we have the voice  
 9 of the community enshrined in that plan.  
 10 MS. KISH: We are also posting all of the  
 11 feedback from all of the meetings on the website, so if  
 12 you want to see if what you said corroborated with what  
 13 other people said, feel free to check the website. All  
 14 of the information is up there, and all of the future  
 15 information will be posted as well.  
 16 MR. HULL: Exactly. And this is the  
 17 process. We are having meetings throughout March and  
 18 April. This information helps inform the consolidated  
 19 plan. We have put together a draft. We offer that draft  
 20 out for review. So if you haven't signed in, please sign  
 21 in. The final draft will be completed in May. It will  
 22 go through the council process, and this website here is  
 23 where you can get all of the information that you could  
 24 ever possibly want to know about the consolidated plan,  
 25 the notes from our meetings, the next steps along the

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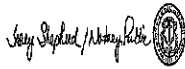
1 process. And if you are eager to attend another meeting.  
 2 I'm looking at you, if you are eager to attend, we have  
 3 three left. We have March 30 at Capitol Ridge. We have  
 4 April 6 at the DaVinci Center and we have April 9 at MLK  
 5 School.  
 6 So, thank you very much.  
 7 (HEARING CLOSED AT 7:47 P.M.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 13 day of April 2015.



TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: March 24, 2015  
IN RE: Public Hearing  
HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of Planning and Development



Page 1

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7 DATE: March 30, 2015  
 8 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 9 PLACE: Capitol Ridge at Providence  
 10 Senior Living  
 11 700 Smith Street  
 12 Providence, RI 02908  
 13 PRESENT:  
 14 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 15 Providence  
 16 Ron DiOrio, Department of Planning and Development/City  
 17 of Providence  
 18 Margit Liander, Planner  
 19 Emily Kish, Planner  
 20 Ani Haroian, Neighborhood Liaison for Planning and  
 21 Development  
 22  
 23 ALSO PRESENT:  
 24 Phillip McKendall, Special Assistant to the City Council  
 25 Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan, Ward 5

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1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 MR. HULL: Excuse me. Could I ask everyone  
 3 to grab a seat? I'd like to get started. I know the  
 4 food in the back is delicious, so grab a plate, bring it  
 5 to your seat. Thank you, all, for coming out. What I  
 6 wanted to do was introduce Councilwoman Ryan to offer a  
 7 few welcoming remarks, and then I will take over after  
 8 that. Councilman Hassett sent his regrets. He was not  
 9 able to make it. He did injure his foot, so he's feeling  
 10 a little bit immobile, I guess is a good way to describe  
 11 it.  
 12 So, Councilwoman Ryan, if you want to take it over.  
 13 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Thank you very much.  
 14 Yes, Councilman Hassett sends his regards. He was unable  
 15 to be here tonight because of an injury to his foot. I  
 16 want to first thank Brian Hull. He's the Director of the  
 17 Planning Department, and --  
 18 MR. HULL: No, I'm Director of Community  
 19 Development.  
 20 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Director of Community  
 21 Development. Thank you very much, Brian.  
 22 MR. HULL: There is someone above me.  
 23 That's the Director of the Planning Department. So I  
 24 just wanted to --  
 25 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: And his staff Ani

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1 Haroian. I have got Margit, Emily, Ron DiOrio, who I  
 2 have helped coordinate this event. As a matter of fact,  
 3 this is one of many planning meetings that are happening  
 4 throughout the City. They're here to basically get your  
 5 input and it's very valuable, because the funding that  
 6 the City of Providence has in its Community Block Grant  
 7 program is very limited. It's very valuable, and Brian  
 8 is able to figure out how he can communicate the best  
 9 uses of those funds, and we need to be able to get your  
 10 input so that we can figure out the most efficient uses.  
 11 So thank you very much for coming tonight. This is  
 12 a great exercise. I thank you once again. I would also  
 13 like to thank Rich Hopkins. He's the Executive Director  
 14 of Capitol Ridge, who has made this room available to us  
 15 for this activity today. There is also refreshments in  
 16 the back. Please help yourself, this is an informal  
 17 meeting, to those refreshments.  
 18 I'd like to introduce a few people that are in the  
 19 room. I see Joe Elliott, who is on the Board of the City  
 20 Planning Commission. Joe, if you could just -- I also  
 21 would like to recognize Armand Batastini. He's the  
 22 Chairman of the Fifth Ward Democratic Committee. He's  
 23 also on the City Committee as Vice Chair. James Scott is  
 24 in the back of the room. He's also a member of the Fifth  
 25 Ward Democratic Committee, and also I have a dear friend,

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1 George Lewis, who's in the middle of the room, also a  
 2 member of the Fifth Ward Democratic Committee. So thank  
 3 you, all, for coming. I see Barbara Butler, a long-time  
 4 neighbor of the Fifth Ward. Thank you very much for  
 5 coming to everyone else in the room. So without further  
 6 ado, take it away, Brian.  
 7 MR. HULL: Thank you very much. I'm just  
 8 going to go over a brief agenda. We'll have a  
 9 conversation about why we are all here, first and  
 10 foremost, sort of define a little bit what Community  
 11 Development Block Grant is, what it can be used for.  
 12 We'll go into a discussion about some of the previous  
 13 community meetings that we have had in the area, some  
 14 information that we have gleaned previously from those  
 15 community meetings, and then I'll ask four framing  
 16 questions to have a conversation, and then we'll do a  
 17 quick wrap-up after that.  
 18 We're here, specifically, to talk about the  
 19 priorities of the community and aligning those priorities  
 20 with what Community Development Block Grant funds can  
 21 provide. So a lot of people wonder what Community  
 22 Development Block Grants are, and it's an appropriate  
 23 question. So these are federal monies that come into the  
 24 City of Providence. This is an entitlement for the City.  
 25 These funds are calculated by the Federal Government, and

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1 the City of Providence gets an annual allocation of  
 2 roughly about five million dollars every year, give or  
 3 take a couple hundred thousand. We use that money to do  
 4 particular types of investments in the community, and  
 5 this is not an exhaustive list, but some of the things,  
 6 activities that Community Development Block Grants can be  
 7 used for are affordable housing development,  
 8 homeownership programs, neighborhood cleanups, tree  
 9 plantings. We can do streets, sidewalks, parks,  
 10 community gardens, school improvements. So we can do a  
 11 lot of different things with Community Development Block  
 12 Grants. They're fairly flexible inasmuch as any federal  
 13 program is flexible. There is a fair amount of  
 14 information and paperwork that's involved with it, but  
 15 like the councilwoman said, we get to play with the rules  
 16 and navigate that sea so that we can deliver some  
 17 Community Development Block Grants throughout the City.  
 18 I don't want to get hung up on all of the different  
 19 things that Community Development Block Grants can be  
 20 used for. What I'd rather do is just have a fairly  
 21 robust conversation about what your priorities are in the  
 22 community. I will take that information with me, bring  
 23 it back, that helps inform our planning in the Community  
 24 Development Division in the Department of Planning and  
 25 Development. If this information needs to go to other

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1 city departments, I bring it to other departments as  
 2 well, like Parks, DPW, Inspections and Standards,  
 3 wherever else, the Mayor's Office.  
 4 So, with that, I just want to offer three, well,  
 5 there is actually four ways to get involved in the  
 6 conversation. One is the conversation we are about to  
 7 have. There are three other ways. When everyone came  
 8 in, everyone got these three dots. So these three dots  
 9 are going to be used on that priority needs board over  
 10 there. It looks like most people probably put their,  
 11 identified their three priority needs or priority  
 12 concerns on that board. If you have not, please do.  
 13 That's the way that we aggregate information citywide.  
 14 So we'll make sure that as we are developing our strategy  
 15 for Community Development Block Grants that we use the  
 16 information gleaned from these meetings. So that's one  
 17 way. The neighborhood map, again, is on the wall as  
 18 well. If there are particular areas, geographic areas in  
 19 the neighborhood, you can write a note on a Post-it and  
 20 stick it to the map on the wall. That will allow us to  
 21 really identify particular areas in the neighborhood that  
 22 are of concern and that could be from vacant, abandoned,  
 23 boarded-up housing, like, you know, garbage, vacant lots,  
 24 public safety concerns, and parks. Just describe that on  
 25 a Post-it note and put it on the board. That's another

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1 way for us to collect information.  
 2 Finally, everyone, when you came in, got an agenda.  
 3 On the reverse of that agenda is a survey. We would  
 4 appreciate it if you could fill out that survey, and  
 5 leave it with us upon exit. This is another way for us  
 6 to collect information from everyone, and this survey is  
 7 also available online, if you wanted to take this survey  
 8 online. So those are just a few additional ways to be  
 9 active in the conversation about what your priority needs  
 10 are. All of this is to help inform us as a city, both  
 11 the Division of Community Development and the Planning  
 12 Department, to really think about how we, how we identify  
 13 the priority needs and what we should be doing.  
 14 This is the map. We have seen it on the wall. We  
 15 don't need to discuss that.  
 16 So we have had community meetings throughout the  
 17 City previously tied to some of our neighborhood plans.  
 18 So information that we have gained from those community  
 19 meetings, I'm just going to outline real quickly. This  
 20 is, again, is not exhaustive. This is what we have  
 21 heard. This is the information that we have captured  
 22 previously. This is just to help develop the foundation  
 23 of knowledge that we have, that we believe is, are your  
 24 priority concerns. So as we go through this, just think  
 25 about whether or not this is still relevant. If it's not

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1 relevant, let's make sure that we take it off that list.  
 2 If it's still relevant, we can have a conversation about  
 3 that afterwards.  
 4 So one of the primary categories was parks and open  
 5 space, and judging by the priority needs boards parks and  
 6 sports and recreation are still a primary concern and  
 7 need in the area. Within this category people are  
 8 talking about the trail connections between several  
 9 neighborhood landmarks, upgrading the fields at Mt.  
 10 Pleasant High School. This is actually in process.  
 11 Upgrading the fields at Mt. Pleasant is going to be  
 12 starting in the spring. So Councilwoman Ryan is part of  
 13 that project, part of that conversation, so we thank  
 14 Councilwoman Ryan for helping out with the repairs to the  
 15 Mt. Pleasant field. Third, is this desire to use sports  
 16 facilities during the summer when school is not in  
 17 session. The mayor has articulated full-service  
 18 community schools and having the schools open later so  
 19 that they can be holistic and community assets after the  
 20 school hours as well.  
 21 Another issue was the clubhouse at Triggs Golf  
 22 Course, having it opened for use by community  
 23 organizations, senior discounts for golfing reinstated,  
 24 parks are in need of maintenance, safer environments, and  
 25 additional programming, and within Davis Park,

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1 particularly, more officer patrols in the evening.  
 2 Another category of issues is this commercial and  
 3 economic development, commercial revitalization of the  
 4 area, coordinated efforts to improve facade lighting,  
 5 signage, and streetscapes in the commercial areas. I was  
 6 just having a conversation with Joe about the Chalkstone  
 7 Avenue between River and Academy. If there's any area  
 8 that could use some facade improvement, that's an area.  
 9 If we are thinking about, there is a need for  
 10 commercial district identities and the Castle Theatre,  
 11 Castle Cinema, a prominent landmark that needs to be  
 12 restored and reused.  
 13 Housing was another issue. This is actually a  
 14 fairly common issue throughout the City. Some of the  
 15 homes that have seen neglect and are affecting property  
 16 values, better enforcement of building codes, existing  
 17 community development CDCs to work in the neighborhood to  
 18 improve substandard housing, and just more home  
 19 improvement programs that target these types of  
 20 neighborhoods and these types of houses. That's fairly  
 21 common throughout the City.  
 22 Another category was healthy neighborhoods. This is  
 23 about the appearance and the vibrancy of the  
 24 neighborhood. Some of the issues were the maintenance of  
 25 the tree canopy, growing some more trees, having some

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1 more street plantings along some of the neighborhood  
 2 streets, better crosswalks, at some of the more busier  
 3 intersections to make it more pedestrian friendly, and  
 4 then litter is a fairly common concern throughout the  
 5 City. I know that there is particular areas of this  
 6 neighborhood, I read in the Elmwood Community Group  
 7 Listserv. I read those quite a bit.  
 8 Another category is the accessibility, mobility and  
 9 infrastructure concerns. So more frequent transit  
 10 service along Chalkstone Avenue to Downtown, better  
 11 repair and upgrades to the sidewalks, and better pothole  
 12 repair throughout the neighborhoods, and then the bridges  
 13 over the Pleasant Valley Parkway need to be replaced.  
 14 Before I move to the next slide. These are some of  
 15 the comments that we have received from other community  
 16 meetings that we have had. So as we start entering into  
 17 a broader discussion about the community needs, make sure  
 18 that that's in the top of your mind. That's our  
 19 foundational knowledge of what you all think is your  
 20 priority concern in the area. So make sure that we are  
 21 aware if any of that has changed.  
 22 I just want to highlight some of the investments  
 23 that we have made in the area. Some of the blue dots are  
 24 Community Development Block Grant funding, and the red  
 25 dots are for affordable housing, and Jean is here from

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1 Smith Hill CDC. All of those big red dots are all of the  
 2 developments that Smith Hill has been doing in the  
 3 neighborhood. I want to say that's about thirteen  
 4 million over the past few years. Smith Hill CDC has been  
 5 doing quite a bit. Some of the other CDBG investments  
 6 along Pleasant Valley Parkway have been more modest,  
 7 about \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grants over  
 8 the past three years in the neighborhoods.  
 9 One of the other big improvement projects was the  
 10 City's 40 million dollar road bond. This is more money  
 11 that has been deployed by the City of Providence to  
 12 repair streets and sidewalks, and it hasn't been done in  
 13 a very, very long time. So you can see Chalkstone  
 14 Avenue, River and Academy Avenue have been improved  
 15 through that as well.  
 16 I want to enter into a conversation now, and as we  
 17 go through and have this broader conversation, these are  
 18 the four framing questions. So you just heard me talk  
 19 about some of the commentary that we have heard  
 20 previously. I just want to make sure, are we on the  
 21 right track? Did what I just present to you still make  
 22 sense? Does that still make sense? What are we missing?  
 23 We know that we have to be missing something, so we want  
 24 to tease out some of that as well. What should the  
 25 City's priorities be, because they're your priorities?

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1 That's really critical in this conversation, and then,  
 2 fundamentally, what do you want to see in your  
 3 neighborhood. These are the primary questions that I  
 4 hope to get answered, and I'm going to leave it on this  
 5 slide so we can see some of the other, some of the  
 6 activities that are eligible for Community Development  
 7 Block Grants. So, with that, I'm just going to take a  
 8 step back and open it up for conversation.  
 9 When we do have a conversation, if we could just,  
 10 one person speaking at a time. It makes it easier for  
 11 everyone. Pretend like you're talking to the furthest  
 12 person in the room, so we can all hear you, and when you  
 13 speak, if you could say your name and where you live,  
 14 that would be great. It doesn't have to be your exact  
 15 address, but, you know, that would be helpful.  
 16 Any comments? Who wants to begin? In the front.  
 17 MR. MONYE: My name is Byron Monye. I live  
 18 on 52 Forbes, and one thing that I don't see here is a  
 19 little more development for the youth.  
 20 MR. HULL: Youth development.  
 21 MR. MONYE: Youth development, yeah,  
 22 programs for kids, sports, jobs, that sort of thing.  
 23 MR. HULL: Right. So if you were to  
 24 articulate some more, sport programs.  
 25 MR. MONYE: For example --

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1 MR. HULL: -- outside of the school, youth  
 2 sports throughout the City.  
 3 MR. MONYE: There are no leagues for kids,  
 4 city leagues. For example, if you want to have your kids  
 5 play soccer, it's either a school, or you have to pay for  
 6 a club, which is very expensive. I think if the City  
 7 would have leagues in any sport that would keep the kids  
 8 busy.  
 9 MR. HULL: Right. Okay. In the back.  
 10 MR. LEWIS: My name is George Lewis. I have  
 11 a question. I live in Ward 5, and I'm trying to  
 12 understand this Community Development Block Grant money,  
 13 does that apply to the entire area of Ward 5, or is it  
 14 only designated areas within that community?  
 15 MR. HULL: It depends on what it's used for.  
 16 So there are different eligibility criteria. Community  
 17 Development Block Grant basically needs to fulfill two  
 18 criteria. One, it needs to be an eligible activity,  
 19 which is stipulated by federal regulations. There is a  
 20 whole bunch of different eligible activities. The other  
 21 criteria is it needs to be a national objective. Primary  
 22 purpose of Community Development Block Grant money is to  
 23 benefit low-to-moderate-income individuals. So if it can  
 24 be shown to demonstrate, benefit to  
 25 low-to-moderate-income individuals, it can be anywhere in

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1 the City, you would just need to qualify it.  
 2 Organizations need to qualify that in particular ways.  
 3 If it's infrastructure it needs to be in a  
 4 low-to-moderate-income area of the City. There are parts  
 5 of Ward 5, and Ward 12, Ward 4, Ward 14, that are  
 6 low-to-moderate-income areas, but all of Ward 5 is not a  
 7 low-to-moderate-income area. So if we are thinking about  
 8 particular infrastructure projects, CDBG is not eligible  
 9 for everything in Ward 5, but if we are thinking about a  
 10 public service project that's benefiting  
 11 low-to-moderate-income individuals, that could be  
 12 anywhere in Ward 5. Does that --  
 13 MR. LEWIS: What would that be?  
 14 MR. HULL: So if we are thinking about  
 15 after-school programs for at-risk youth. If we are  
 16 thinking about a sports and recreation program for  
 17 individuals at public schools, because most of the  
 18 schools in the City are Title I schools. Most of the  
 19 youth at those schools would be eligible, would qualify  
 20 for public service programming. If we are thinking about  
 21 senior services, they're an automatically eligible class  
 22 of individuals. So there is lots of things that we can  
 23 do. We would just need to qualify the individuals who  
 24 are the beneficiaries of that program.  
 25 MR. LEWIS: And is each ward given a

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1 designated amount of money?  
 2 MR. HULL: So there is two different ways  
 3 that we do it. One is, each council member has  
 4 discretion over a particular set of funds. Usually it's  
 5 around \$60,000. On top of that is the rest of the budget  
 6 of Community Development Block Grant which is more  
 7 strategically aligned with council priority, large  
 8 mayoral priority, development plans at the Planning and  
 9 Development, in the Department of Planning and  
 10 Development, other strategies. We are trying to be much  
 11 more intentional with the use of Community Development  
 12 Block Grants, so that means that we want to be much more  
 13 strategically focused on the deployment of those funds so  
 14 that we can be transformational within communities.  
 15 MR. LEWIS: And has the Planning Department  
 16 already designated, I know that our councilwoman has  
 17 \$60,000 to spend in designated areas for sidewalks if  
 18 that area has a certain percentage of low-income people,  
 19 but if we are looking at the rest of the planning budget,  
 20 has the Planning Department already decided that within  
 21 this side of the City that they have priorities that we  
 22 should be aware of before we start having this  
 23 conversation?  
 24 MR. HULL: No, I mean, nothing is set in  
 25 stone. We have a fairly close relationship with the city

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1 council, with President Aponte and Chairwoman Matos, to  
 2 think about how we are incorporating council priorities  
 3 with mayoral priorities with development plans from the  
 4 Department of Planning and Development to figure out how  
 5 best to allocate funds in particular areas of the City,  
 6 but nothing has been, you know, we don't have something  
 7 preordained from five years ago that we are going to be  
 8 using this money, um --  
 9 MR. LEWIS: And the new mayor doesn't have  
 10 that?  
 11 MR. HULL: The mayor has articulated a  
 12 vision of cleaning up 500 abandoned properties throughout  
 13 the City. That's where, that falls squarely on Community  
 14 Development Block Grant, the Division of Community  
 15 Development, as well as the law department and the PRA.  
 16 There is other things as well that the mayor has  
 17 articulated priority. Sports and recreation, mayoral  
 18 priority, parks, mayoral priority, ingratiating arts in  
 19 everything the City does, a mayoral priority. So there  
 20 are priorities, but ultimately the council is responsible  
 21 for passing the final Community Development Block Grant  
 22 budget.  
 23 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: I would just like to  
 24 say, just to clarify, you made a point about \$60,000.  
 25 Each council member has, in 2015, about 58, a little over

1 \$58,000 in a CDBG allocation. Some council people have  
 2 dollars left over from last year. My funds have been  
 3 committed already on, that were residual funds to -- are  
 4 you going to talk about those allocations at this point?  
 5 Did you plan on -- no? Is it in your presentation?  
 6 MR. HULL: It's not in my presentation, no.  
 7 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Just to answer your  
 8 question, so we have got a commitment fund in the Fifth  
 9 Ward for the Mt. Pleasant field. There is about \$100,000  
 10 going into the Mt. Pleasant field, which actually hit  
 11 square, I was really excited to see all of those dots,  
 12 that's a mayoral priority. It's a city council priority.  
 13 It's a neighborhood priority. So one of the first things  
 14 I did when I was confirmed as a councilwoman is I met  
 15 with Brian, and we affirmed that that commitment is  
 16 standing and that is moving, the project is moving  
 17 forward. We are excited. We'll likely start to see some  
 18 work done on those fields, critically needed fields, up  
 19 at Mt. Pleasant for our children this spring and summer.  
 20 In addition to that, there are other dollars, about  
 21 \$75,000 that we can use for infrastructure, sports and  
 22 recreation, or other things that really haven't been  
 23 completely defined as of yet. So I have that bucket of  
 24 funds and another \$58,000. That's why we are meeting  
 25 today. I need your input, because this is your

1 MR. HULL: Chess clubs, exactly, things like  
 2 that.  
 3 MS. BUTLER: I think that's something that  
 4 we should be doing.  
 5 MR. HULL: I think it's great, yes.  
 6 MS. BUTLER: I love sports, don't get me  
 7 wrong. I would love to see Fagnoli Park really with a  
 8 beautiful sprinkler system, things like that, but I know  
 9 how important an after-school program is, too. I just  
 10 think a chess club, a reading club, I think that's so  
 11 important to kids who don't care about sports, you know,  
 12 and I just think that that would be a very good idea if  
 13 we put our effort into that.  
 14 MR. HULL: And again, given that, the mayor  
 15 also is thinking really closely about the arts --  
 16 MS. BUTLER: Yes.  
 17 MR. HULL: -- after-school programs with the  
 18 arts as well. There is organizations like City Arts that  
 19 are recipients of Community Development Block Grants as  
 20 well.  
 21 MS. BUTLER: That's a very good idea.  
 22 MR. HULL: Absolutely. Yes, sir.  
 23 MR. BATASTINI: My name is Armand Batastini.  
 24 I live at 192 Eaton Street in Providence. My question  
 25 is, a couple of questions, some of these programs, are

1 community, and we want to use it to do good for our  
 2 community. It's precious funds. So by all means do not  
 3 feel that the monies have been already dedicated. This  
 4 is our neighborhood. These are our funds, so we need  
 5 your voice to tell us how you want to use it.  
 6 MR. HULL: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, so this  
 7 is why I was trying to, you know, in my mind let's  
 8 articulate your vision for what you would like to see in  
 9 your neighborhood, and then we can match up that vision  
 10 with the CDBG funds when appropriate, where appropriate.  
 11 In the back, yes.  
 12 MS. BUTLER: My name is Barbara Butler. I  
 13 live at 38 Nelson Street in Providence. You mentioned  
 14 that the, and I know the mayor is committed to  
 15 after-school programs at the school. Could you tell me  
 16 what kinds of programs?  
 17 MR. HULL: So he articulated a vision during  
 18 the campaign and after the campaign of full-service  
 19 community schools. Now, this is having the schools open  
 20 after the school day for the communities to use as  
 21 community centers, as, you know, parents can go in there  
 22 to do workforce training while their children are there  
 23 getting tutored and doing their homework.  
 24 MS. BUTLER: Like chess clubs, doing your  
 25 homework, or things like that.

1 they restricted by census track of where you live, and  
 2 are there any financial restrictions?  
 3 MR. HULL: So, yeah, there is two different  
 4 ways to qualify an activity so that it meets a national  
 5 objective. The national objective is the benefit to  
 6 low-to-moderate-income individuals, so if the primary  
 7 beneficiaries of these types of activities are  
 8 individuals that make 80 percent or below the area median  
 9 income.  
 10 MR. BATASTINI: There isn't an income  
 11 criteria.  
 12 MR. HULL: That would be the income  
 13 criteria, correct.  
 14 MR. BATASTINI: What about geographically  
 15 speaking?  
 16 MR. HULL: Yes, same.  
 17 MR. BATASTINI: Same thing. In other words,  
 18 I live at 192 Eaton Street, I could get the grant.  
 19 Barbara lives on Nelson Street, she can't, because she  
 20 lives on Nelson Street, is that the case?  
 21 MR. HULL: I wouldn't say that you're  
 22 getting the grant. What I would say is --  
 23 MR. BATASTINI: I would be eligible. She  
 24 would be ineligible by way of where she lives.  
 25 MR. HULL: It's not necessarily where she

1 lives, it's her income.  
 2 MR. BATASTINI: I'm asking you. Where you  
 3 live, is that a criteria, one of the criteria for getting  
 4 a grant, for instance, weatherization?  
 5 MR. HULL: No, it would be income. If it's  
 6 an individual who's the beneficiary.  
 7 MR. BATASTINI: So it doesn't make any  
 8 difference where you live, it's all based on income,  
 9 that's what you're telling me. It's not based where you  
 10 live.  
 11 MR. HULL: If the beneficiary is an  
 12 individual person, it does not matter where you live. It  
 13 would be based on your income.  
 14 MR. LEWIS: But sidewalks, for example, are  
 15 in certain areas.  
 16 MR. BATASTINI: I don't believe that.  
 17 MR. LEWIS: Armand, sidewalks, for example,  
 18 are in certain areas, correct?  
 19 MR. HULL: Absolutely.  
 20 MR. LEWIS: So what you're saying is  
 21 correct, Armand, for some things, like sidewalks and  
 22 infrastructure, it has to be in a particular census zone.  
 23 MR. BATASTINI: A census track. If you're  
 24 not in that census track, you're not eligible.  
 25 MR. LEWIS: Not eligible for certain things,

1 then we went into the faculty lounge, and I had one, I  
 2 did six schools, six troops at a time, so I knew each  
 3 school and how different ones, depending on how the  
 4 janitor felt about us being there after school made a  
 5 difference on how, they're either pushing us out the door  
 6 or they helped us, or, whatever, so it depended on the  
 7 support of that. So I didn't know if that has changed  
 8 since my kids were in there. Are you more friendly with  
 9 trying to bring community service into an after-school  
 10 program?  
 11 MR. HULL: Yes, so that is, that issue needs  
 12 to still be worked out. The mayor is taking a leadership  
 13 role with the school department to work out that issue.  
 14 Everything has not been resolved. We are managing that  
 15 process. That's the direction we are moving in. Our  
 16 hope is to be able to provide programs and opportunities  
 17 for programs in schools after the school day has ended.  
 18 We still need to work out what the financing is for the  
 19 janitor, for security, if it's necessary, things like  
 20 that. So, we are, you know, we are actively in  
 21 conversations internally to crack that nut. It's a nut  
 22 that's hard to crack, but we are working on it. I don't  
 23 think anything is impossible. Yes.  
 24 MS. BARRY: Hi, I'm Neville Barry, 22  
 25 Whitford Avenue. I don't know if the grants go into this

1 but weatherization is based on household.  
 2 MR. HULL: It would be based on household  
 3 income, correct. Again, if I could just ask. Let's talk  
 4 about what your priority concerns are in the area. Let's  
 5 not get super hung up on eligibility criteria. I feel  
 6 like, you know, I can talk about this all night about  
 7 eligibility criteria and that would be an incredibly  
 8 enjoyable conversation for me.  
 9 MR. BATASTINI: Over five million dollars  
 10 you said we had. How much of that went to our area?  
 11 MR. HULL: I actually don't know. I don't  
 12 know. I don't have that figure.  
 13 MS. VIAY: Susan Viav, I live where Newport  
 14 Creamery is, not really Ward 5, Smith Hill.  
 15 MR. HULL: Yes.  
 16 MS. VIAY: But just until the rezone I was  
 17 part of the Ward 5, and one of the problems that I had at  
 18 the time, I have been a Girl Scout leader, I have been  
 19 different things, when you talk about the after-school  
 20 program, the problem we had, because you have to pay a  
 21 janitor to keep the doors open, and we didn't have monies  
 22 to do a Girl Scout troop to do that. Has that changed  
 23 now where you have to be able to provide monies to use  
 24 the facility to use a school classroom or whatever? The  
 25 teachers weren't happy with us using the classrooms, and

1 concept of climate issue. I saw the word flooding up on  
 2 your presentation, so I'm just wondering do these grants,  
 3 which I know nothing about, because it's my first  
 4 meeting, so I'm sorry, do they come through the Federal  
 5 Government possibly through climate issues where we can  
 6 get roads paved and sidewalks done? We are at sea level.  
 7 So I'm wondering if there's money being allocated to  
 8 improving the infrastructure not just by fixing a pothole  
 9 but looking at the fact that we are, you know, very near  
 10 the water.  
 11 MR. HULL: Historically, no, but what's  
 12 interesting is the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
 13 Development is now, it is not a requirement yet, but  
 14 there is a consultation process to get cities and towns  
 15 that are recipients of this federal money to think about  
 16 sustainability and response to climate change issues. So  
 17 we have a leg up inasmuch as we have the Office of  
 18 Sustainability in the City of Providence. The  
 19 sustainability office has been thinking more about  
 20 environmental sustainability, not from the perspective of  
 21 climate change, but we are going to be having a new  
 22 sustainability director, and as part of the conversations  
 23 from the Division of Community Development regarding  
 24 sustainability issues, I'm going to be driving the  
 25 climate change response. When we are thinking about

1 infrastructure improvements, how can we think about those  
 2 improvements through the lens of climate change, and  
 3 having a responsive infrastructure to those types of  
 4 challenges. It's something that is on my mind. It's  
 5 something that will eventually be a criteria from the  
 6 Federal Government. They're not there yet, but they're  
 7 letting us know they're getting there.  
 8 MS. BARRY: Under that concept is there  
 9 going to be a discussion of energy efficiency? I grew up  
 10 in the Midwest. So I have never seen poles holding  
 11 electrical lines, because everything is a little newer  
 12 out there and went underground. When I drove out here, I  
 13 was, like, look at all these poles. What happens if a  
 14 branch lands on that? Has there been any concept when  
 15 you build a park do you put in LED lightbulbs? Are you  
 16 looking at putting in turf instead of grass? Are the  
 17 concepts of that going around when you're looking at  
 18 making parks and infrastructure better? Are you looking  
 19 at energy efficiency concepts, or is that under the  
 20 Office of Sustainability, and how long has that office  
 21 been around for?  
 22 MR. HULL: I want to say about three or four  
 23 years.  
 24 MS. BARRY: And what's its budget?  
 25 MR. HULL: I'm not aware of its budget, no.

1 types of initiatives are more grant funded from the  
 2 Department of Energy, than it would be for, through  
 3 Community Development Block Grant.  
 4 MS. BARRY: Okay. Thank you.  
 5 SPEAKER JENNIFER: I'm Jennifer. I live at  
 6 49 Ardmore. I was kind of following on some of what she  
 7 was saying and thinking about as you're looking at  
 8 sidewalks and doing that, if ya'll are thinking about  
 9 having more permeability and sort of micro green spaces,  
 10 and having that as part of the reimagining sidewalks and  
 11 that kind of space.  
 12 MR. HULL: Yes, we are. We have  
 13 tree-planting programs through the Forestry Department  
 14 that are often funded with CDBG money. As we do sidewalk  
 15 replacement, we think about whether or not, you know, I  
 16 mean, the marginal cost to do a sidewalk replacement, or  
 17 a sidewalk replacement with a tree is fairly minor, so we  
 18 think about how we can allocate just that margin of  
 19 difference in CDBG money as well just to make sure that  
 20 it's not one solid impermeable surface of cement.  
 21 SPEAKER JENNIFER: I hope you're going to  
 22 have more than just a tree, places that will absorb and  
 23 hold the water.  
 24 MR. HULL: Yes, we are thinking about that.  
 25 This is a larger --

1 MS. BARRY: Okay.  
 2 MR. HULL: So regarding energy efficiency,  
 3 an eligible activity is residential energy efficiency  
 4 through the Community Development Block Grant. Larger  
 5 scale energy efficiency projects are more through the  
 6 Department of Energy than through the Community  
 7 Development Block Grant. I do know that there are, there  
 8 is a desire for the City to purchase all of the lampposts  
 9 and replace them with LED lights to think about, you know  
 10 being more energy conscious, energy efficient. We have a  
 11 fairly robust recycling program.  
 12 MS. BARRY: Right. That was going to be my  
 13 next question.  
 14 MR. HULL: As a city, we are thinking fairly  
 15 carefully about being a more green city, thinking about  
 16 how we can identify strategies and funding opportunities  
 17 to allow us to do that, in whatever way that the  
 18 Community Development Block Grant can be brought to bear  
 19 in response to that. I feel like that's a conversation  
 20 that is worth having. The allocation that we get every  
 21 year is modest. So I think a lot of these larger-scale  
 22 projects are significantly above the allocation that we  
 23 would get even in a single year. So there is a trade-off  
 24 to everything. So I feel like in my mind, and maybe I'm  
 25 naive thinking this, but in my mind it feels like those

1 MR. MCKENDALL: When we are talking about  
 2 green space on the sidewalks, every sidewalk is mandated  
 3 to have a grass strip now, where before it wasn't, and  
 4 people would have to say that they don't want a grass  
 5 strip there, but it is mandated that there is a grass  
 6 strip now on every sidewalk. Some people opt out or try  
 7 to opt out, and their sidewalk will be all cement, but  
 8 there is an improvement from before when you see they  
 9 were eliminating grass on sidewalks for many years. So  
 10 that's been changed in the past few years.  
 11 MR. HULL: And correct me if I'm wrong, I  
 12 think with the rezoning ordinance that just past in  
 13 November that was, I think that was one of the changes  
 14 was more green space.  
 15 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Yes, it was.  
 16 MR. MCKENDALL: It would have to be 70/30 or  
 17 80/20, 70 percent concrete with a grass strip. Where  
 18 before it would be 50/50. You notice the old-time  
 19 sidewalks have more, but now they're trying to, some old  
 20 people just don't have the means to cut the grass. They  
 21 would ask for it not to be there, and vice versa.  
 22 MR. LEWIS: We are very fortunate to have  
 23 Chalkstone Avenue and to have a very vibrant commercial  
 24 district, but there doesn't seem to be any type of  
 25 continuity. It's difficult to park. It's difficult to

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1 walk. The storefronts have no continuity at all. That's  
 2 in several different wards, and it sounds like, from what  
 3 we were hearing is that there is a finite amount of money  
 4 for Community Development Block Grant monies to be  
 5 appropriated for certain projects. That is a very  
 6 healthy economic driver in our neighborhood. It's a  
 7 really good commercial district, but how do you, how  
 8 would Planning and Development designate that as an area  
 9 that's eligible for funds and what type of funds would be  
 10 available to try to create better parking, better  
 11 lighting, better accessibility.  
 12 MR. HULL: The one unfortunate reality about  
 13 Chalkstone is, if I remember the census map, actually no,  
 14 I think Chalkstone is eligible.  
 15 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Some pieces.  
 16 MR. HULL: Some parts, yeah. So there are  
 17 certain stretches of Chalkstone that are eligible for  
 18 Community Development Block Grant. So within that we  
 19 could do facade improvement programs. We can do the  
 20 streetlighting. We can do signage. We can do things  
 21 that would enhance the vibrancy of that area. As far as,  
 22 you know, it being within a network of or within a list  
 23 of priorities from the Department of Planning and  
 24 Development that would be something that would be a  
 25 long-term conversation internally based on the priority

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1 that the Department of Planning has regarding commercial  
 2 districts and regarding how, what would rank first,  
 3 second, third on that list. I know there is a fair  
 4 amount of discretion by the council on the allocation of  
 5 Community Development Block Grant funds for particular  
 6 types of projects. So if Councilwoman Ryan was, let's  
 7 work together. Let's try to identify some opportunities  
 8 on Chalkstone to really think about that, if that's a  
 9 major priority of the area.  
 10 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Brian, just to be clear,  
 11 all of Chalkstone is except for the side of the street  
 12 near Triggs, and then a section of Chalkstone where  
 13 basically, like, Academy Market is.  
 14 MR. HULL: Really, that?  
 15 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: Yeah, that section oddly  
 16 enough is not, but the rest of Chalkstone is. So that's  
 17 a good chunk. And Emily and/or Margit, are there, have  
 18 there been conversations, like, I know one of you may  
 19 have been much more familiar with the neighborhood plan  
 20 in the area. Have there been previous conversations  
 21 about what to do with Chalkstone?  
 22 MS. KISH: Yeah, so with the rezoning  
 23 effort, we took all of the recommendations for the,  
 24 rezoning parts of Chalkstone to lesser commercial  
 25 districts and increasing commercial districts, and we

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1 incorporated that into the rezoning process. So all of  
 2 those recommendations are reflected in the rezoning map.  
 3 So the feedback that we got from the neighborhood plan in  
 4 2009, or what have you, has been reflected in the  
 5 rezoning process. We also strengthened the commercial  
 6 district regulations to include some more design  
 7 regulations, so that people can't sort of --  
 8 MS. LIANDER: Strengthen, what you were  
 9 saying, the continuity.  
 10 MS. KISH: So people can't go and in and do  
 11 what they want. There is some sort of continuity to  
 12 establish a consistent streetfront. So that was a  
 13 combination of taking the overlaid commercial district  
 14 and incorporating them into the base commercial district,  
 15 so we do have some more design standards.  
 16 MS. LIANDER: Chalkstone also was one of the  
 17 five corridors that the Planning and Development  
 18 Department did a study in 2012, the HUD sustainable  
 19 communities grant. So we looked at five corridors,  
 20 Chalkstone, Elmwood, Broad, North Main, and Manton, and  
 21 those studies really looked at incorporating rapid bus  
 22 along all five of those corridors, which we currently  
 23 have on North Main and Broad, and they're looking to  
 24 expand all five of the corridors, and we also just looked  
 25 at what you were saying, creating more continuity along

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1 the corridor, looking at enhancing the streetscape and  
 2 reducing hubs, too.  
 3 MS. KISH: And identified hubs along each of  
 4 the corridors where there could be development to support  
 5 that rapid transit investment when it comes along, so  
 6 mixed uses which would decrease parking demands, you can  
 7 have sort of a park-like environment and walk to more  
 8 places.  
 9 MS. LIANDER: Those reports are completed,  
 10 but we are still looking for funding to implement them.  
 11 MS. LEWIS: Is Community Development Block  
 12 Grant monies used for those plans? You say you're  
 13 looking for more funding?  
 14 MS. KISH: So the funding to install rapid  
 15 bus and to pay for those kinds of initiatives are a  
 16 little bit larger than a CDBG fund might allow. If I'm  
 17 speaking out of turn, let me know.  
 18 MR. HULL: I agree.  
 19 MS. KISH: CDBG would be sort of an  
 20 incremental change. This would be more like an FTA grant  
 21 that might come in from the Transit Administration which  
 22 would be to implement the first R-Line, because it's  
 23 laying out infrastructure of buying actual busses, that  
 24 sort of thing. Now the CDBG funds could be used to  
 25 enhance the streetscape either before or after the bus



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1 goes in, buying additional streetlights, and doing some  
 2 greening along the corridor, that sort of thing, but in  
 3 terms of that transit investment that would have to come  
 4 from a larger source of a funding.  
 5 MS. BUTLER: They're not still looking into  
 6 the trollies, are they, for transit?  
 7 MS. KISH: The streetcars, yeah.  
 8 MS. BUTLER: They are?  
 9 MS. KISH: Mm-hmm, but we have a federal  
 10 grant for that.  
 11 MR. HULL: Not a fan of streetcars.  
 12 MS. KISH: That's all right. Not everybody  
 13 has to be.  
 14 MR. HULL: To my knowledge a streetcar will  
 15 not be going down Chalkstone Avenue.  
 16 MS. BUTLER: I'm glad they look to me for  
 17 something. Just in the city?  
 18 MS. KISH: It won't be taken away from CDBG  
 19 funding.  
 20 MS. BUTLER: I was wondering about, talking  
 21 about transportation, if they were still interested in  
 22 putting trollies in the city, because I think that's a  
 23 terrible idea and waste of money.  
 24 MR. HULL: In the back.  
 25 MR. JAMES: Hi, Brian James. I live on

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1 Smith Street. One thing I'm wondering is we have the  
 2 light, the lights on Smith Street occasionally go out,  
 3 call Jo-Ann, she gets them put back on. How does the  
 4 CDBG funding interact with lights on roads like Route 44,  
 5 which is Smith Street?  
 6 MR. HULL: So probably not a good fit for  
 7 that. There is a, I mean, that's more like the DPW  
 8 budget, fixing the streetlights.  
 9 MR. JAMES: So something on Smith Street  
 10 would go through DPW.  
 11 MR. HULL: Yes.  
 12 MR. JAMES: Thank you.  
 13 MR. HULL: For replacing streetlights that's  
 14 more DPW or traffic engineering, not Community  
 15 Development Block Grant.  
 16 MR. MONYE: I have a question, and I  
 17 apologize if -- my name is Byron, 52 Forbes. I'm new at  
 18 these meetings, so I really don't know how it works.  
 19 MR. HULL: Welcome.  
 20 MR. MONYE: But we are talking about the  
 21 many things that we could do. I want to know how it  
 22 could actually get done. For example, I was talking  
 23 about the sports and recreation, I can think of the Mt.  
 24 Pleasant Library, for example, that's falling apart and  
 25 needs renovation, and how do we choose those projects,

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1 and how do we get it done? What's the process?  
 2 MR. HULL: I think that's great. So this is  
 3 part of that process. If I have come to learn anything  
 4 about my, you know, from my experience working in  
 5 government, things move slowly, and I apologize for that.  
 6 There is always so much more demand than there are  
 7 resources for us to deploy. So when we think about not  
 8 just Community Development Block Grants, but the entire  
 9 city budget on an annual basis, there is a set of  
 10 priorities, well, there is a set of requirements, then  
 11 there is priority, then there is all of this other stuff  
 12 that are, that are trade-offs. There are opportunity  
 13 costs for every decision that we make, so we have to  
 14 navigate that. We have to be sensitive to what some of  
 15 those trade-offs are. Community Development Block Grants  
 16 have funded library improvements at Candace Street, so I  
 17 want to say that is a \$150,000 library improvement grant.  
 18 So we can use Community Development Block Grants. I  
 19 don't know if the Mt. Pleasant branch library is in a  
 20 CDBG eligible area. That would be something that would  
 21 be a, would be a low-to-moderate-income area for that  
 22 activity, for that improvement to be eligible, but that  
 23 doesn't necessarily mean that if it's not CDBG, there can  
 24 be other money used to do library improvements. This  
 25 process is collecting that information. We are thinking

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1 about the priorities that you have times 178,000 people  
 2 that live in the City of Providence. Now, we are not  
 3 going to hear from all 178,000 people, but we hear from  
 4 quite a few people. So as we aggregate all of those  
 5 community concerns, those community needs, those ideas,  
 6 things percolate to the top, and because we have a  
 7 limited pool of money, we have to really focus on what  
 8 percolates to the top. If that's, you know, if that's  
 9 not the Mt. Pleasant branch library repair, you know,  
 10 like, is there another, I know the City supports the  
 11 library in different ways through the city budget as  
 12 well. There is more than just one way to improve the  
 13 library.  
 14 MR. MONYE: In other words, I call my  
 15 friend, Jo-Ann Ryan, and get the issue up there.  
 16 MR. HULL: As a constituent of Councilwoman  
 17 Ryan, I would advocate for you to articulate your  
 18 concerns to your councilwoman.  
 19 MR. MONYE: Okay.  
 20 MR. HULL: Jean.  
 21 MS. LAMB: Jean Lamb, Smith Hill Community  
 22 Development Corporation. Brian, I know that you talk  
 23 about the allocations to the wards, but maybe if, for the  
 24 constituents, you explain how the funds, and who can  
 25 apply for them, so they know beyond going to their

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1 councilperson that maybe if they get involved with the  
 2 board or a local CDC that there is always other ways to  
 3 bring issues and ways to address things, because it's, I  
 4 believe, not-for-profits and certain companies that can  
 5 apply for the funds.  
 6 MR. HULL: Correct. So, the process, we  
 7 have a fairly -- let me just back up. So our process is  
 8 one which requires an application to the city for  
 9 Community Development Block Grants. We allow  
 10 organizations that are designated as nonprofit  
 11 organizations, 501(c)3s to apply for a Community  
 12 Development Block Grant. Just as a point of reference,  
 13 last year we had 4.9 million dollars in, thereabouts, in  
 14 Community Development Block Grants. We received 9.8  
 15 million dollars in requests for Community Development  
 16 Block Grants. We received 103 applications for Community  
 17 Development Block Grant funding. So it's a competitive  
 18 process. Organizations apply. We develop a budget  
 19 internally at the Division of Community Development. We  
 20 work with the administration to further develop that  
 21 budget, and then we introduce it to the city council. We  
 22 work in partnership with the city council to develop that  
 23 budget so that we can articulate everyone's priority  
 24 within that budget. The council has its own set of  
 25 priorities, so they may reallocate some of those budget

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1 lines in the council process, and then the council is the  
 2 ultimate arbiter of passing the budget. Whatever passes  
 3 is what we do. Smith Hill CDC is an example of an  
 4 organization. I would recommend everyone, if you're  
 5 interested in being a part of organizations, or being on  
 6 the board of organizations that are registered nonprofits  
 7 to be part of that and then apply, request that they  
 8 apply for Community Development Block Grant funding.  
 9 MR. LEWIS: Does Ward 5 have CDCs?  
 10 MR. HULL: No.  
 11 MR. LEWIS: There are no CDCs to act as  
 12 clearinghouses or advocates for --  
 13 MR. HULL: I think the closest would be  
 14 Smith Hill CDC.  
 15 MS. LAMB: Smith Hill CDC, and we have a  
 16 wonderful relationship, and we're having discussions, so,  
 17 yes.  
 18 MR. HULL: So let's move Smith Hill CDC to  
 19 the west. Let's do that.  
 20 MS. LAMB: And to address this gentleman's  
 21 concern about applying for lead funding. It would be  
 22 something that we would get the program money, and then  
 23 the application, I believe, I don't believe they go  
 24 directly to the City. They would go to a nonprofit.  
 25 MR. HULL: They can go to the city, too.

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1 MS. LAMB: They can go to the city as well,  
 2 but sometimes the organizations would also get the funds,  
 3 and distribute down to the homeowners.  
 4 MR. HULL: Depending on the program.  
 5 MS. LAMB: Depending on the program.  
 6 MR. HULL: We do a lot of stuff. We want to  
 7 make it as easy as possible to improve people's lives.  
 8 MS. RIOJAS: Hi. Sandy Riojas. I'm over  
 9 here on Longwood. Can you give us an example of how some  
 10 of the CD funds have been used in ward, here in this  
 11 ward, just some examples?  
 12 MR. HULL: The perfect example is the Mt.  
 13 Pleasant field that's going to be improved.  
 14 MS. RIOJAS: I'm talking about previous, I  
 15 mean.  
 16 MR. HULL: So Pleasant Valley Parkway used  
 17 CDBG money. There was sidewalk repairs throughout Ward 5  
 18 that used CDBG money. There were tree-planting programs  
 19 along Academy Avenue that used CDBG money. So these are  
 20 the types of activities that, historically, have occurred  
 21 in the ward using CDBG money.  
 22 MS. RIOJAS: So there's been tree planting,  
 23 sidewalks.  
 24 MR. HULL: Sidewalks.  
 25 MS. RIOJAS: What was the other one you

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1 mentioned?  
 2 MR. HULL: The Pleasant Valley Parkway.  
 3 MS. RIOJAS: The Parkway.  
 4 MR. HULL: In the back, and then we'll do  
 5 you.  
 6 MS. BUTLER: Was CDC money used for the  
 7 rotary at Pleasant Valley Parkway?  
 8 MR. HULL: CDC?  
 9 MS. KISH: CDBG.  
 10 MS. BUTLER: I'm sorry.  
 11 MS. KISH: That's fine, too many acronyms.  
 12 MR. HULL: I don't believe so.  
 13 MS. BUTLER: It wasn't community  
 14 development?  
 15 MR. HULL: I'm assuming that was money from  
 16 the Department of Public Works.  
 17 MR. BUTLER: Could you tell us how much that  
 18 cost?  
 19 MR. HULL: Off the top of my head, I do not  
 20 know. I can find that answer.  
 21 MR. BUTLER: I would appreciate it.  
 22 MR. HULL: Absolutely. Margit, could you  
 23 make sure you just write that down.  
 24 MS. BARRY: I'm Neville Barry, again, 22  
 25 Whitford. I see on there the concept of education, and

1 since property values are tied to our public schools, our  
 2 zip code is important, and we can't afford to send  
 3 everyone to LaSalle, how is it that the funding grant  
 4 that you get are improving the education, not just  
 5 after-school programs? I love those, but are they going  
 6 into the public schools during the regular day school  
 7 hours, or are they just doing extracurricular activity?  
 8 MR. HULL: Community Development Block  
 9 Grants, cannot be used for general government operating  
 10 expenses. So we can't supplement the Providence Public  
 11 School Department budget with CDBG block grant, so we  
 12 don't do that. The public school system uses, has a  
 13 budget allocation for program delivery in the schools.  
 14 We can fund after-school programs. We can fund school  
 15 improvements. We can fund improvements to the ball  
 16 fields, and things like that. We cannot fund --  
 17 MS. BARRY: Do you do tutoring, tutoring  
 18 programs, after-school programs?  
 19 MR. HULL: Tutoring can be an after-school  
 20 program depending on who's doing it.  
 21 MS. BARRY: And just one more question.  
 22 Thank you. How many of our students, how many students  
 23 are in the City of Providence, or this is in Ward 5, and  
 24 how many of them are in free or reduced lunches?  
 25 MR. HULL: I will have to get back to you on

1 the present time. So there is Providence After-School  
 2 Alliance. There is STEM, and I can't think of the other  
 3 two, but I know two of them, two of the other ones are  
 4 related to music. They teach them instruments after  
 5 school. And there are two different agencies that are  
 6 getting funded. I don't know them off the top of my  
 7 head. I know last year's cycle we ended up funding four  
 8 or five after-school programs in the City including, not  
 9 totally, but we gave PASA some money, which is Providence  
 10 After-School Alliance, STEM and at least two other  
 11 programs.  
 12 MR. HULL: Just a couple of more minutes,  
 13 and then we'll wrap up. What I would like to do is just,  
 14 I want to hear high level, like, what do you think you  
 15 want to see in your neighborhood. Do you want to see  
 16 more parks? Do you want to see more after-school  
 17 programs? Do you want to see more senior services? Do  
 18 you want to see more, you know, what that is.  
 19 MS. BARRY: All of it.  
 20 MR. HULL: You want more of everything in  
 21 the neighborhood.  
 22 MR. ELLEATT: We want our blue dots.  
 23 MR. HULL: Blue dots, okay. I think what  
 24 we're going to do is I'm going to have, we're just going  
 25 to do a real quick wrap-up, and we'll have either Emily

1 that.  
 2 MS. BARRY: That's fine.  
 3 MS. KISH: I think Healthy Communities  
 4 probably has that information.  
 5 MS. BARRY: Would it just be online?  
 6 MS. KISH: It might be. If not, you can  
 7 e-mail them, and they keep pretty good track of that  
 8 information. If you have trouble getting it from the  
 9 school department, they could probably help you.  
 10 MR. HULL: Ron.  
 11 MR. DiORIO: Ron DiOrio, Community  
 12 Development. This topic about after-school activities  
 13 has come up a few times. Let me give you a couple of  
 14 examples of what's going on. We are funding some  
 15 activities. We fund PASA, which is Providence  
 16 After-School Alliance. We give them some money. We fund  
 17 three or four different agencies. One is called STEM,  
 18 which is Science, Technology, Engineering and  
 19 Mathematics. So we fund, as Brian has indicated to you  
 20 earlier, we can fund applicants who come to us with a  
 21 proposal, and our proposal time is actually open right  
 22 now, so we just took in, in pre-applications, we just  
 23 took in about 70 or 80 pre-applications. We anticipate  
 24 we'll match last year's number of 100 applications, but  
 25 we are funding three or four after-school activities at

1 or Margit do a real summary overview of what we just  
 2 heard. If we missed anything, let us know. Margit, take  
 3 it away.  
 4 MS. LIANDER: I heard you guys mention more  
 5 funding for youth development, extra curricular  
 6 activities, both in and out --  
 7 COUNCILWOMAN RYAN: I'm sorry. I can't hear  
 8 back here. Could you speak up a little bit?  
 9 MS. LIANDER: Sure, youth development, extra  
 10 curricular activities both in and out school, community  
 11 service being incorporated in after-school programs,  
 12 better coordination of public facilities for after-school  
 13 programs, funding for climate change and energy  
 14 efficiency initiatives, funding for more permeable  
 15 surfaces just in general, a lack of commercial corridor  
 16 continuity along Chalkstone and the rotary on Pleasant  
 17 Valley Parkway and potential questions about the funding  
 18 and cost of that program, and that's sort of the general  
 19 priority that I heard. We had a lot of questions.  
 20 MR. HULL: All right. Anything else?  
 21 MS. KISH: Surveys.  
 22 MR. HULL: So, let's just make sure that  
 23 everyone takes a few moments to fill out the survey.  
 24 MS. KISH: And you can drop them off at the  
 25 table up here.

1 MR. HULL: You can drop them off at the  
 2 table to either Emily or Margit.  
 3 This was a great conversation. What this  
 4 conversation does is help us understand what the priority  
 5 needs are throughout neighborhoods, and, you know, in  
 6 neighborhoods throughout the City. So this is one  
 7 conversation out of eight so far. Previously during the  
 8 transition, at the time Mayor-Elect Elorza was hosting  
 9 community conversations that were issue specific. That  
 10 yielded quite a bit of information as well.  
 11 If folks don't know, the mayor is having a community  
 12 conversation tomorrow at Silver Lake Community Center.  
 13 That's specific to city services, and education, so if  
 14 those two are hot on your agenda, I would very much  
 15 encourage you to go to that.  
 16 MS. BUTLER: What time is it?  
 17 MR. HULL: 6:00 to 8:00. So, what these  
 18 conversations help us do is to identify what the needs  
 19 are in the community, to help inform what is called a  
 20 consolidated plan.  
 21 A consolidated plan is a five-year guidance document  
 22 for the Division of Community Development to use for  
 23 Community Development Block Grant allocations. We get  
 24 this information from these community meetings that we  
 25 are having in March and April. We are going to put that

1 into a draft plan, and we are going to make that draft  
 2 plan available for everyone to review and offer comments.  
 3 So this website, you can get all of the information about  
 4 the consolidated plan process.  
 5 As we develop the draft plan, we are going to put it  
 6 online, and we are going to schedule a public hearing on  
 7 the draft plan as well. That's another opportunity to  
 8 make sure that your concerns and your priority issues are  
 9 contained within that draft plan. We hope to have the  
 10 draft plan completed in May, and if you are interested in  
 11 attending another community meeting like this, we have  
 12 two left. We have Monday the 6th at the DaVinci Center  
 13 and Thursday the 9th at Martin Luther King.  
 14 So thank you, all, very much for attending. We'll  
 15 be here for a little bit longer. Feel free to ask us any  
 16 questions.

17 (HEARING CLOSED AT 7:50 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 17th day of April 2015.

TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: March 30, 2015  
IN RE: Public Hearing  
HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of Planning and Development

Page 1

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7 DATE: April 6, 2015  
 8 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 9 PLACE: DaVinci Community Center  
 10 470 Charles Street  
 11 Providence, RI 02904  
 12 PRESENT:  
 13 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 14 Providence  
 15 Ron DiOrio, Department of Planning and Development/City  
 16 of Providence  
 17 Margit Liander, Planner  
 18 Emily Kish, Planner  
 19 Ani Haroian, Neighborhood Liaison for Planning and  
 20 Development  
 21  
 22 ALSO PRESENT:  
 23 Philip McKendall, Special Assistant to the City Council  
 24 Councilman Nicholas Narducci  
 25 Councilman David Salvatore

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1 we'll dig right in. So we are going to skip the  
 2 welcoming remarks, because they were already done. I  
 3 just want to talk real quickly about the program, what  
 4 Community Development Block Grant is and what it can be  
 5 used for. Then we are going to have summary. I'm just  
 6 going to go over a real quick summary of things that we  
 7 have heard previously at some of the other community  
 8 meetings that we have had in the area. That's going to  
 9 really frame a conversation about what some of the  
 10 priority needs are in the area. Before I begin, is there  
 11 anyone here that needs translation into Spanish? No?  
 12 Okay, great. That makes things a little bit quicker, and  
 13 then we are going to break out into a community  
 14 conversation and really have a broader discussion about  
 15 some of those priority needs, and we'll wrap it up and  
 16 have a conversation about what some of the next steps  
 17 are.  
 18 With that, what is Community Development Block  
 19 Grant? So, interestingly, we are an entitlement  
 20 community for the State, sorry, in the State for federal  
 21 Community Development Block Grants. So this is federal  
 22 money that comes in on a formula basis that is able to be  
 23 used for quite a few different things. So we can do,  
 24 some things that we can do are affordable housing  
 25 development and homeownership programs. We can do park

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1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 MR. HULL: Thank you, everyone. We are  
 3 going to get started, so feel free to take your food to  
 4 your seat. Grab a bottle of water if you need it. We're  
 5 going to begin in a couple of minutes.  
 6 I want to say thank you to everyone who came out  
 7 tonight. I want to thank Councilman Narducci and  
 8 Councilman Salvatore for being here as well. This is a  
 9 really important conversation, and you're probably  
 10 wondering why we are all gathered here tonight.  
 11 My name is Brian Hull. I'm the Director of  
 12 Community Development for the City of Providence. I'm  
 13 here with several other staff members interspersed  
 14 throughout the audience, lurking. Ron DiOrio is here.  
 15 He's Deputy Director. Paula Baron is our Senior  
 16 Compliance Officer. Sue Robbio is Director of Senior  
 17 Services for the City. We have Emily and Margit in the  
 18 back. They are our principal planners, our planners for  
 19 the City. We have Ani Haroian. She is the Neighborhood  
 20 Liaison for the Department of Planning and Development.  
 21 So the reason why we are here is to talk about some  
 22 of the community priorities, and specifically to frame  
 23 those priorities and conceptualize those properties based  
 24 on Community Development Block Grants. So, briefly, I'm  
 25 just going to go over the agenda real quickly, and then

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1 improvements, streets, sidewalks. We can do economic  
 2 development grants. We can do public services, job  
 3 training. We can do tree planting, health centers,  
 4 technical assistance to businesses, crime prevention  
 5 programs, energy efficient weatherization programs.  
 6 The amount of activities that are eligible for  
 7 Community Development Block Grants are fairly extensive.  
 8 I don't really want to get into the weeds of all of the  
 9 eligibility criteria. That would be a very, very boring  
 10 and painful conversation for everyone here. Just know  
 11 that there is a lot of things that we can do with  
 12 Community Development Block Grants, so I want to have the  
 13 conversation about what some of the community priorities  
 14 are, and in the back of my mind I will just see what fits  
 15 into the bucket of Community Development Block Grant.  
 16 Anything that doesn't, we'll take that information to  
 17 other departments in the City to make sure that they're  
 18 aware of the community needs as well.  
 19 In addition to the conversation that we are going to  
 20 have, there are three other ways to engage in this  
 21 discussion. One is the priority needs boards. Everyone  
 22 that came in got three little blue dots. Put those dots  
 23 on the board if you haven't already done so. It seems  
 24 like there are particular issues that came out strongly  
 25 already, so public safety, jobs, economic development,

Page 5

1 social services for adults and children, and something I  
 2 can't read, library. I think I know who did that, but,  
 3 yes, library services as well. So that's one way.  
 4 Another way is we have our neighborhood map up on  
 5 the wall. If there are particular areas of the  
 6 neighborhood that are critical concerns of yours, write  
 7 it on a little Post-it note and slap that up on the map,  
 8 obviously, in the area where the problem is. That's  
 9 another way for us to be informed about what some of the  
 10 community needs are that are really specific to the  
 11 geography.  
 12 Third is when everyone came in you got an agenda.  
 13 On the reverse side of that agenda is a survey. I would  
 14 appreciate it if everyone could fill out that survey, and  
 15 leave it with us on the way out. We collect that  
 16 information. We aggregate that information across all of  
 17 our community meetings to make sure that we have a clear  
 18 understanding of what some of the priority needs are  
 19 throughout the City. And then, obviously, our  
 20 conversation today is a fourth way to really participate.  
 21 When we have had community meetings here in the  
 22 past, we learned quite a few things from those community  
 23 meetings. I'm going to highlight some of those now.  
 24 This is just a form, a baseline understanding of what we  
 25 think we already know about the priorities of the

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1 neighborhood. If they're not correct, let's make sure  
 2 that we are aware of that as well.  
 3 So, first and foremost, parks and open space. Lots  
 4 of parks in the neighborhood, throughout the City,  
 5 actually, are in need of maintenance and upgrades. We  
 6 need safer environments and more lighting in parks, trash  
 7 cleanup, and in some cases additional programming in the  
 8 parks. Condition of and access to Canada Pond is a  
 9 concern. We need to work with DEM to improve the water  
 10 quality there. There is another concern about having an  
 11 enclosed dog park or dog run areas at Corliss and  
 12 Wanskuck. There is the feasibility of a water spray park  
 13 at Corliss, and then the potential location for community  
 14 gardens throughout the neighborhood.  
 15 Another issue that came to the fore was this concern  
 16 about commercial and economic development. So there is a  
 17 support for the Charles Street Business Association was a  
 18 primary concern, coordination of efforts to improve  
 19 storefronts and facades and, basically, streetscapes  
 20 along the commercial corridors, work with the Business  
 21 Association to install a gateway to the commercial  
 22 corridor along Hopkins Square and Branch Avenue, Charles  
 23 Street, Branch Avenue, mixed-use development commercial  
 24 mill building on Branch Avenue. I think that's where the  
 25 old World Gym used to be that became gym that is now

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1 vacant.  
 2 Housing was an issue of concern in this  
 3 neighborhood, many areas throughout the city, again, so  
 4 poorly maintained properties primarily due to absentee  
 5 landlords, neglect driving down property values. Better  
 6 enforcement of the building codes, especially, some  
 7 streets were highlighted here, and support the work of  
 8 North End Housing Development Corp and Smith Hill CDC and  
 9 some of the things that they're doing to develop  
 10 affordable housing and neighborhood improvements.  
 11 Another broad category is this topic of healthy  
 12 neighborhoods, more trees, landscaping, streetscraping,  
 13 lighting, enforcement of overgrown shrubbery, regular  
 14 storm drain cleaning and sweeping schedule. I know that  
 15 there was a conversation about the street sweeping  
 16 schedule previously. Litter is of concern throughout  
 17 most of the neighborhood, sorry, among some of the, most  
 18 of the neighborhood residents. We can address that  
 19 through cleanup days, and then trash, bulk trash, bulk  
 20 garbage along the Charles Street properties.  
 21 Another bucket of concerns is about accessibility,  
 22 mobility and infrastructure in the City. We need better  
 23 connections to Downtown along Douglas Avenue and Charles  
 24 Street and across major corridors like Branch Avenue and  
 25 Admiral Street and Hawkins Street.

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1 We need better crosswalk improvements, numerous  
 2 intersections throughout. Branch Avenue and Admiral  
 3 Street needs to be more pedestrian-friendly, better  
 4 traffic signal synchronization, and repave Branch Avenue,  
 5 Douglas, Charles, Branch, and Admiral.  
 6 And the final bucket is public safety concerns.  
 7 Obviously, these are still a concern based on priority  
 8 needs board. So speed limits on certain streets, enforce  
 9 parking and traffic restrictions. There is a concern  
 10 about safety in the public parks and open space. We need  
 11 to improve the lighting in parks, neighborhood crime  
 12 watches, and then there is a concern about the spas in  
 13 the community, which the new ordinances, thank you,  
 14 Councilman Salvatore, for his ordinance, that is  
 15 effectively putting an end to the spas in the City.  
 16 So that is what we heard. So I'm going to go over  
 17 some of the investments that we have made in the  
 18 community just to highlight some of the things that we  
 19 have been able to do both with Community Development  
 20 Block Grant money and with some affordable housing funds.  
 21 So in all of these red bubbles, this is not the best  
 22 chart, I agree, but all of the red bubbles, we can thank  
 23 Jean from Smith Hill CDC. Over the past three years it's  
 24 been about, I want to say, 12 or 13 million dollars in  
 25 investments in affordable housing in Smith Hill. Some of

1 the other activities, you know, we are in a facility, the  
 2 DaVinci Center receives Community Development Block  
 3 Grants. The libraries have received Community  
 4 Development Block Grants. Refocus has received Community  
 5 Development Block Grants. So we have made some  
 6 investments in this area. Those are just a few  
 7 highlights. The City is almost done with a 40 million  
 8 dollar road-paving project. This is more roads paved in  
 9 the City than has been for quite a number of years. You  
 10 see Charles, it's Charles, and that's, what street is  
 11 that, is that Academy, have been paved throughout, some  
 12 other streets in the neighborhood as well.  
 13 So I want to pause here and open it up for a  
 14 community discussion. When we think about the  
 15 conversation, I want to frame the conversation with these  
 16 four questions. One is, are we on the right track? I  
 17 just gave an overview of what we think we understand to  
 18 be the community needs. Are we right? That's number  
 19 one. Number two is what are we missing from those  
 20 community needs? I know there is other things out there  
 21 that are probably of concern, so let's have a  
 22 conversation about that. Primarily what should our  
 23 priorities be, because they are your priorities, and  
 24 fundamentally, what do you want to see in your  
 25 neighborhood? So I'm leaving this slide up here that

1 management company, depending on the size of the project.  
 2 MR. HULL: Great. So as an example of some  
 3 of the things that we can do with Community Development  
 4 Block Grant are these affordable housing developments.  
 5 Yes, in the back.  
 6 SPEAKER RAYMOND: This is a block grant with  
 7 a specific amount of money.  
 8 MR. HULL: Correct.  
 9 SPEAKER RAYMOND: How much money?  
 10 MR. HULL: It fluctuates, but, yes.  
 11 SPEAKER RAYMOND: What are we talking about  
 12 in dollars and cents?  
 13 MR. HULL: This year's allocation was just  
 14 under five million dollars that was received by the City  
 15 of Providence in a Community Development Block Grant.  
 16 SPEAKER RAYMOND: For the entire city?  
 17 MR. HULL: Correct. For the entire city.  
 18 SPEAKER RAYMOND: And it will be distributed  
 19 equally.  
 20 MR. HULL: No. It will be, so the way the  
 21 Community Development Block Grant process works is we put  
 22 out a solicitation for applications. Organizations apply  
 23 for these Community Development Block Grant funds. We  
 24 review the applications. We develop a budget, introduce  
 25 that budget and work with the council on that budget, and

1 lists a few of the activities that we can spend Community  
 2 Development Block Grant money on to help frame this  
 3 conversation.  
 4 So with that, I am going to pause. I'm going to ask  
 5 individuals that when they speak if you could speak  
 6 loudly as if you're talking to the furthest person in the  
 7 room. That would be helpful. Also, if you could say  
 8 your name and where you live. You don't have to give an  
 9 exact address, but some identifying neighborhood of where  
 10 you live, that would be also very helpful.  
 11 So I open it up. Anyone? It might be a short  
 12 meeting. Jean, why don't you begin?  
 13 MS. LAMB: Sure. I'm Jean Lamb, and I'm  
 14 from the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation,  
 15 and we have been working in the Smith Hill neighborhood  
 16 for 20 years, and there's been some recent investment in  
 17 housing in both the Wanskuck neighborhood, Councilman  
 18 Salvatore's neighborhood, and also Councilman Narducci's  
 19 ward. So we are embarking on doing additional housing  
 20 and community development in those neighborhoods. So  
 21 with the funding of both CDBG and home and consolidated,  
 22 there is your Opportunity Grants, which is home funds, we  
 23 are able to continue providing affordable housing for  
 24 residents who are low-to-moderate income. They are  
 25 property managed by either ourselves or our property

1 then at the end of the process whatever comes out of  
 2 that, the council process, is the budget for Community  
 3 Development Block Grant.  
 4 SPEAKER RAYMOND: Do the applications have a  
 5 ceiling?  
 6 MR. HULL: I guess the ceiling would be the  
 7 total allocation of Community Development Block Grant  
 8 funds.  
 9 SPEAKER RAYMOND: Okay.  
 10 MR. HULL: So we're here for a reason.  
 11 You're here, because you have issues and concerns about  
 12 your community. So, what are they? Leeann, what are  
 13 they?  
 14 SPEAKER LEEANN: I'm Leeann, and I work at  
 15 the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless. Many of our  
 16 providers are located in areas around Providence, and we  
 17 know that the way to actually address homelessness and  
 18 for the City and the State to save money on homelessness  
 19 we need to invest more in affordable housing and have  
 20 places to live for very, very low income people. So I  
 21 would like to see CDBG money to continue to be used for  
 22 affordable housing development, but in particular for  
 23 projects that are aimed at people with very low income,  
 24 30 percent, very median. This woman agrees.  
 25 MR. HULL: So is affordable housing a

1 primary concern of the folks in this room?  
 2 SPEAKER DENISE: My name is Denise, and I  
 3 work over at the Wanskuck Library on Veazie Street, and I  
 4 am completely in agreement with all of these folks with  
 5 regard to the need for, the interest in their needs.  
 6 Where I'm coming from with regards to the library is that  
 7 all of these people need to have a place to socialize, to  
 8 meet, to gain knowledge to programming, informational  
 9 programs, have access to computers. There aren't that  
 10 many community organizations in this community. We need  
 11 to really highlight the value of the public library,  
 12 because we really are the go-between, say, you know, from  
 13 elementary education, after school, the high school  
 14 students coming and perhaps doing community service with  
 15 us. We always make time to provide community service  
 16 opportunities, to validate their interests and personal  
 17 development. So we take care of everyone from birth, you  
 18 know, to cradle, to grave, you know, retirement programs,  
 19 adults looking for jobs. We help them with resumes,  
 20 people who can't type, can't use the computer programs,  
 21 don't know how to use a mouse still. They're out there.  
 22 MR. HULL: If you had \$100,000 in additional  
 23 money, what would you do?  
 24 SPEAKER DENISE: Well, besides the roof  
 25 that's leaking. That's big.

1 was the first of the Providence Public Library branches,  
 2 and it has not been kept up well over the years. When we  
 3 took over the library, it was in 2009. We took over a  
 4 building that was beginning to deteriorate, and we don't  
 5 have any money in the bank. We are a small start-up  
 6 library organization. We are a private entity with lots  
 7 of money, some money, coming from the City, not as much  
 8 as we would like to have, and we don't have enough to do  
 9 the kind of capital investments that are really needed on  
 10 that building.  
 11 SPEAKER DENISE: We don't even have an  
 12 elevator. You should see us carry the books up and down  
 13 the stairs. We need an elevator for handicapped persons  
 14 through ADA. That's a lot of money.  
 15 SPEAKER PATRICIA: More than a hundred  
 16 thousand dollars.  
 17 MR. HULL: Yes, Councilman.  
 18 COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI: Brian, if I may,  
 19 because I, unfortunately, not unfortunately, but I have  
 20 another place to be roughly around now to make a  
 21 presentation to the St. Anthony's Club. What I really  
 22 want to make sure we get out of this this year is, is  
 23 that, as we all know, with all the cuts to the Federal  
 24 Government there is our youth and our seniors are the  
 25 ones hurting the most, and it seems like they're being

1 COUNCILMAN SALVATORE: So is that a  
 2 guaranteed \$100,000?  
 3 MR. HULL: I'm just sparking a conversation.  
 4 SPEAKER DENISE: It is an historic building.  
 5 Tanisha, want to help?  
 6 SPEAKER TANISHA: So, I'm part of the  
 7 Friends of the Wanskuck Library, and when you said if  
 8 there was a hundred thousand dollars, besides getting  
 9 repairs done in the library, just to support what she was  
 10 saying about the needs, the assets of the library, I  
 11 think that library definitely needs a renovated community  
 12 room, somewhere where, a bigger space and updated space  
 13 where people can come and meet, and we can have more  
 14 programs and more activities for the kids in the  
 15 neighborhood.  
 16 MR. HULL: So more youth programs.  
 17 SPEAKER TANISHA: Youth programs, but a  
 18 renovation of the space to have those programs there.  
 19 SPEAKER DENISE: We would need a business  
 20 environment. We would need it to be fully functional as  
 21 far as a sound system, just a screen that would drop  
 22 down, better technology to have the meetings at, things  
 23 like that.  
 24 SPEAKER PATRICIA: Patricia, also from the  
 25 library. Our library was built in the late 1920s. It

1 forgotten about. When we were younger, me and Councilman  
 2 Salvatore, we would hang down at the Boys Club until  
 3 10:00 or eleven o'clock at night. Bernardi (phonetic)  
 4 would come around and throw us out. You got to go, guys,  
 5 10:30, eleven o'clock at night. Now, we have our boys  
 6 clubs that have no programming. They're shut down. They  
 7 got limited programming. Most of them right now started  
 8 from one of the daycares, which serve just daycare  
 9 children. Again, when you have a nine-year-old young man  
 10 get arrested down on Camden Avenue with a gun and drugs  
 11 and working for the older kids, it makes you wonder what  
 12 are we not doing to serve the youth in our city.  
 13 We have city buildings that have been shut down and  
 14 taken away from us, city buildings, and I know this is a  
 15 little bit -- but just to show some of the stuff that is  
 16 happening here, and the city rents buildings, but yet we  
 17 have our own buildings that are shut down.  
 18 We need to spend more on recreation. We need to  
 19 look into bringing back parks and recreation, not  
 20 recreation and parks, because I think what is happening  
 21 is, and some of the CDBG funds that are given, and it's  
 22 not being broken up properly when you have parks and  
 23 recreation as one entity. And me, most of you know who I  
 24 am, most of you know what I have done. I have been  
 25 coaching kids for 30 years now between little league and



1 football, and when you start having nowhere for these  
 2 kids to go, what do they do? They go out on the street.  
 3 They turn over to crime. So that's where I'd like to see  
 4 a lot more done. I think that's where we are not on the  
 5 right track with, and I think that's some of the stuff  
 6 that we are missing.  
 7 Our neighborhood, somebody had brought up about some  
 8 of the houses being trashed and garbage everywhere, and,  
 9 again, I want people to understand that there is probably  
 10 certain things that are going to be discussed that CDBG  
 11 funds has nothing to do with.  
 12 We need to do a better job as a city as our code  
 13 enforcement department. We need public safety,  
 14 everybody's got public safety up there. I agree 100  
 15 percent. Public safety on my street is me most of the  
 16 time. We need to better our public safety, but how do we  
 17 do that? We just hired 50 police officers. Forty-seven  
 18 of them turned out not making, making the cut, but we are  
 19 going to lose another 33 officers in the next four to  
 20 five months to retirement. So I think the first thing we  
 21 need to let the Administration and everybody else  
 22 understand, okay, we need 50 more police officers, but we  
 23 need them now, because it takes a year for them to go  
 24 through their schooling and everything before they can  
 25 even hit the streets.

1 seniors.  
 2 So we work hard in doing what we do. I'm glad to  
 3 have you in the position you're in, because I know you  
 4 know the needs. I know you understand what we need as  
 5 neighborhoods, and I know you work just as hard as me and  
 6 Councilman Salvatore to make sure our neighborhoods get  
 7 what they need from the CDBG grant monies.  
 8 I'm going to ask Tomas to just keep some notes for  
 9 me so if there's anything in our neighborhood we feel we  
 10 can do better, we work together, we do them better, but  
 11 just a quick for-instance, because this was what my  
 12 neighborhood meeting was about in the beginning. We just  
 13 said about a cleanup. Last year our cleanup, I think we  
 14 had six people. We had six people. Right? So six  
 15 people for a neighborhood cleanup, but everyone wants to  
 16 sit in a room like this, and I'm not saying everybody,  
 17 but you want to sit in a room like this and complain  
 18 about the litter, this, that, and the other thing, but  
 19 when we have a neighborhood cleanup, and you have six  
 20 people that show up. We took some litter off the streets  
 21 with six people, but, again, it's April 25 down the ball  
 22 field. I would like to see everybody in this room there.  
 23 Imagine what we could clean if we all showed up on the  
 24 25th. These are things that people in the neighborhood  
 25 want. These are things that me and Councilman Salvatore,

1 I'm proud of what I have done, with what we have  
 2 done with Community Block Grant money in this  
 3 neighborhood. Like was said earlier, a lot of great  
 4 programs going on. We are very close to reopening our  
 5 Boys and Girls Club with some money this year. We did  
 6 invest \$93,000. We redid the whole pool. We redid the  
 7 locker rooms, boys and girls locker rooms. As a matter  
 8 of fact, we have got groups now like the Boy Scouts using  
 9 the pool. Before they would have to go to Fox Point to  
 10 use their pool, and now they come back into our  
 11 neighborhood where the Scouts are from, using our pool.  
 12 So we do have some great programs, but we have got to  
 13 remember the youth and the seniors, the seniors also. I  
 14 mean, we got a woman we were just talking about down here  
 15 on 700 Charles Street. The lady's name is Nancy. She's  
 16 got nothing. We're trying to get her out of the  
 17 situation she's in, but her attitude is, like a lot of,  
 18 and don't take this the wrong way, but a lot of the  
 19 old-timers' attitude is that's their house. It was their  
 20 house for 40 years. They're going to die in their house.  
 21 They don't want to go to a nursing home. We have dropped  
 22 the ball on a lot of senior programming.  
 23 We are very fortunate here in this community to have  
 24 a guy like John DeLuca and the DaVinci Center with the  
 25 programs that he does to reach out to the youth and the

1 I'm not going to talk about any of my other colleagues,  
 2 offer, but then when people don't take advantage of it,  
 3 or they don't show up, it's heartbreaking. You're  
 4 standing there, and you see six people and two of them,  
 5 again, two of them are almost 80 years old, and they're  
 6 there helping us pick up litter, but, yet, we come to a  
 7 meeting, and we hear litter.  
 8 Again, I got to run. I really appreciate everybody  
 9 being here. I know where my heart is for my  
 10 neighborhood. I know, for a fact, where Councilman  
 11 Salvatore is coming from in his neighborhood, and I'm  
 12 proud to say some of you people that are new to the  
 13 neighborhood and didn't understand or see what we went  
 14 through maybe ten years ago, how things were going in the  
 15 wrong direction. And that top one I'm going to agree on,  
 16 I think we here in this neighborhood are going in the  
 17 right direction. We have a lot of new families coming  
 18 in. We have a lot of the kids coming in with these  
 19 families. A lot of the families are buying the houses,  
 20 which is what we need. We don't need any more absentee  
 21 landlords. We need people that are going to live in the  
 22 house and take care of the property, and that's it. I'm  
 23 going to -- whatever we need to do.  
 24 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry. I'm going to  
 25 need your name for the record. Can you state your name,

1 for the record, and just repeat what you said.  
 2 MS. BRYER: Doris Bryer. I'm from the North  
 3 End. Nick was in charge of our kids being baseball  
 4 players from when they were kids, but my point is when we  
 5 were kids growing up a few years ago we had what they  
 6 call released time at, say, 2:15 at Windmill. You go  
 7 down. You knew the Boys Club was there. You had  
 8 swimming lessons. You knew how to swim. I think half  
 9 the neighborhood now does not realize that there is a  
 10 pool in the Boys Club, which will get them involved  
 11 again, and we always had activities in the Boys Club,  
 12 movies on a Saturday, ten cents. Am I dating? But they  
 13 had things, kids would want to get off the street, and we  
 14 walked to the Boys Club to do different things. Not only  
 15 the arts and crafts, but like I said, the pool for  
 16 swimming lessons.  
 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, but you  
 18 couldn't hear the movie.  
 19 COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI: That's why I said  
 20 earlier we need to bring the programming back. It's too  
 21 bad. Maybe we should have another one of these meetings.  
 22 We can actually bring a list of what organizations get,  
 23 what kind of money they get, and what they actually do  
 24 with it, because, like I said earlier, it's true. Five  
 25 thousand dollars is not a lot of money. Ten thousand

1 MR. HULL: Yes, ma'am.  
 2 MS. PICARD: Hi. My name is Nancy Picard.  
 3 I live on Hawkins Street, and I'm a member of this  
 4 illustrious group in the Fourth Ward. School is going to  
 5 be out soon, and we have a lot of teenagers, and I see a  
 6 lot of teenagers the last few summers just kind of  
 7 hanging out, roaming the streets all hours of the day and  
 8 night, so that leaves me wondering what's available for  
 9 them, not just recreation programs, but I mean, I know of  
 10 kids who would love to work. That's where I think we  
 11 need to spend some money. Invest some money in kids, you  
 12 know, teach them about resume writing, how to dress for  
 13 an interview, things like that, dress for success, that  
 14 kind of thing. I know it sounds corny, but it really is  
 15 true, because I have had people say to me I would never  
 16 hire this person because, and I think it's important, and  
 17 again that's something where Boys and Girls Clubs, the  
 18 libraries can work together with the schools or even with  
 19 neighborhood recreation centers, I'm thinking, like the  
 20 Chad Brown alumni people.  
 21 SPEAKER DENISE: We have financial literacy  
 22 programs that these children can be corralled in if they  
 23 could receive some kind of credit, school credit. You  
 24 have to have some kind of incentive.  
 25 MR. HULL: So last year we ran a summer jobs

1 dollars is not a lot of the money, but to some of these  
 2 organizations it means keeping their doors open or  
 3 shutting their doors or having no programming for the  
 4 people they serve. I think in the future what we need to  
 5 do is we really need to look into maybe consolidating a  
 6 lot of these organizations, because everybody is doing a  
 7 great thing, but it's copycatted numerous times, and  
 8 that's what we see. That's what we are trying to do this  
 9 year is trying to get some organizations to consolidate.  
 10 SPEAKER DENISE: But perhaps we can also  
 11 share programming.  
 12 COUNCILMAN NARDUCCI: Thank you, guys.  
 13 SPEAKER TANISHA: Well, when she said to  
 14 share programs, what I believe part of the problem is  
 15 that, like, well, to me, in this neighborhood right here,  
 16 different organizations don't share resources and/or  
 17 collaborate and tell people what's going on at your  
 18 organization. Oh, maybe you can bring some students over  
 19 here. There needs to be some type of way to web together  
 20 so everybody knows what everybody is doing and things  
 21 will get better.  
 22 SPEAKER DENISE: So as far as the schools  
 23 working with the library, working with the Boys Club, if  
 24 we can really tag-team and form some strong  
 25 collaborations I think it would serve the community.

1 program. I want to say it was like --  
 2 MS. PICARD: I'm sure that there are people  
 3 in the neighborhood or who are around who would be  
 4 willing to volunteer to work with the kids to help them  
 5 develop a resume and write a resume. As a retired  
 6 schoolteacher, I would think that there are folks who are  
 7 available to volunteer. I know I would be willing to.  
 8 SPEAKER LAURIE: So we need job fairs in the  
 9 neighborhood.  
 10 MR. HULL: So 831 youth between the ages of,  
 11 I want to say it was, I don't remember the ages. It was  
 12 like, I don't remember the ages.  
 13 SPEAKER LAURIE: All in Providence, all City  
 14 of Providence?  
 15 MR. HULL: Throughout the city, 831 got  
 16 summer jobs. They also did a financial literacy  
 17 component for those kids as well. So if we, if we were  
 18 to be able to put something like that together again and  
 19 partner with the library system and nonprofit groups to  
 20 really do more above and beyond.  
 21 SPEAKER DENISE: And something else, when  
 22 the kids come in for these summer jobs, and we enlist  
 23 them, we take them in, most of the time it is really a  
 24 mentorship, and there are some places that don't want to  
 25 take on these children, because they're such complicated

1 young people, but I welcome the challenge, because that's  
 2 what we do, and much of the time we show them how to do  
 3 the research, how to do certain things. Do you have a  
 4 library card? And they're working and taking on this  
 5 knowledge, that way they may be able to function once  
 6 they get through the summer, get back to school.  
 7 SPEAKER LAURIE: Connecting the dots with  
 8 what you were saying and with what Nick said. Unlike  
 9 Doris, I didn't go to the movies. She's at the Boys and  
 10 Girls Club, but I did swim there, and when I grew up in  
 11 the North End what kept me out of trouble was the  
 12 recreation that was here, actually the tennis courts. We  
 13 had awesome tennis courts that the City took away. I  
 14 will never forgive them for that, but we had tennis  
 15 courts back here, and every Saturday the Providence  
 16 Recreation Department would have two young men, they were  
 17 awesome, Kenny and Lenny, I believe their names were,  
 18 they would come. They were juniors and seniors from the  
 19 high school. I think they were from Hope, and they would  
 20 teach tennis lessons. So now you're incorporating your  
 21 internships with your students teaching other children  
 22 how to play a sport in an inner city, keeping everyone  
 23 off the streets, and it was a win, win, win, win. And it  
 24 was, we would have a tournament at Roger Williams Park at  
 25 the end of the season, and every year was a goal, third

1 MR. MCKENDALL: Yes, the criteria for the  
 2 roads was an outside engineering firm came into the City  
 3 and produced a list of the worst down, and through that  
 4 list the City decided what main arteries and roads to do.  
 5 So I think they got about 80 percent of the way through  
 6 the list and they had to stop, because we went through  
 7 the 40 million dollars, correct Councilman?  
 8 COUNCILMAN SALVATORE: I believe the  
 9 Committee on Public Works will be assessing the 40  
 10 million dollar program and which outstanding projects  
 11 that weren't completed and what we have to do moving  
 12 forward to make sure that those investments are  
 13 completed, because they were promised to the people, so.  
 14 The city council committee on Public Works should be  
 15 vetting that.  
 16 So, back to your question, how they determined what  
 17 streets get paved consistent with what Philip said, an  
 18 outside engineering firm does come in. I think we can  
 19 all agree that there are a lot of streets in the City of  
 20 Providence that have to get repaved. So while there are  
 21 streets in the Fourth and Fourteenth Wards that I would  
 22 have liked to have seen paved before other streets, the  
 23 engineer determined based on the 40 million dollars and  
 24 the condition of the roads that they selected that was  
 25 the most efficient and effective way of spending the 40

1 place, second place, to the first place trophy, and it  
 2 was just something very basic and simple. You're not  
 3 talking about a lot of funding, it's the coordination of  
 4 the Recreation Department and the Parks Department, and  
 5 we are trying to do that at Corliss Park. We have done a  
 6 great job. I will say we have done an amazing job of  
 7 bringing in the Providence College Friars and doing  
 8 camps. I would like to see that go on with the community  
 9 gardens, which I'm working on, but bringing more of your  
 10 high-school interns, older children, to build that resume  
 11 working with the younger children, it's just, it's just  
 12 connecting these dots. We have everything we need. We  
 13 just have to put it all together and do some coordinated  
 14 funding. We have it. We have done it.  
 15 MR. HULL: I absolutely agree. In the back.  
 16 Go ahead.  
 17 SPEAKER IBTAHIM: My name is Ibtahim. You  
 18 mentioned earlier that the City is almost finished with a  
 19 40 million dollar program paving streets.  
 20 MR. HULL: Yes.  
 21 SPEAKER IBTAHIM: Can you tell me what is  
 22 the criteria for selecting streets?  
 23 MR. HULL: So I can't tell you the exact  
 24 criteria. I don't know what that methodology was. Phil  
 25 McKendall in the back --

1 million dollars. With that said, I'm confident that the  
 2 City will move forward and continue to make those  
 3 investments. I'm not going to sit here and promise that  
 4 in next year's budget we are going to borrow another 40  
 5 million dollars. Keep in mind, every time we borrow  
 6 money there is a budgetary impact every year for the  
 7 next, the last 40 million dollars, that's a 20-year bond.  
 8 We have to pay for that every 20 to 30 years. Okay. So,  
 9 I agree with you. Is there a particular street that  
 10 you --  
 11 SPEAKER IBTAHIM: My street, I feel like  
 12 it's the worst street in Providence.  
 13 COUNCILMAN SALVATORE: Let's go for a ride  
 14 one day.  
 15 MR. HULL: I know that there is a lot of  
 16 streets and sidewalks throughout the City that need to be  
 17 repaired, so. Some other -- yes, sir.  
 18 SPEAKER MARC: My name is Marc. I work at  
 19 the San Miguel School in Providence Rhode Island, which  
 20 is located between Branch and Monticello Street, and if  
 21 you go to the back street near Monticello and further  
 22 back into the community there is a lot of tenement  
 23 housing, so there is a lot of people that don't have  
 24 cars. They walk to and from work and to get around the  
 25 community, and the streets, particularly in the

1 snowstorms were horrendously plowed, and the sidewalks  
 2 were not clear, and both of these caused significant  
 3 problems, but particularly the sidewalks not being  
 4 cleared. And it speaks to an earlier issue that was  
 5 already mentioned, which was there are a tremendous of  
 6 amount absentee landlords in the City that don't take on  
 7 the responsibility of clearing the snow, and I wonder if  
 8 a community development grant can be used to work on  
 9 keeping sidewalks clear by employing folks. Every time  
 10 we go out and shovel snow on our personal property at San  
 11 Miguel a person in the neighborhood would come up and  
 12 say, "I could really use the money. Could I get a job?"  
 13 This would be a great exercise, particularly for how many  
 14 people are relying on sidewalk travel in that back  
 15 neighborhood, and I know there are many areas throughout  
 16 the North End that have very narrow streets where lots of  
 17 people without cars are living and working.  
 18 MR. HULL: Jean.  
 19 MS. LAMB: Jean Lamb, again, from the Smith  
 20 Hill CDC. We have actually started a stewardship program  
 21 which we hire at-risk youth in our neighborhood, and we  
 22 give them jobs throughout the summer, three-quarters of  
 23 the year, which is cleaning up the neighborhood, picking  
 24 up debris, dog feces, and they had done some snow  
 25 shoveling for both of our properties and elderly

1 MS. BRYER: The land that's from the  
 2 Wanskuck over to Veazie Street, that was a pond years and  
 3 years ago. They say it's, what, ten years before you can  
 4 build anything on it. Who owns it, and why is it just  
 5 sitting there?  
 6 MR. HULL: I don't have an answer to that.  
 7 I have no idea.  
 8 MS. BRYER: It's been a long time that it's  
 9 been dry land, and I don't know if that's the City  
 10 property or what, and it's just sitting there with the  
 11 trees on it.  
 12 MR. HULL: Phil, do you know who owns that?  
 13 MR. MCKENDALL: I didn't hear what she said.  
 14 MR. HULL: So there is a piece of land  
 15 between Wanskuck and Veazie Street. It used to be a  
 16 pond.  
 17 MR. MCKENDALL: That's wetland, and it can't  
 18 be built on.  
 19 MS. BRYER: Even though it's been dried up  
 20 so long.  
 21 MR. MCKENDALL: Yes.  
 22 MS. BRYER: Because that's what happened at  
 23 the high-rise here. This was Ludlum's Pond (phonetic),  
 24 and they dried it up, and after so many years they put  
 25 the DaVinci Center. They put the highrise, so why

1 neighbors in our community, and with CDBG funding we can  
 2 expand this program to include more youth throughout the  
 3 three neighborhoods. So that is something that we are  
 4 working on. It is a brand-new program that we started,  
 5 and it was very successful last year, and, again, with  
 6 more CDBG funding we can work with the San Miguel School,  
 7 with the library, and the high schools. We are working  
 8 with A-Venture Academy, so we do work with the students  
 9 in that school as well, to employ them.  
 10 MR. HULL: Was that a hint?  
 11 MS. LAMB: I think I'm putting in another  
 12 grant.  
 13 SPEAKER DENISE: Hi. Denise, again. One of  
 14 my, the gems in the community or eyesores depending on  
 15 how you look at it would be the Wanskuck Mills that have  
 16 been there since the beginning of this wonderful  
 17 neighborhood when it was thriving back in its heyday.  
 18 What is being done to either renovate, get artist  
 19 colonies, condos, make it a real thriving part of Branch  
 20 Avenue, or the other flip side of that coin would be to  
 21 demolish it, make it another park. Can we decide what we  
 22 are going to do with that? It's just been such an  
 23 eyesore for all of these years. I mean, something should  
 24 be decided. Someone should figure something out. It is  
 25 horrendous.

1 can't --  
 2 MR. MCKENDALL: When you go by and you see,  
 3 there is all cattails in there. So when the water does  
 4 flow heavy, it does come through there, and it kind of  
 5 opens up.  
 6 MS. BRYER: No drainage system could be done  
 7 to utilize the land?  
 8 MR. MCKENDALL: No, that's DEM land  
 9 actually, and DEM has classified that as wetlands all the  
 10 way throughout this. So I don't know. Maybe it could be  
 11 developed.  
 12 MS. BRYER: Make it a pond again so the kids  
 13 can go swim in it.  
 14 SPEAKER PATRICIA: I'd like to reinforce the  
 15 idea about using money to hire kids to shovel in the  
 16 wintertime. In our neighborhood we have got lots of  
 17 people that also take the bus and get off the bus, and  
 18 there is no place to walk. You want to try to get to the  
 19 bus stop, you can't get there. This winter was terrible.  
 20 We have kids who walk to the library. They can't get to  
 21 the library except going in the street, and it's really a  
 22 dangerous situation.  
 23 MR. DELUCA: John DeLuca. I work here at  
 24 the DaVinci Center, and in addition to what everyone else  
 25 has mentioned, I think adult education is extremely

1 important. We run adult education here, GED and ESL, and  
 2 we have a waiting list that is beyond our capacity to be  
 3 able to handle. There are people who have dropped out of  
 4 school and are now realizing that they need an education  
 5 in order to get into the workforce and are clambering for  
 6 classes, and we don't have enough for them. If we expect  
 7 private industry to locate in the City of Providence, we  
 8 have to have a literate and educated workforce. So it  
 9 ties in with adult education, assuming that they really  
 10 would like to have an education, but we don't have the  
 11 facilities for it. Now there are some major adult  
 12 education facilities. They're all on the South Side of  
 13 the city, and it's not even practical for our people to  
 14 take busses to go there, because our mass transit is  
 15 lacking. It doesn't run frequently enough, and it  
 16 doesn't run at night. Almost, you know, maybe an hour,  
 17 hour and a half to the bus stop, which is very difficult  
 18 for people to get from here to the South Side if they're  
 19 going to participate, and they have waiting lists also.  
 20 MR. HULL: I'm sorry, so, I think this would  
 21 be a great partnership with the Providence community  
 22 library that also runs ESL and GED classes. So if you  
 23 have a waiting list, and I'm sure you also probably have  
 24 a waiting list, so maybe it is a moot point.  
 25 SPEAKER DENISE: We do send folks back and

1 have money for adult education. We are remiss. We are  
 2 sitting back, not applying for money that's there.  
 3 SPEAKER DENISE: I can tag on with your  
 4 comments as well. If there was some type of program that  
 5 we could coordinate not only do we have the financial  
 6 literacy that we are conducting at the library, but I'm  
 7 developing an information literacy curriculum which would  
 8 really be for, depending on the developmental needs of  
 9 the person. As adults they could come in and, say, take  
 10 a six-week program, and we could teach them certain  
 11 aspects and let them be able to discern information if  
 12 it's valid, access information, develop a voice, and all  
 13 of these are important aspects of advocating for  
 14 themselves in getting the education that they need, and  
 15 perhaps we can add on the GED class which we do offer at  
 16 the library. Perhaps we can step that up and increase  
 17 the number of GED classes.  
 18 MR. DELUCA: There is a lot of talent out  
 19 there, believe me. There is a lot of talent. We just  
 20 need to assist them. Invariably, people, I have a number  
 21 of people that like to get into the CNA programs, and we  
 22 collaborate with CCRI, and once they get their GED here,  
 23 and they get into the CNA program up there, they get  
 24 their license, they'll get a job within a week, believe  
 25 me, there is such a demand for CNAs. And I have seen

1 forth.  
 2 MR. DELUCA: We do, and it's beyond their  
 3 capacity. I think that the City of Providence has been  
 4 remiss in applying for adult education money. There's  
 5 been money at the State Department of Education for  
 6 years, and it has not been applied for, because I have  
 7 checked with the school department, and they have not  
 8 applied for it when the RFP comes out. Now, we used to  
 9 have a system in the City of Providence for adult  
 10 education. The adult education, just to rehash, was  
 11 applied for by the school department. They received it,  
 12 and they had an adult education division, and they taught  
 13 adult ed in the schools, community centers, and I'm not  
 14 sure if the libraries were included in that, but it  
 15 doesn't matter where it's taught. All I know is that  
 16 there are people that need it, and one of the most  
 17 anguishing experiences I have every day is to tell people  
 18 we can't handle it. We can't accommodate them. I get,  
 19 believe me, an outreach of two or three calls every  
 20 single day. Today I got two more. Friday I had a  
 21 couple. Last week I had maybe 11, 12 calls to get into  
 22 the GED program. I don't have room for them.  
 23 So I really think it's important that we have adult  
 24 ed and that the City of Providence look around and see  
 25 where that money is. And some of the private foundations

1 that happen time and time again here, where people go  
 2 from receiving government funds on various programs to  
 3 becoming taxpayers and getting off the government rolls,  
 4 and all we need to do is point them in the right  
 5 direction and have the facilities available for their  
 6 education to develop their skills.  
 7 SPEAKER DENISE: But that may mean that we  
 8 are going to need another staff person to teach that GED,  
 9 how many more of those GED classes. So we can  
 10 collaborate, but it would be beyond our staff  
 11 possibility. So that's what the funding would take care  
 12 of.  
 13 MR. HULL: Well, I'm looking at the time.  
 14 Is there one more quick comment before we wrap it up, and  
 15 have a -- yes.  
 16 SPEAKER KATHERYN: My name is Katheryn from  
 17 Adoption Rhode Island. I'd like to see the City  
 18 investing in more outreach and services for youth that  
 19 are in the foster care system that are particularly at  
 20 risk for sex trafficking. A lot of the group homes that  
 21 are located in Providence have become trap houses,  
 22 particularly for girls, to get targeted for sex  
 23 trafficking, and then, also, more outreach and services  
 24 for youth who have aged out of the foster care system  
 25 without any permanency and are homeless or loitering in

1 Providence. Increased rates of incarceration and  
2 substance abuse is a whole issue, and lack of resources  
3 and services.

4 MS. BRYER: Doris Bryer again. What she  
5 just mentioned, would that be the State and not the City  
6 with the children, you know, that are in the foster care  
7 program?

8 MR. HULL: We are trying to navigate that  
9 now, yes. Primarily it's the state funding.

10 SPEAKER KATHERYN: But I do think that part  
11 of it is, there are services and there are placements in  
12 the group homes that is State funded, but I think that  
13 some of it, it ties to what we talked about tonight  
14 around offering kids something to do, offering them a  
15 safe place to be and public safety around, you know, what  
16 is available for these kids. Even if they're living in a  
17 group home, they're still, they need stuff to do after  
18 school, or they need a safe place to be and not be forced  
19 into unsafe situations.

20 MR. HULL: Right. Exactly, so if there is  
21 programming that we can deliver above and beyond --

22 SPEAKER KATHERYN: Specific to the  
23 neighborhood's needs, plus there are youth who are  
24 homeless or they run away, run away from group homes or  
25 foster-care places. They're an underground population.

1 No one even knows where they are or who they are, but  
2 they're probably receiving services from folks that are  
3 in this room right now. They're probably going to the  
4 library. They may be coming to different programs. So  
5 coordinating services and outreach efforts and education  
6 with those service providers that are providing different  
7 kinds of services to these youth and not necessarily  
8 engaging them in terms of running away or being homeless  
9 in order to, kind of, get them into services. We are  
10 already seeing these kids. We're talking about the same  
11 kids, but there isn't really a coordinated effort to  
12 address their safety.

13 SPEAKER DENISE: We at the library have done  
14 a program with Sojourner House where we would target  
15 at-risk teens, and it turned out to be a female group of  
16 teens, and, again, it's a staffing issue, and we need to  
17 have a person with that area of expertise come in and not  
18 have any old, you know, yahoo talking, sitting with these  
19 at-risk teens. So that's something that we decided we'd  
20 do at the library. We want to make sure that individuals  
21 have the qualifications to address these important  
22 issues, and we are happy at the library, if you wish to  
23 stop by any time, to see what we can pull together.

24 Absolutely, I mean, we have these kids coming in daily.  
25 MR. HULL: Yes, sir.

1 SPEAKER LUIS: Luis, I'm from the North End,  
2 and this is Kerri, my other half. Just looking at what  
3 we put up on the board, and I'm speaking, obviously, for  
4 tonight's meeting, I think, and everyone has touched on  
5 the same thing, our concern seems to be public safety  
6 here, and how to, and I have been listening to everyone  
7 just to figure out exactly where whatever we do get is  
8 spent and how we manage, and it sounds quite popular, the  
9 events that will maintain some level of involvement by  
10 our youth and our risk people, and I think it's pretty  
11 loud, just looking up at the board with the dots that  
12 were placed there, and I will express the same concern.  
13 I mean, we moved into the neighborhood two years ago, a  
14 few of you already know us. We bought a boarded-up  
15 house, fixed it up. We are involved, and I know you know  
16 my brother, because we have a small gym that we support  
17 with our own money across the street from you. We have  
18 been there for five years, and, believe me, if it wasn't  
19 for my brother, the doctor, we wouldn't able to do it,  
20 but that's what we do, we keep involved.

21 SPEAKER DENISE: Good people.

22 SPEAKER LUIS: Correct. People that can pay  
23 a small stipend, and the ones that can't, they get a free  
24 ride, and we hope that some of them will become  
25 successful at some point in their lives. So public

1 safety, at least in our home is our concern. We have a  
2 new child, and, you know, we are hoping that four or five  
3 years from now, we are not having to worry about whether  
4 we have to move again and buy something else. We have  
5 invested pretty much all of our savings into this place,  
6 and we haven't stopped. Like I said, we bought it from  
7 the bank. Our goal was exactly that, don't let this  
8 neighborhood die, because particularly the Windmill area  
9 and the North End is a gorgeous area. If you take a look  
10 back on Windmill at nighttime even in the bad snow, you  
11 look at everyone taking care of their properties, and we  
12 don't want to see it go. So I think whatever efforts are  
13 made with this money, that for the crowd as I'm hearing  
14 tonight, it's public safety and a way to attach it with  
15 keeping the youth in some kind of occupied form.  
16 Obviously, we have a lot of other things that we have to  
17 worry about, but if we can stop the issues or slow them  
18 down that are as a result of it, then perhaps we will be  
19 able to next year discuss something else, or the year  
20 after. Hopefully, in five years I won't have to worry  
21 about it.

22 SPEAKER DENISE: We have so many lovely,  
23 lovely families coming into the library, and, you know,  
24 over the course of the years the families may look  
25 differently, but everyone has the same component, human

1 needs, basically, and I don't want to see these people  
 2 receive less than what they deserve, because they deserve  
 3 all the best that the community has to offer. I'm there  
 4 to advocate for them every single day. I don't want to  
 5 see people come in and say, yay, we have made it out of  
 6 the neighborhood, you know. This, you know, it's a gem.  
 7 It's a beautiful part of town over here. We have got so  
 8 much history with the mill, the backdrop of the water and  
 9 the trees. It's not overpopulated. I mean, there is so  
 10 much potential. There is no reason why it can't be  
 11 better than what it is.

12 MR. HULL: Well, I think with that we are  
 13 just going to do, we are going to do a quick wrap-up.  
 14 Does Emily or Margit have concise notes that they were  
 15 back there, taking copious notes. Let's review some of  
 16 the things that we heard today. If we missed anything,  
 17 let us know. Margit.

18 MS. LIANDER: So I heard more investment in  
 19 affordable housing for low-income areas, more funding  
 20 invested in the community centers and libraries, more  
 21 places just, in general, for residents to gather and  
 22 receive social services, funding, specifically, for the  
 23 Wanskuck Library repairs, youth programs, and facility  
 24 improvements, more funding for historic preservation and  
 25 buildings such as the library, funding for more youth

1 MS. LIANDER: More paving.  
 2 MR. HULL: So we take this information.  
 3 This helps us inform our strategy in the Division of  
 4 Community Development. We are in the process of writing  
 5 our five-year consolidated plan. This is the guidance  
 6 document for the allocation of Community Development  
 7 Block Grants moving forward. This is a document that  
 8 really is used to make sure that we incorporate the  
 9 concerns of the community and that we are allocating  
 10 funds to rectify and address those concerns.  
 11 We are having community meetings. This is the  
 12 seventh one that we have had. We have one more on  
 13 Thursday over at Martin Luther King.  
 14 So this information is going through our  
 15 consolidated plan. This plan is going to be available  
 16 for public review and public comment. When you signed  
 17 in, if you filled out the sign-in sheet and put your  
 18 e-mail address, we will be reaching out to you when a  
 19 draft copy of the consolidated plan is ready for review.  
 20 We would like you to review that, offer comments on it.  
 21 We will be having public hearings as well for you to  
 22 offer comments on that. The draft will be completed in  
 23 May. This website up here is where you can get all of  
 24 the information that you could ever possibly want about  
 25 the consolidated plan process. All of the notes from

1 centers and activities for recreation and not just parks,  
 2 better code enforcement, more police force citywide, more  
 3 funding for senior programs, more activities for youth at  
 4 the boys and girls club, and better advertisement of  
 5 these activities in the community, better communication  
 6 and collaboration between some of the community  
 7 organizations so that programs are not duplicated, more  
 8 youth programming and employment opportunities for the  
 9 summer, more job training for youth and mentorships,  
 10 better coordination with the Recreation Department and  
 11 creating more opportunities for older youth to work with  
 12 younger youth, poor sidewalk snow removal and potential  
 13 funding for groups to clear paths for these absentee  
 14 landlords, general concern over the future of the  
 15 Wanskuck Mill, better pedestrian access to the libraries,  
 16 more funding for adult-education programs, it is a great  
 17 demand but not enough facilities, specifically on the  
 18 North side, lack of public transit options at night for  
 19 those interested in adult-education programs, funding is  
 20 also needed for additional staff to provide these  
 21 classes, and more funding for services and programs for  
 22 youth recently out of the foster-care system to address  
 23 their safety, and, lastly, public safety is also a big  
 24 concern.

25 SPEAKER IBTAHIM: More paving.

1 that, from the previous community meetings and the draft  
 2 version of the plan will be available online.  
 3 And these are the meetings that we have had. Again,  
 4 our last one is on Thursday over at Martin Luther King on  
 5 Camp Street. If you would like to attend another  
 6 community meeting, I encourage you to go to that one.  
 7 Thank you very much, and I appreciate you all coming  
 8 out.

9 (HEARING CLOSED AT 7:40 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of April 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: April 6, 2015  
IN RE: Public Hearing  
HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of Planning and Development



1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
 2 PROCEEDINGS AT:  
 3  
 4 IN RE: City of Providence, Department of Planning &  
 5 Development Community Engagement Meeting  
 6  
 7 DATE: April 9, 2015  
 8 TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
 9 PLACE: Dr. Martin Luther King School  
 10 35 Camp Street  
 11 Providence, RI 02906  
 12 PRESENT:  
 13 Brian Hull, Director of Community Development/City of  
 14 Providence  
 15 Ron DiOrio, Department of Planning and Development/City  
 16 of Providence  
 17 Margit Liander, Planner  
 18 Ani Haroian, Neighborhood Liaison for Planning and  
 19 Development  
 20  
 21 ALSO PRESENT:  
 22 Philip McKendall, Special Assistant to the City Council  
 23 Sue Robbio, Director of Senior Services  
 24 John Eastman, Healthy Homes Coordinator  
 25

1 Healthy Homes Coordinator. Behind him is Ron DiOrio,  
 2 Deputy Director of Community Development. Margit Liander  
 3 in the back, one of our Planners from the Planning  
 4 Department. So the City is well represented here. If  
 5 you have any questions throughout or after, we can answer  
 6 those questions.  
 7 With that, let me just jump into the agenda. First,  
 8 we are just going to have a quick overview of what  
 9 Community Development Block Grants are, what we can use  
 10 that money for. We are going to go into a conversation  
 11 about some of the things that we have heard at previous  
 12 community meetings, and I want to make sure that what we  
 13 heard previously still makes sense to you all. That's  
 14 going to frame a conversation about what some of the  
 15 current priorities are for the community, and then we'll  
 16 have a little bit of a wrap-up.  
 17 To reiterate, we are here to talk about community  
 18 needs, your community priorities in the neighborhood and  
 19 how Community Development Block Grant money can help  
 20 satisfy some of those needs.  
 21 Community Development Block Grants are federal funds  
 22 that come from the US Department of Housing and Urban  
 23 Development that are really flexible monies that comes  
 24 with a lot of rules and regulations attached to how we  
 25 can spend that money, but it is fairly flexible. We can

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:45 P.M.)  
 2 MR. HULL: Hello, everyone. How are you? I  
 3 think we are going to start. I'm not sure if Councilman  
 4 Jackson will be joining us. If he is I will just pause  
 5 briefly and allow him to give a few remarks.  
 6 If you haven't had food yet, make sure you have the  
 7 food. It's delicious. A Venezuelan restaurant called La  
 8 Chama made the food.  
 9 My name is Brian Hull. I'm the Director of  
 10 Community Development for the City of Providence. I  
 11 really appreciate everyone coming out and showing up to  
 12 this important meeting. The reason why we are here is to  
 13 talk a little bit about Community Development Block  
 14 Grants and the community needs that you all think are  
 15 most important in your neighborhood.  
 16 So what I want to make sure, right at the front end  
 17 is that if you haven't signed in, please do sign in. We  
 18 are going to follow up with some information after this  
 19 meeting. If you haven't signed in, we won't be able to  
 20 follow up with you. Maybe some of you don't want us to  
 21 follow up with you, which is fine, but if you haven't  
 22 signed in, please do so.  
 23 So we have a few other folks from the City here.  
 24 Sue Robbio, Director of Senior Services. Phil McKendall  
 25 works with the city council. I have John Eastman, our

1 do a lot different things with that money, and some of  
 2 those are listed here, affordable housing development,  
 3 homeownership programs, healthy homes remediation, public  
 4 service, senior services. We do parks, sidewalks, other  
 5 infrastructure projects. We do weatherization programs.  
 6 We can do economic development programs. We can do lots  
 7 of different things with that money. So keep that in the  
 8 back of your mind as we start thinking about what some of  
 9 the other community priorities are, and let's see where  
 10 there is a good overlap to what the priorities are and  
 11 what the Community Development Block Grants can be used  
 12 for.  
 13 So there are three additional ways, outside of the  
 14 conversation that we'll have here, that we'd like you to  
 15 have active participation in. So one is these priority  
 16 needs boards on the wall. Everyone that came in here,  
 17 you should have gotten three blue dots. Those dots,  
 18 you're going to put on that priority needs board. That  
 19 allows us to aggregate some information about what some  
 20 of the priority needs are in the community.  
 21 Second one is a neighborhood map that we have over  
 22 on the door. We have some Post-it notes. If there are  
 23 particular geographic areas of the neighborhood that are  
 24 of particular concern, just write that on a Post-it note  
 25 and slap that Post-it note onto the map. That allows us

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1 to really concentrate on particular areas. If there's a  
 2 house on Camp Street that has several code violations on  
 3 it, just let us know what those particular issues are and  
 4 that's another way for us to collect information. And  
 5 the third is when you came in you got an agenda. On the  
 6 back of that agenda is a survey. We would very much  
 7 appreciate it if you could fill out that survey and leave  
 8 it with us on your way out. You can either leave it on  
 9 the table; you can drop it off at the check-in table on  
 10 the way out. So this is another way for us to collect  
 11 information from you all.  
 12 As I mentioned before, we have had previous  
 13 community meetings when we are coming up with the  
 14 neighborhood plans. The information that we heard from  
 15 some of those previous meetings I just summarized on the  
 16 next few slides. I want to go through that information  
 17 just as a baseline foundation of what we think we know  
 18 about what the community priorities are in the area. If  
 19 we are not right, we need to understand that. We need to  
 20 know. So for right now, let me just go through this  
 21 list, and we will open it up for a little bit of further  
 22 conversation. So one of the issue areas, not just in  
 23 this neighborhood, but throughout the City, is an issue  
 24 of housing. There is several absentee landlords or  
 25 property owners that are not maintaining their property.

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1 This is, again, not exclusive to this neighborhood. It's  
 2 throughout the City. So this is affecting property  
 3 values and the impact of blight in the area. There are  
 4 concerns about some of the affordability of some of the  
 5 in-fill housing that's been developed recently, and there  
 6 is an interest in having a home repair program which  
 7 would also help address some of the barren properties.  
 8 Parks and local space helping this neighborhood is  
 9 another category of issues that we, that were of concern,  
 10 specifically improved lighting and some improvements at  
 11 the park. Interest in having more areas designated for  
 12 community gardens and community space, this idea of  
 13 having park stewardship programs, like Friends of Billy  
 14 Taylor Park, that can, sort of, do some of the park  
 15 improvements. There is a greater need for coordination  
 16 between youth programs. I was having a conversation  
 17 with, previously about some of that coordination. And  
 18 then more street trees and better maintenance of some of  
 19 the infrastructure throughout the neighborhood.  
 20 Another bucket of activities that we have heard that  
 21 were of concern in the neighborhood have to do with  
 22 accessibility, mobility and infrastructure. So a lot of  
 23 these are about pedestrian and bike safety, sort of like  
 24 a mobility throughout the neighborhood and other areas of  
 25 the City. Some more access points to North Burial

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1 Ground, better pedestrian connections across North Main  
 2 so that individuals can get on to the north and  
 3 southbound bus lines, particularly because we have the  
 4 rapid bus transit in the area. More comprehensive and  
 5 safe sidewalks, better navigations through the City,  
 6 neighborhoods through the City, through the neighborhood  
 7 so children have better safety to school. There is just  
 8 a better need overall of bicycle and pedestrian safety  
 9 throughout the neighborhood so that if you are walking or  
 10 biking --  
 11 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry, Brian, can you  
 12 speak up a little bit?  
 13 MR. HULL: I can do that, sure. Is it  
 14 because of the fan?  
 15 THE STENOGRAPHER: Yes.  
 16 MR. HULL: So the bicycle and pedestrian  
 17 infrastructure safety concerns in the City, the  
 18 stormwater drainage problems for the intersection of  
 19 Third and North Main Street, and need to preserve and  
 20 improve the neighborhood schools.  
 21 The last bucket of concerns that we heard about was  
 22 public safety, so, increased police presence in the  
 23 neighborhood. Lighting improvement at several locations  
 24 to deter some of the criminal activities and then, sort  
 25 of, the enforcement of some of the laws.

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1 So, I'm just going to, I'm just going to talk about,  
 2 briefly, some of the investments that we have made in the  
 3 area both through Community Development Block Grant as  
 4 well as the 40 million dollar road bond, and this is just  
 5 to identify some of the things that we have done. So in  
 6 this area the Billy Taylor House and Mt. Pleasant  
 7 Neighborhood Association, some of the organizations we  
 8 have had some sidewalk improvements throughout the City,  
 9 throughout the neighborhood as well. And we recently  
 10 completed most of the work of the 40 million dollar road  
 11 bond over the past two years, and this is some of the  
 12 largest investments of infrastructure improvements that  
 13 the City has seen in a long time.  
 14 Now, I want to just have a conversation about what  
 15 you just heard and what wasn't right about what you just  
 16 heard. So the information that we are going to collect  
 17 is really important to us. This is going to help us  
 18 understand what our priorities should be as the Community  
 19 Development Office. When we talk about some of these  
 20 issues, let's think about these four framing questions.  
 21 One is, are we on the right track based on what we just  
 22 reviewed? If we are not, what are we missing? What did  
 23 we get wrong? Third is, what should our priorities be,  
 24 because they are your priorities? That's really  
 25 important for us to understand, and then what do you want

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1 to see in your neighborhood? That's the fundamental  
 2 question in that, I think.  
 3 I'm leaving this slide up here while we talk,  
 4 because this has, again, these are some of the activities  
 5 that are eligible for Community Development Block Grants.  
 6 We don't have to limit the conversation exclusively to  
 7 those, but let's just think about, not everything can be  
 8 funded with Community Development Block Grants.  
 9 So I'm going to pause. I want to -- let me grab a  
 10 notebook real quick. I want to pause, and I just want to  
 11 have a conversation about what we have just heard. So,  
 12 I'm going to open it up. John, yes. I'm sorry. I don't  
 13 mean to interrupt, when you're ready to talk, if you  
 14 could say your name and where you live, that would be  
 15 really helpful for us.  
 16 MR. PRINCE: My name is John Prince, and I  
 17 live at 265 Elmwood in Providence, and I think you're on  
 18 the wrong track when you say more policing in the  
 19 neighborhood, especially around my neighborhood where I  
 20 see young folks getting harassed for no reason and having  
 21 their cars searched and then letting them go. I see that  
 22 on an everyday basis, especially on the weekend, and I  
 23 don't think that more policing is the solution. I think  
 24 the solution should be that they have to give us, the  
 25 community, the flexibility to police ourselves, because I

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1 don't think the police, is not our friend. I'm going to  
 2 let you know that, but the policing, the way they're  
 3 doing it is not right. A lot of these police officers  
 4 don't live in my community, so they treat us like they  
 5 don't live in my community. So I feel as though, I think  
 6 that some kind of, that needs to be revisited somehow.  
 7 MR. HULL: Thank you.  
 8 MR. PRINCE: That's all I'm going to say for  
 9 right now.  
 10 MR. HULL: Thank you. Yes.  
 11 MS. HARRIS: Elaine Harris, 619 Chalkstone.  
 12 That's where my mother's building is. We need community  
 13 services over there, too. I will get back to that one,  
 14 but I want to comment on, back him up on that, because I  
 15 have been riding by John's street. I ride all over the  
 16 State, Warwick, Cranston, everywhere. I never get  
 17 stopped. Every time I, like John said, you go up  
 18 Elmwood, you go up Broad, why is everybody getting  
 19 stopped, and I see these boys on the side of the road,  
 20 and I want to know who implemented these things they want  
 21 more police. Who are these people, and how did it get up  
 22 there? I'm worried about what's going on in the world  
 23 with black boys getting shot. I have two sons. So I  
 24 want to know who's all this, who wants policemen and  
 25 what's going on in their area that they need policemen,

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1 because, like I said, when John said that, I just had a  
 2 flashback of a lot of the kids that I see getting stopped  
 3 and they just letting them go. Why are they stopping  
 4 them? What are they doing?  
 5 MR. HULL: So to answer that question, these  
 6 were comments that we heard at previous community  
 7 meetings in this neighborhood.  
 8 MS. HARRIS: In this neighborhood?  
 9 MR. HULL: Yes. So these were comments that  
 10 we heard throughout Ward 3, so, maybe not specifically  
 11 Mt. Hope, maybe a little bit further north. That was the  
 12 information that we had. So I wanted to put that out  
 13 there to make sure that you all knew what information  
 14 that we had.  
 15 MS. HARRIS: When you say further north you  
 16 mean north, going down the hill, this way? Where are you  
 17 going with north?  
 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Towards Pawtucket.  
 19 MS. HARRIS: You want to go towards  
 20 Pawtucket?  
 21 MR. HULL: I'm presenting information that  
 22 we --  
 23 MS. HARRIS: I'm just trying to figure  
 24 out --  
 25 MR. HULL: -- previously heard, so that we

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1 can get information as to whether or not it was correct.  
 2 I hear you, and I understand. I totally -- I sympathize  
 3 and acknowledge that that's not correct, and that's fine.  
 4 I wanted to make sure.  
 5 MR. HARRIS: They had a thing going on in  
 6 the summertime. They had a shootout over here, doesn't  
 7 mean John's area. And one more thing I just want to ask  
 8 you. On Chalkstone, now, they have a few things going on  
 9 back and forth over there, but it's pretty much the same  
 10 scenario, like young kids, they don't really have nowhere  
 11 to go. It's like, you know, but I think the officers  
 12 should be trained on how to, like, approach kids. Like,  
 13 back in the day when we used to see the policeman they  
 14 said, what are you guys doing, you know, like, not all  
 15 that other stuff, you know. And when you say community,  
 16 and you say block grant for fixing up the community, what  
 17 they need, trees, buildings, and they need other services  
 18 for the younger guys and everything, well, we need one  
 19 over here too. We really need one. You people are  
 20 looking like that for them, too, so they're not just out  
 21 there just wandering. They're just standing in front of  
 22 stores. One kid got shot in the face. They should be  
 23 into something. There should be something for them, you  
 24 know, to do instead of just getting harassed by the  
 25 policemen. I never get stopped.

1 MS. REELS: Thank you. My name is Lisa  
 2 Reels. I live on Elmwood Avenue in South Providence, and  
 3 this is regarding this lack of sidewalks in South  
 4 Providence in a particular area which is over there where  
 5 the Barbara Jordan Housing is located. They have  
 6 absolutely no sidewalks whatsoever, and when the people  
 7 walk over to the Amos House and everything they have to  
 8 walk in the streets, literally, and it's very treacherous  
 9 over there too, because of the, there is, like, big  
 10 boulders where the sidewalks should be, and there is  
 11 metal things sticking up out of the ground and stuff.  
 12 It's dangerous over there. I cut my foot one time when I  
 13 was walking over there in that area, but I did try at one  
 14 point in time, and I appealed to the Department of Public  
 15 Works, and I had the tenants who lived over in that area  
 16 sign petitions, and whatever, about getting the sidewalks  
 17 implemented over there in that community, but nothing  
 18 ever came of it. The City pointed the blame at the owner  
 19 of the property, Katrina Griffin. They said she's the  
 20 one responsible to put sidewalks in over there, and, you  
 21 know, she doesn't want to take responsibility, and the  
 22 City refused to, but I really wish, I mean, that's one of  
 23 my things that I really would like to see happen in my  
 24 lifetime before I leave this Earth. I sure would love to  
 25 see sidewalks put in over there. It spans a few streets.

1 You know what I mean? And that's a problem. So, the  
 2 problem is not, like John said, it's not add more police,  
 3 it's people in the community policing the areas in all  
 4 accountability. The other thing is I think that we need  
 5 after-school programs for these kids, and we need to  
 6 create funding to give these kids some kind of job  
 7 skills, so they can learn to have a job and learn a trade  
 8 and a skill to get them off the streets, so they're not  
 9 targeted by the police, and they're not being harassed.  
 10 If you get them a job, some kind of skill, you know, like  
 11 years ago, I don't want to say my age, but anyway, years  
 12 ago, we used to have the CETA program. They don't have  
 13 nothing like that now. These kids need some kind of  
 14 skill to get them off the streets to learn the skills, so  
 15 they know how to provide for themselves in the future.  
 16 What was the other thing? Oh, we also need a lot of  
 17 environmental services to clean up these neighborhoods as  
 18 well. That's a big need, and I think in the whole State  
 19 of Rhode Island, that's another thing they can do, too,  
 20 is create jobs for people to work to clean up the  
 21 streets, clean up the neighborhoods, clean up the lots.  
 22 MR. HULL: So it's not just public parks, or  
 23 the streets, it's parks, streets, lots, in front of  
 24 peoples' houses, everything.  
 25 MS. REELS: Particularly in the South

1 I forget the particular names of the streets off the top  
 2 my head.  
 3 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry. One at a time  
 4 please. I didn't get what you said.  
 5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They took those  
 6 sidewalks out and replaced them with, they took those  
 7 out.  
 8 MS. REELS: There is no sidewalks over  
 9 there, and it's inexcusable. People need to have  
 10 sidewalks over there.  
 11 MS. LIANDER: Which streets.  
 12 MR. HULL: Somerset --  
 13 MS. REELS: Especially since they're going  
 14 to be building a big huge hall to service the low-income  
 15 community for meals over there. People are utilizing  
 16 Amos House and that big huge hall that they're building  
 17 over there, so they need to put sidewalks over there.  
 18 MR. HULL: Sir, we'll do you, and then we'll  
 19 do you.  
 20 MR. WOODS: I would like to address these  
 21 two things, maybe three. Number one, to get back on what  
 22 John was saying about police in the community. The  
 23 problem is the areas that they are targeting they're not  
 24 trying to build relationships with them. They're sitting  
 25 there harassing these people and violating their rights.

1 Providence area.  
 2 MR. WOODS: I would say all over Rhode  
 3 Island, but that's a big issue that way.  
 4 MR. BINDER: I'm Mark Binder. I live on  
 5 Morris Avenue. I have got a couple of things. One thing  
 6 that has already been brought up is the racial and  
 7 economic divide, and it is something that has been  
 8 perpetuated, I think, by the City in the way that the  
 9 wards have been set up, so that -- there is a combination  
 10 of things. So there is a, I saw this in the last few  
 11 political campaigns. There is this idea that there is a  
 12 separation between Mt. Hope and Summit and Blackstone,  
 13 and there is some economic distinction, but the lines are  
 14 so sharply drawn that people from one neighborhood won't  
 15 go to the other, and there are actually street signs, and  
 16 and there was artist projects several years ago that put  
 17 up more signs that showed these lines. So one thing that  
 18 I request is to have those signs taken down in this whole  
 19 place called the East Side. It's a real estate  
 20 distinction. The real estate agents can make their own  
 21 points.  
 22 We are also, James and I are working to create a  
 23 neighborhood, which is to say Summit, Mt. Hope, East Side  
 24 barbeque in June, so we have a Facebook page, Unity  
 25 Providence, look for us. You can join up and help us

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1 this coming June. The other thing is, and I saw this on  
 2 your possibilities, weatherization. This is something  
 3 that is going to, any dollar that is invested in  
 4 weatherization is going to be paid off almost immediately  
 5 given the way oil prices are going and winters are  
 6 happening, but rather than hiring people from RISE to do  
 7 weatherization, weatherization is not rocket science. I  
 8 installed windows in my house after a friend showed me  
 9 how to do it in ten minutes. James has a program of  
 10 young men looking for work. If we hire people within the  
 11 neighborhood to go in, measure and replace windows with  
 12 supervision, obviously, the money is spent in the  
 13 community, and then the benefit of the weatherization is  
 14 in the community. So that would be a double use of the  
 15 funding.

16 MR. HULL: So just to address that real  
 17 quickly. We are, so, John is in our housing unit over in  
 18 the Division of Community Development. We have a lead  
 19 grant. So we are doing lead abatement at 250 homes  
 20 throughout the City. As part of that, we are partnering  
 21 with the Community Action Partnership of Providence to  
 22 align weatherization in with that type of a program. We  
 23 are also using other CDBG money to do different types of  
 24 environmental hazard, like pest infestation, and, you  
 25 know, asbestos, mold remediation as part of that, that

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1 sweep of activities, to make sure that the home is up to  
 2 par. So some of the contracting requirements that the  
 3 Federal Government places on us are fairly onerous, so we  
 4 need to be sensitive to that, but we do have a  
 5 partnership with Amos House to think about training  
 6 individuals, and let's, James, we'll talk afterwards to  
 7 really think about how we can be more inclusive of folks  
 8 in the neighborhood. This is something that John has  
 9 been thinking about. I have been thinking about, how to  
 10 be much more inclusive both from individuals who live in  
 11 the neighborhood, but, you know, minority contractors and  
 12 individuals. It's a huge opportunity just to think about  
 13 new business start-ups in the construction industry as  
 14 well.

15 MR. BINDER: The thing that made it  
 16 affordable for me was I had a friend who got me the  
 17 windows wholesale, showed me how to install them, and  
 18 then I installed them, and it took me two weeks to  
 19 install 20 some-odd windows. I only needed help with two  
 20 of them that were big. A training program for people to  
 21 do their own work and to have friends help them out would  
 22 go a long way rather than necessarily having, also having  
 23 hired people to do work for them.

24 MR. HULL: Right. So let me, I will get to,  
 25 so quickly, if we are thinking about, I'm just thinking

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1 about program design. So if we had a pool of money that  
 2 we could use as a housing program to do, work directly  
 3 with you or work with individual homeowners, have them do  
 4 a training program as part of that, that loan pool or  
 5 that grant funding to do demonstrations of how to do the  
 6 actual environmental remediation or weatherization  
 7 program, you know, that's something that --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How would that work  
 9 with tenements?

10 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry, your name?

11 MR. HULL: Hang on one second, sir. Go  
 12 ahead, and then James, you will be next, and then at the  
 13 end --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just wanted to  
 15 know, you're talking about weatherization, how would that  
 16 work with tenants? That's all I wanted to know. You're  
 17 talking about homeowners.

18 MR. HULL: We would have to work with the  
 19 homeowner.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So it would be the  
 21 landlord.

22 MR. GARRETT: I'm Greg Garrett. I live on  
 23 Sixth Street. I have things about all of those topics.

24 MR. HULL: Let's try and keep it brief.

25 MR. GARRETT: I will try and keep it brief.

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1 On the right track, the entire economic development  
 2 strategy of the City and the State is off base, because  
 3 it's based on erroneous assumptions about where the  
 4 economy is going. We are not going to see rapid economic  
 5 growth, and doing gyrations to do that is not going to  
 6 work. Therefore, we should stop giving tax breaks to  
 7 millionaires and especially tax breaks on real estate.  
 8 If capitalism works, then what self-respected capitalist  
 9 would ask for a subsidy from a state with high  
 10 unemployment, you know, high poverty. The hypocrisy  
 11 involved in our economic development strategy is also  
 12 amazing, and meds and eds isn't going to work for us,  
 13 because the medical industry is mostly making us broke.  
 14 On economic development, what we really need to do  
 15 is think about food security. The drought in California,  
 16 climate change for sure and long term is going to affect  
 17 the ability of people in Rhode Island to feed themselves.  
 18 So if we are thinking about economic development, what we  
 19 need to do is grow a lot more food, probably something on  
 20 the order of 20 times what we grow now. We need to do  
 21 that everywhere. Greenhouses, vertical farms, using the  
 22 farmland, taking just about every vacant lot and growing  
 23 food on it. Part of that also is dealing with our  
 24 stormwater and figuring out, instead of sending  
 25 stormwater into the river and into the pollution, and

1 into the bay, we need to start doing green infrastructure  
 2 that actually captures all of that stormwater, and then  
 3 what we need to do, once we capture it, is put it to  
 4 beneficial use. Some of that is growing food, some of  
 5 that is growing trees, some of that is actually wildlife  
 6 habitat. We need to talk about the North Burial Ground,  
 7 and that the North Burial Ground has this long strip of  
 8 land with no burials. It is deeded to have no burials,  
 9 and, we, and it's basically just vacant land that they  
 10 have to mow. We could grow -- we could turn that into  
 11 like three urban farms and grow almost enough vegetables  
 12 for the whole neighborhood right there, and that would  
 13 create jobs. The City could lease, at relatively low  
 14 cost for people who would actually come in there and farm  
 15 it, and we could set standards for farming. That would  
 16 help us deal with a whole bunch of issues, and it would  
 17 also keep the North Burial Ground open. The North Burial  
 18 Ground, also, we need to keep in mind as a wildlife  
 19 refuge for our community. I was actually standing by the  
 20 pond there the other day, and some guy, I don't know, he  
 21 was my age, because he told me he was, and he said, you  
 22 know, "I came in here as a kid, and this place is a  
 23 wildlife refuge." And, you know, I will admit, I'm  
 24 biased, I did a video project of wildlife in the North  
 25 Burial Ground, but the system there, some of the animals

1 what Mark was saying, and what I'm hearing from people in  
 2 here. I understand it's, like, I remember growing up  
 3 here when it was the East Side, and it wasn't Mt. Hope.  
 4 It just became Mt. Hope, but I also remember Camp Street  
 5 used to be the economic base of this community when I  
 6 grew up, and from my understanding Star Market,  
 7 University Heights Plaza was probably relatively new,  
 8 maybe like ten years old, but as a result of this plaza  
 9 it really killed the economic base, from my studies and  
 10 talking to people that grew up in the '40s and '50s in  
 11 this community, that used to be all of the commercial  
 12 real estate. I also talked with Bank of America branch  
 13 manager and president that some sort of economic base  
 14 needs to be returned to that community and capacity  
 15 buildings, because I'm getting, like, I put a salon on  
 16 Doyle Avenue to try to bring some businesses back to the  
 17 community, and if you don't have anybody coming out to  
 18 the businesses in the community, you really don't have a  
 19 healthy community. I'm getting a lot of kids, I keep  
 20 running out of applications for this jobs program. They  
 21 just called me, one of the people that worked for me, to  
 22 ask me to bring some more, and I didn't intend on  
 23 interviewing this many people, but when you start to talk  
 24 about this -- because I don't have the capacity to give  
 25 that many jobs to these kids who are causing issues,

1 in there are found nowhere else in the City. So as we  
 2 think about how we make our parks better, we also need to  
 3 think about our nonunion friends who make life a lot  
 4 better. So we have all of these things, but the key is  
 5 to understand the economic development situation we find  
 6 ourselves in does not include economic growth. We are  
 7 going to always be lagging behind the national average,  
 8 global average, and those averages are going down.  
 9 They're just on a slow trend because of research  
 10 collapse. So we have to start thinking about how you use  
 11 less and share more as an economic development strategy,  
 12 not make millionaires happy.  
 13 MR. HULL: Thank you. So, James, I'm going  
 14 to have you go next, but I just wanted to recognize that  
 15 Councilman Jackson is here. I didn't notice you walk in.  
 16 Did you have a couple words that you wanted to say?  
 17 COUNCILMAN JACKSON: No, I was just going to  
 18 say continue.  
 19 MR. HULL: Go ahead, James.  
 20 MR. MONTEIRO: I could speak to the  
 21 commercial district improvements and economic  
 22 development.  
 23 MR. HULL: Can you speak a little bit  
 24 louder?  
 25 MR. MONTEIRO: It kind of goes along with

1 because they really have nothing to do which is causing  
 2 more police and causing there not to be, people don't  
 3 feel safe coming down here, because they're being shot at  
 4 and all of this other stuff, but if we can deal with that  
 5 issue, but at the same time the capacity, that makes  
 6 perfect sense actually, because I was just talking to my  
 7 friend, actually, the one that does all of the  
 8 weatherization for RISE. I'm very good friends with  
 9 Melissa's husband's cousin who is the director of RISE,  
 10 but to start to think of some type of industry that we  
 11 could do that would kind of be able to provide employment  
 12 for these kids and also to bring some type of economics  
 13 back to this community, especially that strip, and then  
 14 my concern is, because I already know that we will be  
 15 dealing with the issues, especially in Mt. Hope that are  
 16 spilling over into other areas. We will be dealing with  
 17 those issues here. My concern then is that we need some  
 18 type of a program to teach these people about  
 19 homeownership, because my fear is that they will not,  
 20 they don't know what to do once they start to get well,  
 21 and they need to learn how to buy and invest into their  
 22 home and community. I don't know if that makes sense.  
 23 MR. HULL: So in the back there is, we'll do  
 24 you, and then we'll do you, and then we'll do you. How's  
 25 that?

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1 MS. DAVIS: Hi, I'm Michelle Davis, and I'm  
 2 from the East Side Mt. Hope neighborhood section. It is  
 3 considered the Mt. Hope neighborhood, but as pointed out  
 4 from a few other people before it was considered just  
 5 East Side, no division between Summit, the Boulevard, and  
 6 anything else. However, there is a couple of things that  
 7 I wanted to bring up. As Mr. Wood had said earlier, we  
 8 need to have job accountability and also we need to have  
 9 secondary higher education promotion of more secondary  
 10 higher education programs for kids who are coming out of  
 11 school. We need to promote from, like, Hope High School.  
 12 We need to not only have those magnet programs, but we  
 13 need to promote college, and we need to help the students  
 14 who aren't able to really learn in this type of  
 15 environment, the educational environment that's set  
 16 forth. We need to learn how to adapt, so they can learn  
 17 and they can further their education with secondary  
 18 education.  
 19 My other point is economic development. We need to  
 20 develop more jobs here on this East Side. We need to  
 21 develop businesses. We need to promote small businesses.  
 22 It's hard. If you have a small business, which I do,  
 23 it's hard to promote your small business. You get taxed  
 24 to death. We need some type of abatement for the taxes  
 25 for small businesses other than just for Brown

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1 University, Johnson & Wales, and these large  
 2 corporations. Small businesses need a hand up, not a  
 3 foot down.  
 4 Second thing, I'm sorry, the fourth thing, senior  
 5 services, we need to have more health awareness for  
 6 seniors, well, actually for the whole community, but the  
 7 seniors are kind of just dropped through the net. We  
 8 need to have more services, more health awareness, mental  
 9 health assistance and evaluations for our elderly,  
 10 because there are a lot of people that have the beginning  
 11 stages of dementia, but they don't want to say anything  
 12 about it, but they need to be evaluated. They need help.  
 13 You need to know what you're facing. The families need  
 14 some type of assistance. They need to know what they're  
 15 facing, and they need to know who to call. So we need to  
 16 have more direction and more help. Youth services,  
 17 after-school services, there aren't many, and we need  
 18 something placed in the budget. We can't just count on  
 19 Councilman Jackson to help us when the City is not  
 20 providing the funding, and he can't go anywhere except to  
 21 the City. We need more funding appropriated for the East  
 22 Side, for the Mt. Hope area for the youth programs, and  
 23 for our senior programs.  
 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all four  
 25 sides. I have seen it all.

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1 MS. DAVIS: I don't know, because I'm  
 2 specifically over on the East Side.  
 3 THE STENOGRAPHER: One at a time, please.  
 4 MR. HULL: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Were you  
 5 --  
 6 MS. DAVIS: As Mr. Binder was saying, the  
 7 weatherization program, it's a good idea, however, the  
 8 things that we have to consider is the license and  
 9 insurance. The homeowners might do it, want to do it  
 10 themselves, that's fine, but if we have another third  
 11 party coming in, they must be fully bonded and insured.  
 12 They must be licensed, so, you know, that's a good idea  
 13 to add other people to it, but as for me, I would have  
 14 to, like, to have my licensed fully bonded. I don't mind  
 15 training, and I love to have people trained, and youth  
 16 learning, but if it's for your real estate, and that's a  
 17 big investment, you need to make sure that they're fully  
 18 licensed, insured, and bonded. I'm finished. Thank you.  
 19 MS. RITCHIE: Hi. I'm Dannie Ritchie, and I  
 20 live over on Woodbine. I have been in the community  
 21 since about 2005 and have been in Rhode Island since  
 22 2000. I became partly involved with Mt. Hope, because  
 23 the Department of Health had done a community assessment  
 24 of community needs back around 2004, 2005, and having the  
 25 community a priority. So you're kind of repeating a lot

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1 of stuff that has happened, and at that time the  
 2 priorities were housing, youth programs, and affordable  
 3 housing. There was also the issues of the seniors, and  
 4 there was one other issue that's not coming to mind now.  
 5 We did a survey. I have Community Health  
 6 Innervations of Rhode Island who are trained community  
 7 health workers and try to create community-driven  
 8 programs and initiatives, and when we revisited those  
 9 same issues the same thing came up, housing, youth  
 10 programs, and affordable housing, and senior programs,  
 11 and what happened in 2004 and 2005, we did this huge  
 12 assessment, and then there is nothing, no infrastructure  
 13 to answer it. So we are still here doing the same  
 14 things, and I just finished creating a comprehensive  
 15 program that would address all of those areas with the  
 16 Department of Health, and we didn't get funded. So, you  
 17 know, and it would have been comprehensive. It's not  
 18 this piecemeal, hit here, a little bit there, you need to  
 19 have a comprehensive, and it needs to be creating  
 20 foundations for people to collaborate. Collaboration  
 21 just doesn't happen out of thin air. You have to have an  
 22 infrastructure for that.  
 23 So you keep coming back to the community and asking  
 24 the same questions and the same issues, because there is  
 25 nothing there to address them comprehensively. I don't

1 know if you guys know that the -- who funds the, um, the  
 2 Federal Reserve who funds the CDBG.  
 3 MR. HULL: HUD and Urban Development.  
 4 MS. RITCHIE: It's finance, there is a  
 5 financing board that's under the Federal Reserve and  
 6 Development. So, they're actually looking at health and  
 7 community development together. So, I don't know if you  
 8 guys can be more creative at looking at that. There is a  
 9 lot of work that's been done about how community  
 10 development is about health. We need to start to address  
 11 some of these disparities that are going on and the  
 12 health issues, because, one, people are safer when they  
 13 have jobs, when they have housing, when there is  
 14 educational opportunities in schools. That's what makes  
 15 people safe, and not having to find alternative means to  
 16 make a living.  
 17 And then, lastly, one of the things that came up,  
 18 and it came up back in 2004, is the lead toxicity. Mt.  
 19 Hope and Fox Point have the highest lead toxicity on the  
 20 East Side, and so, and then we have, we have people  
 21 needing food. We need food security. There has been a  
 22 food bank here since '85, and so, you know, part of the  
 23 program that we had designed was to use the gardens right  
 24 here to produce more food, so that we can give it to the  
 25 Billy Taylor Culinary Program, give it to the Food Bank,

1 training program for youth teaching them about  
 2 landscaping, and stormwater attenuation, so that might be  
 3 done here, and it seems to me that there could be, there  
 4 is a lot of opportunity for coordination and coordination  
 5 among the agencies that provides help.  
 6 When I was on the board of Camp Street, Dr. Mary  
 7 Oliver was trying to get in place a health referral  
 8 service on that site so that there are services, but very  
 9 often people just need some advice about what their  
 10 problem is, and it would be a savings so that people  
 11 don't go to an emergency room, and it would be a service  
 12 to people, because it's in their neighborhood where they  
 13 could access it. And then from there what is the next  
 14 step, or for the education and after-school programs,  
 15 somehow coordinating the agencies.  
 16 I have heard you talk about college education. I  
 17 also have contacts with Family Services and do some work  
 18 at Mary Fogarty School. So I know, I think it's the  
 19 children, I don't know if it's still called the  
 20 Children's Crusade that provides an opportunity to build  
 21 towards college, but if there were more coordination and  
 22 a referral site, I'm not certain how it works, but just  
 23 hoping that we can do more awareness of what is already  
 24 available and can be helpful not only in this  
 25 neighborhood but reaching out to the City and perhaps

1 and to give it to needy families and to start looking at  
 2 how we can start getting more food production in the  
 3 community, grow it. Start to have, you know, looking at  
 4 that comprehensively, but we can start right now right  
 5 outside this door. So that's it.  
 6 MR. HULL: Thank you.  
 7 MS. MARKS: My name is Eugenia Marks. I  
 8 live at 11 Methyl Street, and I have a background in  
 9 environmental issues, and I have done education, and I  
 10 have worked here in the neighborhood. I have worked with  
 11 Dr. Ritchie. I have been on the board of the Camp Street  
 12 Community Ministry, so I have some observations about our  
 13 community. And I just see the need to pull a lot of  
 14 district things together, and as you were talking about  
 15 the home projects as a source for job training, for  
 16 example, it could also be a way of reducing the utility  
 17 bills and reducing climate change issues if we can use  
 18 some of the CDBG money for LED bulbs in homes and where  
 19 there are renters who pay their own utilities that would,  
 20 so I don't know how that would work, but for renters who  
 21 pay their own utilities that would be a savings.  
 22 Also, there was mention of flooding, and I know that  
 23 in South Providence and the West End Ground Works -- is  
 24 Marcus still here? Marc? Yes, Marcus Mitchell has  
 25 worked with Grounds Works, and right now they have a

1 other agencies that we can tap their ideas and resources  
 2 and somehow build together.  
 3 MR. HULL: Fred.  
 4 MR. ORDONEZ: Fred Ordonez. I'm the  
 5 Executive Director of DARE. First thing, are we on the  
 6 right track? I say, absolutely not. If you go to the  
 7 Providence Plan, and you look at the poverty rates for  
 8 the low-income neighborhood of Providence, you see that  
 9 poverty has increased in each neighborhood every decade  
 10 for the past four decades, and so, no, we are not on the  
 11 right track if that's what's happening. This has to do,  
 12 you know -- the first thing is public safety. The City  
 13 has to reexamine its definition of what it means, what  
 14 public safety means, and it's directly connected to the  
 15 economic development strategy that it has or doesn't  
 16 have.  
 17 Jim Bennett and the previous administration of the  
 18 office of economic development was asked if he had any  
 19 other strategies besides tax breaks for wealthy folks and  
 20 corporations, if he had any other strategy, and he said,  
 21 no. It is beyond his pay grade. So with that sort of  
 22 economic development strategy, it's no wonder that we  
 23 have what we have.  
 24 As far as public safety goes, what's happening, I  
 25 know you're getting comments from folks saying, look,



1 there is prostitutes here. There is drug dealing here.  
 2 We need lights over here, but that doesn't actually take  
 3 care of the problem. All it does is make folks go to  
 4 another street, and you get concentrated pockets of  
 5 poverty somewhere else, or you get concentrated crime  
 6 somewhere else. So this idea that you can, this is the  
 7 way to solve it, or getting more police, where we are  
 8 ending up is having more incarceration, the highest  
 9 incarceration we have ever had, and that's not, no  
 10 different from the City of Providence, and with that  
 11 comes the separation of families. People have criminal  
 12 records and can't get housing and can't get jobs, so it  
 13 just exacerbates the problem.  
 14 So police solving public safety is not the answer,  
 15 but it was heard here earlier today when people were  
 16 talking about the programs for the youth and job  
 17 programs, you know, the one law it says, one of the  
 18 things said laws weren't being enforced, and I think what  
 19 people meant by that were criminal laws, but the one law  
 20 that's not being enforced and is having the worst impact  
 21 is First Source. It's a local hiring ordinance that says  
 22 all these companies get tax breaks. Tax subsidies are  
 23 supposed to be hiring locally, and that's why we give  
 24 them thousands and millions of dollars of tax breaks and  
 25 subsidies, so they can hire locally. It's been on the

1 CDBG, is blight prevention. There is a ton of money that  
 2 comes from HUD that is supposed to go to prevent blight,  
 3 but most of the money goes to fix blighted properties  
 4 that have already been blighted, but there is no  
 5 prevention happening, that's not prevention. It's after  
 6 the fact, after the places are foreclosed, stripped,  
 7 burned, and then there is all kinds of stuff going in  
 8 those homes, and the neighborhood is decimated, then  
 9 money is being spent to fix these houses, but, you know,  
 10 Olneyville Neighborhood Corporation said that it's  
 11 roughly \$200,000 to rehab, has to go to rehab one of  
 12 these homes, but it costs us about fifteen hundred  
 13 dollars to prevent a property that, where it's been  
 14 foreclosed, where the tenants would normally get evicted  
 15 and the property would be boarded up and loss of blight.  
 16 It only costs \$50 to keep those folks in those houses,  
 17 and this goes to displacement too, because it's not just  
 18 about the property. It has to do with the families that  
 19 have lived there for generations, and if they're being  
 20 pushed out through the foreclosure crisis or  
 21 gentrification, that's when you don't have folks who care  
 22 about their neighborhood, because they're all being  
 23 pushed away from the neighborhoods where they grew up.  
 24 So one of the things that California presently does is  
 25 designated census tracks, they, because we talk about the

1 books since 1986, and out of the 4.5 years not one  
 2 company has ever been held accountable for not complying.  
 3 So the City is really the one that's not enforcing this,  
 4 and there is absolutely no hiring happening. So with  
 5 that sort of inaction by the City, you're going to have  
 6 high unemployment and high poverty that we have. One of  
 7 the things that I get told a lot over on Lockwood Street  
 8 because it's between Crossroads and Amos House, I see the  
 9 homeless folks every day, the homeless folks walking  
 10 around saying where do I go, what do I do, I will do any  
 11 job. I will -- you know, there is no support for them.  
 12 Whoever is supporting them is the other poor people that  
 13 live in those neighborhoods with whatever they can help  
 14 them with, but they don't have the capacity to support  
 15 them. And then they ask, look at all of these houses  
 16 that are boarded up, look at all this trash, look at all  
 17 these empty lots, why can't we be hired to pick that up,  
 18 or why can't we be hired to fix those things? And I try  
 19 to explain to them the City doesn't really hire directly.  
 20 They've got this bidding process, and they use  
 21 contractors, and they have to be insured and all of this  
 22 other stuff, but they could create a program to directly  
 23 hire homeless folks.  
 24 The other thing too that CDBG, in general, has to  
 25 rethink, or at least the City of Providence, as well as

1 neighborhood where people need to be hired such as  
 2 Providence residents, they actually look at the census  
 3 tracks that have the highest unemployment, poverty, and  
 4 crime rates, and designate them as special ones that need  
 5 more, where the services are going to go and where the  
 6 jobs are going to happen. That's what needs to happen.  
 7 Backing up to the housing revitalization strategies  
 8 that happen. Those nonprofits, you know, they're good  
 9 because they rehab these houses, but they don't go back  
 10 and try to find the previous owners to have those  
 11 families move back into that neighborhood. Now, it is  
 12 more gentrification. It's whoever that comes in there.  
 13 So that's another thing that could be fixed, and then  
 14 Economic Development Office, it's like, the trickling  
 15 down economics, you know, after decades of it having the  
 16 devastating results that its had in our country that  
 17 that's what the City is going to push more, and put all  
 18 it's chips in. That's crazy. That office should be  
 19 looking at these designated census tracks, saying what  
 20 can we do to directly impact those folks. We are going  
 21 to have the Superman Building, give them a million  
 22 dollars, right, like 39 million dollars, and then  
 23 supposedly all of the money is going to trickle down to  
 24 folks in our community. That's ridiculous, and that has  
 25 to stop.

1 And the last thing, housing discrimination for  
 2 people with records. We talk about how there is over  
 3 policing that's happening in certain communities, racial  
 4 profiling. Michelle Alexander wrote a book called The  
 5 New Jim Crow, and that's exactly what's happening. Folks  
 6 by Blackstone Boulevard, for example, aren't getting  
 7 shaken down like they're getting shaken down in  
 8 Providence. And every study shows that it's not that  
 9 people of color use more drugs or have more paraphernalia  
 10 on them, but if only one out of every 20 people who are  
 11 searched by the police is white, then obviously some  
 12 folks, you know, are going to have something on them. A  
 13 percentage of the population has something, and if it is  
 14 only people of color in certain neighborhoods that are  
 15 being shaken down of course you're going to find  
 16 paraphernalia. So that sort of over policing in  
 17 particular neighborhoods, racial profiling, and then, of  
 18 course, sentencing which is also disparaging between the  
 19 races. You get folks that have criminal records, and so  
 20 now you have got a higher percentage of folks of color in  
 21 these neighborhoods with criminal records, and it is  
 22 totally legal discriminating against them. No you can't  
 23 get public housing. No you can't get Section 8. No you  
 24 can't get this job. No you can't get this Pell Grant.  
 25 That is sort of another issue, and that doesn't have to

1 crayon, paint what your community will look like. You  
 2 draw, and you're coloring, and you're doing all of this  
 3 stuff, and the same thing, just like David said, it's  
 4 just repeating, it's just recycling, and keep on  
 5 recycling, and keep on recycling, because nobody really  
 6 wants to address the issue. And I'm angry. I'm damn  
 7 right angry, because you're not listening to the  
 8 community, because behind closed doors you're going to do  
 9 what you want to do. Be honest. Don't come over here  
 10 with this, we want the community input which you know the  
 11 community input is going to go down the toilet. So don't  
 12 fake the funk with us, and you can tell that to your  
 13 mayor. Thank you. Where's he at?  
 14 MR. HULL: So I think we'll wrap up with  
 15 that unless someone else has anything else. I appreciate  
 16 the conversation. What we are going to do is, Margit,  
 17 did you want to just, real quickly, summarize what some  
 18 of the comments were?  
 19 MS. LIANDER: And if I forget anything,  
 20 please, jump in. I heard more policing is not the  
 21 solution. Police officers are not part of the community,  
 22 and there is a real disconnect between the officers and  
 23 the community. The police should be better trained on  
 24 how to approach youth. We need more funding for sidewalk  
 25 improvements and just construction in general of

1 happen. HUD has said that only certain criminal records  
 2 can be looked at or should be looked at, but the Housing  
 3 Authority of Providence discriminates against everybody.  
 4 They automatically disqualify anybody that has any kind  
 5 of criminal record no matter how minor it is, and then  
 6 they supposedly have this thing where people can have an  
 7 appeal process to be able to get in there, but only one  
 8 percent of the appeals were awarded, so, it's, again,  
 9 another way of segregating folks, but that's it.  
 10 MR. WOODS: Can I add something to what he  
 11 was saying? Another thing, it's tied in, but nobody's  
 12 really focusing on, is the gun violence in this city is  
 13 outrageous, and there will be less needed police and less  
 14 crime if they tried to stop the gun violence and get the  
 15 guns off the street and stop these people from killing,  
 16 stop these youths from killing each other. That's a big  
 17 issue here in Rhode Island that really needs to be  
 18 addressed, and they should get some kind of program to  
 19 fund that, to stop gun violence. Rhode Island is, what,  
 20 third in the United States?  
 21 MR. HULL: So, did we have one more person  
 22 who wants to offer comment? John, go ahead.  
 23 MR. PRINCE: I just want to close. I hope  
 24 this don't be another dog-and-pony show that have been  
 25 upon this initiative for the last 20 years. Oh, here's a

1 sidewalks, specifically on the South Side near Amos House  
 2 and on Somerset. The police force is not trying to build  
 3 relationships with community members. We need more  
 4 funding for after-school programs and job-training  
 5 programs. There is a need for more, for neighborhoodwide  
 6 cleanup. There is a great economic and racial divide  
 7 between the neighborhood. Community members should be  
 8 hired with the City's weatherization efforts. The  
 9 economic development strategy of the City is off track.  
 10 We need to focus on food security and focus on growing  
 11 more food in general, more funding should go towards  
 12 green infrastructure and stormwater initiatives.  
 13 I heard that capacity building is needed. There is  
 14 a great demand for youth job opportunities but not enough  
 15 capacity to meet this demand. There is a great need for  
 16 more promotion of higher education. More funding is also  
 17 needed for small business promotion and for senior  
 18 services, specifically in terms of health evaluations,  
 19 more funding for youth after-school programs and senior  
 20 activities. I also noted that contractors for  
 21 weatherizations should be fully licensed and insured. So  
 22 there also needs to be more follow-up, some of these  
 23 issues keep arising, and there's been a lot of planning  
 24 and not enough implementation. More focus is needed on  
 25 the overlap between health and community development and

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1 creative partnerships between these two. Lead toxicity  
 2 continues to be a big issue. There could be more funding  
 3 for LED light bulbs in homes. There is a need for youth  
 4 training programs and landscaping, similar to the program  
 5 on the South Side with Ground Works. Better coordination  
 6 is needed amongst schools and community organizations.  
 7 More awareness needs to be brought to existing city  
 8 services. And, lastly, the definition of public safety  
 9 needs to be reexamined. Once again, the police are not  
 10 necessarily the answer. First Source regulations need to  
 11 be better enforced by the City, high unemployment, and  
 12 the crime rates aren't going to change until this is  
 13 addressed, and there is a possibility of creating a  
 14 program to employ the homeless population through the  
 15 rehabilitation process. Funding needs to be better  
 16 allocated proportionately to communities in need. There  
 17 is a big issue with housing discrimination for people  
 18 with criminal records, and more funding is needed for a  
 19 program to address gun violence. So that's what I had.  
 20 MR. HULL: Yeah, and then some of the issues  
 21 that James brought up about Camp Street used to be the  
 22 commercial corridor of this area.  
 23 MR. GARRETT: There were two other things  
 24 that she missed.  
 25 MR. HULL: Well, we have summary notes, and

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1 lots of notes here.  
 2 MS. LIANDER: That's why we have the  
 3 surveys, too.  
 4 MR. HULL: Please fill out the survey as  
 5 well, Greg. So what we do with this information -- let  
 6 me just take a step back. I understand the frustration  
 7 of the folks in this room. I actually come from a  
 8 community organizing background, and I have, you know, I  
 9 take my job seriously. I take this information, and this  
 10 helps us guide the decisions internally at the Division  
 11 of Community Development about where we should be  
 12 allocating Community Development Block Grants. This  
 13 information is really helpful for us. I appreciate  
 14 everyone's candor, and I understand the frustration in  
 15 the room. So I am your ally in this, so do not think  
 16 that I am not, this information isn't taken seriously by  
 17 me and by the folks in the Division of Community  
 18 Development.  
 19 What we do with this information, this helps us  
 20 write our consolidated plan. Our consolidated plan is a  
 21 five-year guidance document about how we use Community  
 22 Development Block Grants moving forward. We are going to  
 23 put a draft version of this plan together, and we are  
 24 going to make this available for public review and public  
 25 comment. If there are issues and concerns that you have

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1 identified that are not in the consolidated plan, that's  
 2 another opportunity for you to revisit with the Community  
 3 Development Division and offer those comments. The  
 4 website is here. That website will have all of the  
 5 information about the consolidated plan and how you can  
 6 better engage. So I appreciate that.  
 7 With that, this is the last meeting. We have had  
 8 eight community meetings throughout the City. This is  
 9 our last one, and I appreciate all of the comments and  
 10 the candor. We'll be here for a little while if you have  
 11 any more questions.  
 12 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:55 P.M.)  
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Page 44

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 2  
 3 C E R T I F I C A T E  
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 5  
 6  
 7 I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify that the  
 8 foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of  
 9 my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.  
 10  
 11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand  
 12 this 29th day of April 2015.  
 13  
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*Tracy L. Shepherd* 

TRACY L. SHEPHERD  
 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
 NOTARY PUBLIC/MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6/9/2018

DATE: April 9, 2015  
 IN RE: Public Hearing  
 HEARING OF: City of Providence - Department of  
 Planning and Development



**CITY OF PROVIDENCE**

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** July 30, 2015

**To:** Community Members and Members of the Public

**From:** Brian Hull, Director of Community Development

**Subject:** **Official Response by the City of Providence to written Public Comments received in response to the draft Consolidated Plan for 2015 – 2019.**

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The City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development, Division of Community Development prepared a draft version of its 5-Year Consolidated Plan, Strategic Plan, and Annual Action Plan to guide funding decisions for the use of Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) funds. The primary purpose of these funds is to benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Through the allocation of these funds, the City of Providence plans to support viable urban communities by meeting the following objectives: (1) provide safe and decent affordable housing; (2) create and maintain a suitable living environment; and (3) expand economic opportunities.

The City of Providence made available a draft version for public review and comment. Additionally, a public hearing was held at 6pm on Thursday, June 18, 2015 to provide an opportunity for the public to receive information related to the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan and offer comments in person.

Two written comments were received. They are included as attachments to this memo. This memo serves as the official response by the City of Providence to these written comments.

**Providence Preservation Society**

In a letter dated July 15, 2015, Brent Runyon, Executive Director of the Providence Preservation Society offered comments related to specific items in the Consolidated Plan, largely based on the age of the property and the Consolidated Plan's unintentional correlation of old housing meaning substandard housing. The Consolidated Plan has been updated to further clarify that the age of the



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

housing stock was not intended to imply housing quality; however, the age of the housing stock in relation to lack of maintenance leads to a pressing need for rehabilitation.

The Consolidated Plan makes several references to the year 1940 because this is one of the criteria HUD uses when calculating the CDBG funding formula.

Additionally, the letters asks, “Why is 1978 not the cut-off date for discussion about lead paint?” While the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission banned lead paint for residential use in the United States in 1978, public data sources available for analysis do not cleanly differentiate homes built before 1978 and those after 1978. The year 1980 is the closest year available for analysis due to the way federal data aggregates housing units by year built.

A map entitled “Age of Providence Housing Stock” shows major greenspaces as “housing stock.” Roger Williams Park, Swan Point Cemetery, North Burial Ground, etc. should not be colored in.

Another reference regarding the downtown housing market was clarified to more accurately reflect the diverse types of housing found in this area.

Regarding “unit size by tenure,” the data is supplied by the federal government.

The following was reworded for clarity: “While lead-based paint was banned for residential use in the United States in 1978 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 86% of all the housing units were built before 1980.” In now reads: “Lead-based paint was banned for residential use in the United States in 1978 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. In the City of Providence approximately 86% of all the housing units were built before 1980 (note: 1980 is the closest year available for analysis due to the way federal data aggregates housing units by year built).”

It is acknowledged that the map “Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Children under the Age of 6 by Neighborhood” shows little correlation between age of the housing stock and incidence of lead poisoning. Additional narrative was included in this section to clarify.

The City recognizes that training in cleaning and prevention is a less costly alternative to full lead abatement or containment and the Division of Community Development will evaluate its housing programs to incorporate this training if feasible.

### **Green and Healthy Homes Initiative**

In a letter dated July 20, 2015, Ruth Ann Norton, President and CEO of Green and Healthy Homes Initiative offered written comments related to lead-paint hazard reduction, asthma and healthy homes, improved integration, and affordable housing.



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Regarding lead paint hazard reduction, the City understands that the Centers for Disease Control determined that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children. Language was added to the Consolidated Plan to acknowledging this. Regarding additional funding resources for lead hazard reduction, the City is pursuing additional funding opportunities and/or reallocation existing priorities to bolster lead hazard reduction and further integrate these efforts into broader rehabilitation efforts. The Division of Community Development is in conversation with the Department of inspections and Standards to strengthen collaboration and coordination regarding code violations and will offer comment regarding contractor compliance with the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.

Regarding asthma and healthy homes, the City recognizes that there are a myriad of environmental factors that create unhealthy living environments including, pests, rodents, asbestos, mold, radon, etc. The City is a member of the RI Alliance for Healthy Homes and is very interested in developing strategies and partnerships to address the wide array of negative environmental factors found in homes that impact occupants' health.

The City appreciates the recognition of its adoption of Green and Healthy Homes Initiative integrated client intake, assessment, and intervention model. We fully embrace the model and are proactive in finding ways to build on its success.

The City also appreciates the suggestion regarding dedicated resources for housing choice vouchers to immediately relocate families living in lead hazardous homes. As the City continually modifies and improves its housing rehabilitation and lead abatement programs, we will consider housing choice vouchers as another strategy to be used to protect children from lead poisoning.



## Providence Preservation Society

July 15, 2015

Brian Hull  
Director of Community Development  
Department of Planning and Development  
City of Providence  
444 Westminster St., Suite 3A  
Providence, RI 02903

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Dear Mr. Hull:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft of the City's 5-year Consolidated Plan. As one of the City's leading public non-profit organizations, we take our mission seriously, which is to improve Providence by advocating for historic preservation and the enhancement of its unique character through thoughtful design and planning. All citizens deserve a city that is pleasant, safe and well maintained, and residents deserve neighborhoods that foster their sense of wellbeing. We believe these traits of a great city are nurtured by preserving places of architectural and historical significance. We also value design excellence and we believe that all development should conform to the best practices of current urban planning and environmental awareness. New construction should be informed by enduring design principles, honoring the craftsmanship and beauty of our finest historic buildings. By caring for our city's most vulnerable, we know that neighborhoods and the lives of people who inhabit them will be made better, so we salute and support the city's efforts in this regard.

Following are my questions and critiques on substance the document, using page numbers and quotes from the document in most cases.

page 6: "58% of all houses in Providence were built prior to 1940"

If this is attempting to be a statement of causality (old house = substandard house), we would argue that age is not a factor, as the quality of construction and materials of houses built before 1940 are by-and-large better than anything built after 1940. The primary factor contributing to the substandard nature of a building is the lack of maintenance. This occurs with houses of any age and is chiefly caused by lack of interest or lack of resources for that maintenance. One of Providence's strengths is actually the age of its building stock, and if that stock were better maintained, it would be an even greater strength. The wording here would lead one to believe that to alleviate substandard housing, one should eliminate old housing stock. (Some may have to be eliminated, but that shouldn't be the starting point for discussion.)

page 6: "the City's housing stock, particularly the large pools of homes in the City built before 1940, may not be suitable for households with special needs."

I'm not sure why this date is used for this section. The age of homes is an issue for accessibility, but the ADA was not adopted until 1990. This section also includes victims of violence and similar, but I fail to find a correlation between age of housing and the needs of this population. I certainly agree the city's housing stock will not serve all populations well, but age doesn't really matter. You could take out "particularly the large pools of homes in the City built before 1940" and the argument would be stronger.

page 44: Why is 1978 not the cut-off date for discussion about lead paint?

In our experience, funds used to train occupants about appropriate cleaning (of lead dust) and simple steps to avoid lead poisoning would go farther than lead remediation actions, which leaks a lot of funds through poor labor management and lack of oversight, especially when combined with weatherization work. It also leads to loss of durable materials (wood, primarily) and architectural character, which enlivens places that people inhabit. The process and funding strategy for lead awareness and remediation needs to be rethought.

Again, why is 1940 the cutoff for the disabled? Stairs are more likely to be present because of the size of a lot than the age of a house. For example, many split level houses built after 1940 are present in the city.

Ditto: page 50

page 105 - The map shows major greenspaces as "housing stock" if the title is to be believed. Roger Williams Park, Swan Point Cemetery, North Burial Ground, etc. should not be colored in.

page 109 - "The market in Downtown will continue to serve young professionals and students affiliated with the several colleges in the area."

This is not untrue, but downtown also includes much affordable housing, and market and high end housing for professionals and retirees.

page 111 - Is the "unit size by tenure" table correctly labeled? I thought "tenure" referred to length of occupancy. Also, should the number of "units" in that table match the number in the preceding table? There's discrepancy in number of units in several following tables, too. The error may depend on a counting method I am not privy to.

page 122 - This sentence should be two, since the two parts are not related: "While lead-based paint was banned for residential use in the United States in 1978 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 86% of all the housing units were built before 1980."

page 122-123 - The map clearly shows that there is little correlation between age of house and incidence of lead poisoning. Each of those neighborhoods in dark and light green is higher income than most or has newer housing (based on the map on page 105). With my rudimentary knowledge of the particular neighborhoods, I can easily see that there are other socioeconomic factors at play. Simply assigning age of housing as a factor to lead poisoning appears to be incorrect.

page 124 - It's great that your division is coordination various housing rehab programs to address lead issues, but training in cleaning and prevention should be incorporated into the effort. It's much less costly and can be very effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Keep up the good and complex work of making our city a better place for all citizens to live and work.

Best Regards,

Brent Runyon  
Executive Director





# Green & Healthy Homes Initiative® Rhode Island

July 20, 2015

Brian Hull  
Director of Community Development  
Department of Planning and Development  
444 Westminster St., Suite 3A  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2015-2019 City of Providence  
Consolidated Plan Comments

Dear Director Hull:

I write on behalf of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative® (GHHI) to offer comments on the Department of Community Development's 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. GHHI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to break the link between unhealthy families and unhealthy homes. GHHI provides lead poisoning prevention and other technical assistance to over 21 Cities, Counties, and States nationally in advancing the innovative Green & Healthy Homes Initiative model.

GHHI offers the following comments and recommendations concerning the Department's 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan:

1. Lead-Paint Hazard Reduction
  - a) In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control determined that there is no safe level of lead exposure for a child and established a new blood lead reference level of 5 µg/dl. As noted in the Plan, lead poisoning prevention remains a high priority need for the City. The Department's funding plans should reflect an emphasis on direct lead hazard reduction and other prevention programs for pre-1978 constructed homes.
  - b) GHHI recommends that the Department continue to maintain lead hazard reduction grant funding and that the Department seek additional funding sources in order to increase the amount of funding allocated to lead hazard reduction grant funding (CDBG, alternative sources, etc.) for low income residents.
  - c) The Department should continue to improve its coordination with the Department of Health to insure that all children with elevated blood lead levels of 5 µg/dl or higher are regularly referred to the City of Providence's lead hazard reduction programs for possible lead hazard reduction grant assistance for their property.

- d) The Department's Office of Permits and Building Inspections should assist with improving compliance by contractors with the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP) by requiring that contractors who are conducting activities covered by the RRP Rule and which also require a permit in the City of Providence, to provide proof of State of Rhode Island RRP Rule firm certification in order to be approved for a permit.

2. Asthma and Healthy Homes

- a) GHHI recommends that the Plan include additional data and recognition of the significant disease burden that asthma brings to children and adults in the City of Providence. Asthma remains a public health problem in Providence that is evidenced by higher rates of asthma among children and adult City residents compared to the State of Rhode Island as a whole. In 2009-2013, rates of child hospitalizations with primary asthma diagnosis were almost double that compared to the rest of the state (3.3 versus 1.9 per 1000 children under age of 18)(Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook, 2015). From Rhode Island's core cities in the 2007-2012 six year combined period, Providence had the highest rate of hospitalization due to asthma among children ages zero to four year (70.3 per 10,000). In Rhode Island, the average cost for asthma related hospitalizations is \$10,081 per child and emergency room visits cost \$1,500 per child. (The Burden of Asthma in Rhode Island, Rhode Island Department of Health 2014). The City of Providence's housing stock contains numerous asthma triggers including among others: mice, rats, roaches, dust mites, mold, and poor indoor air quality that are exacerbating underlying asthma conditions for residents.
- b) Home-based environmental health hazards play a significant role in asthma episodes, household injury, and other negative health outcomes. The Department should designate specific funding for asthma trigger reduction interventions and for Healthy Homes Program funding that can address other home-based environmental health hazards including among others: mold, asbestos, and radon.

3. Improved Integration

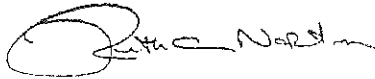
- a) The Department has been a national leader in its adoption of the integrated Green & Healthy Homes Initiative client intake, housing assessment, and housing intervention model. GHHI encourages the Department to build on its progress and continue to improve its client services in order to fully achieve a single portal intake process, a shared database platform, and an assessment and intervention process that results in comprehensive housing interventions for any low income family who seeks services from the Department, other City agencies, or any organization who is a partner in the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Providence collaborative.

Brian Hull Consolidated Plan Comments Letter  
Page Three  
July 20, 2015

4. Affordable Housing
  - a) In order to assist families who have limited income sources but who reside in lead hazardous housing where their children have elevated blood lead levels or are at imminent risk of lead poisoning, GHHI recommends that the Department establish a dedicated pool of Housing Choice Voucher Program vouchers that can be readily accessed to assist lead affected families in moving from lead hazardous housing to lead certified or lead free housing where necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Ann Norton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Ruth Ann Norton  
President and CEO