

Pilot No. 6: Coordinate ConPlan and PHA Plan

Focus: Consolidated Plan Document and Performance Reporting

Purpose:

To allow grantees who also submit PHA plans with the same program-year start dates to submit both plans at the same time. To coordinate other aspects of the process, such as consultation, data sharing, and citizen participation

Participants:

Lancaster County, PA

Pilot Description:

Certain grantees must submit both a Consolidated Plan and PHA Plan to HUD. Although these plans can have different formats and submission dates, they often contain similar data and information on programs designed to assist similar client groups. The goal of this pilot is to allow grantees that submit both plans to follow the same schedule for the public review process and submission. The pilot group would consist of one or more grantees whose Consolidated Plan and PHA Plan have the same program-year start date.

CPD will seek to coordinate with PIH to revise submission requirements and develop a consolidated template that these grantees could use to meet Consolidated Plan requirements. Participating grantees would be free to add additional text or material to meet local needs, including innovative citizen participation strategies.

Summary of Grantee Pilots:

Lancaster County plans to prepare comments on timing issues and make recommendations to HUD on issues involving public notification and timing of submission of annual plans. The County also plans to submit an amended Consolidated Plan that meets the requirements of both the Consolidated Plan and the PHA Plan by incorporating portions of the PHA Plan into the Consolidated Plan.

Pilot No. 6 Status as of June 30, 2004

Lancaster County, PA recommended that HUD seek statutory changes to the Public Housing Plan process that would permit housing authorities agreeing to submit a submit a joint plan to defer to the timing requirements and citizen participation process of the CDBG grantee. Housing authorities that choose to do a joint plan would be able to adopt the public notice, public hearing and submission timelines of the CDBG Grantee. The Housing Authority would also be able to submit their 5-year and annual plans on a timeline that would match the CDBG Grantee's fiscal/program year. The County also prepared new housing needs tables using special tabulations of data from Census 2000.

Lancaster County has designed several charts to supplement the Housing Needs Table in the Consolidated Plan. The charts break out basic census data for the various communities within the Urban County, and it is the County's belief that the format will enable local residents to better understand housing need within their community and throughout the County. Several of the charts are quite basic, showing population by age cohort or occupied housing units by tenure. Two of the charts identify households paying more than 30% of income for housing; one showing such households by tenure and broad age category (over/under 65) and the other listing renter households within the two lowest income categories used by the census.

A review of the tables indicates the tables provide greater geographic detail than is required by the Consolidated Plan, and add relevance to local residents if used to supplement the Plan. HUD would support and encourage their use.