

**City of Gainesville Five-Year Consolidated Plan
Neighborhood Meeting: Southeast Gainesville
March 14, 2013 | 6:00 p.m.**
Williams Elementary School
1245 SE 7th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida



MEETING SUMMARY

City of Gainesville is in the process of drafting a Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2013/2014-2017/2018 to create a strategic and unified vision for HUD funding over the next five years. In order to develop this vision, City of Gainesville conducted a series of neighborhood meetings during March 2013 to collect input and comments related to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

On March 14, 2013, the City conducted a neighborhood meeting at Williams Elementary School on SE 7th Avenue. Approximately fourteen individuals representing neighborhood or community interests attended the meeting. Neighborhoods and organizations represented included but were not limited to:

- Carol Estates
- Lincoln Estates
- Spring Hill
- Santa Fe College
- No Limit Outreach Foundation

In an effort to provide an environment that would allow for all attendees to be heard, a three tier approach was conducted. The first was to present an educational PowerPoint which provided background on the purpose of drafting a Five-Year Plan, which activities and area are eligible for HUD funding, and the schedule that City of Gainesville will follow to adopt the Five-Year Plan in 2013. The second was a questionnaire asking participants about their experiences working with City of Gainesville to administer HUD funds both in the past and present. The third was an open discussion where participants were asked to discuss issues and concerns publicly.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire allowed for attendees to convey their familiarity with HUD programs administrated by City of Gainesville and to provide input on obstacles to and priorities for fund administration over the next five years. The questionnaire included five questions in an open-ended format. Seven individuals returned questionnaires during the neighborhood meeting.

Challenges identified through the questionnaire included lack of functioning air conditioners and water heaters, lack of energy efficient appliances, safe and secure housing that is also affordable, elimination of blight, home ownership for low income families, and the need for larger lots and decent homes so people with higher incomes will move to and improve the southeast neighborhoods.

Priorities identified through the questionnaire included rehabilitation of old homes built in the 1930s and 1940s, roof repair, demolition and removal of blight, removal of septic tanks and replacement with utility lines, adequate housing for low income families with children, economic development including neighborhood commercial, and homeless and non-homeless special needs populations such as seniors.

Open Discussion

During the discussion, participants were asked to speak openly regarding issues and concerns affecting their respective stakeholder group. Participants were very engaged in this portion of the meeting. A number of issues were brought to City of Gainesville's attention. These issues are listed below, specific to the neighborhoods and community organizations in attendance:

- Home Rehabilitation
 - Challenges:
 - Homes from 7th Avenue to University Avenue in state of disrepair
 - Roofs, air conditioning, windows, etc. not energy efficient
 - Lead-based paint status unknown
 - Homes not accessible for disabled or elderly
 - Priorities:
 - Rehabilitation for Springhill, Lincoln Heights, and Carol Estates neighborhoods
 - Roof repair
 - Energy efficiency retrofits and lead-based paint testing
- Community Centers
 - Challenges:
 - Existing structures could be rehabbed for community use
 - Priorities:
 - Pine Meadows Lake Terrace (potential rehabilitation)
 - Community Center in Springhill
 - Old nursery/daycare facilities
- Rental Housing/Rental Assistance
- Blight Elimination
- Homeless Services
 - Challenges:
 - Elimination of "Tent City" sites
 - Lack of beds, need shelter options – "one stop" assistance
 - Priorities:
 - Assistance/case management
 - Shelter options and fair treatment
 - Resources such as food banks, etc.
 - Homeless services for families, single-parents and children
 - Assistance to children taking care of themselves (with no parental support)
- Youth and Young Adult Services
 - Challenges:
 - Recidivism, particularly young males
 - Priorities:
 - Programs to prevent recidivism
 - Job training/placement assistance
- Historic Preservation/Restoration

Conclusion

Although there are many issues that the Southeast Neighborhoods felt are important, there are a few items that were stressed throughout the meeting as being of the highest priority:

- Home Rehabilitation
- Community Centers
- Rental Housing/Rental Assistance
- Blight Elimination
- Homeless Services

- Youth and Young Adult Services
- Historic Preservation/Restoration

For questions regarding the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, please contact John Wachtel at 352.393.8565 or wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org.

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More information can be found at www.cityofgainesville.org