



# PLANNING PROCESS

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Lead Agency for the planning and administration of the Consolidated Plan and its related HUD grants is the Lake County Community Economic Development Department (LCCEDD). In carrying out the planning process, LCCEDD staff conduct outreach to a wide range of community stakeholders and to the general public.

Outreach is a key component of any planning effort. This section describes the County's efforts to gather input from residents, especially those that may benefit from the plan, and from service providers, non-profits, and other government agencies that work within the areas of affordable housing and community development.

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## CONSULTATION

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### LIST OF CONSULTATIONS

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A complete list of organizations involved in the planning process can be found in Appendix A. The County consulted with all agencies and organizations described in the federal guidance on consolidated planning.

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### EFFORTS TO ENHANCE COORDINATION

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The County is involved in a number of efforts to increase coordination in the delivery of affordable housing, community development, and homeless services. These include the Continuum of Care (described in more detail below), the Lake County Housing Taskforce, the Lake County Community Bankers Council, the Lake County Economic Alliance, and the United Way Families Network Group.

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### COORDINATION WITH THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

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The County actively participates in the NW Indiana Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC is a collaborative effort of over 60 service providers in Lake County focused on providing services to the homeless and near homeless populations in the area.

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### COORDINATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES

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The County is working with its municipalities and township offices on a number of community development, homelessness, and economic development issues.

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### OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

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This Consolidated Plan was influenced and guided by information and policy decisions made in other planning documents, including:

- ◆ Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (2018)
- ◆ Lake County Community Benefits Plan
- ◆ Northwest Indiana Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2016)

*This section addresses the requirements of 24 CFR 91.100, 91.200(b), and 91.215(l).*

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## CONSULTATIONS

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### SERVICE AGENCIES

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Catholic Charities  
Grace Beyond Borders  
Greater Hammond Community Services  
Hammond City Rescue Mission  
Indiana Parenting Institute  
Innermission  
Meals on Wheels  
Northwest Indiana Community Action  
Regal Adult Day Services  
Salvation Army of Lake County  
Samaritan Counseling Center  
Sojourner Truth House  
St Vincent Depaul  
Children's Treehouse  
South Lake County Community Services  
Mental Health America

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### HOUSING PROVIDERS

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Northwest Indiana Community Action (NWICA)  
Gary Housing Authority  
East Chicago Housing Authority  
Hammond Housing Authority

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### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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Lake County  
State of Indiana  
Cedar Lake  
Crown Point  
Dyer  
Griffith  
Highland  
Hobart  
Lake Station  
Lowell  
Merrillville  
Munster  
New Chicago  
Schererville  
Schneider  
St. John  
Whiting  
Winfield  
Cedar Creek Township  
Center Township  
Gary Housing Authority  
Hanover Township Trustee  
North Township Trustee  
Ross Township  
St John Township Trustee  
Winfield Township Trustee

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## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

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### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

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The County follows its adopted Citizen Participation Plan to develop the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

The County holds two public hearings and provides the proposed plan for public comment. The first public hearing is held before publication to address housing and community development needs and review program performance. The second public hearing is held after the comment period but prior to the Plan's adoption and submission to HUD. This hearing addresses public input received to date and the development of proposed activities.

Each municipality participating in the Urban County program is required to advertise, in a manner similar to the County, a public hearing on the activities it proposes to undertake with County CDBG, or related program, funds.

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### **EFFORTS TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION**

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The County provides advance notice of each public hearing in local newspapers and posts a notice on the Lake County, Indiana, website. Hearings are held at times and locations convenient to potential and actual beneficiaries. Monday through Thursday, starting between 4:00 PM and 7:30 PM will

be considered convenient in most cases. Locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. If 10 or more non-English speaking residents speaking the same language can reasonably be expected to participate, the County shall attempt to secure a translator for the meeting. The hearing may be held over to a second date in order to accommodate the schedule of the translator.

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### **IMPACT ON GOAL-SETTING**

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The County rarely gets feedback directly from the citizen participation process. This includes the public hearings held by the County and the hearings held by the 16 participating municipalities. LCCEDD staff attend most of the municipal hearings. The most meaningful input received on the plan is received through consultations with service providers who work directly with low income populations.

*This section addresses the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105 and 91.200(c)*

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## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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### SUMMARY OF COUNTY PROCESS

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#### APRIL 16

- ◆ PUBLIC NOTICE OF 1ST PUBLIC HEARING

#### MAY 4

- ◆ FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

#### MAY 31

- ◆ PUBLIC NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD AND 2ND PUBLIC HEARING
- ◆ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPENS

#### JUNE 29

- ◆ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS
- ◆ SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

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### MUNICIPAL HEARINGS

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- ◆ March 27th: Winfield
- ◆ April 2nd: Crown Point
- ◆ April 4th: Hobart
- ◆ April 23rd: Lowell
- ◆ April 26th: St. John
- ◆ May 24th: Dyer
- ◆ May 24th: Lake Station
- ◆ Griffith