



**Citizen Participation Plan  
Community Development Block Grant  
(CDBG) Program  
City of Joliet, Illinois**





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## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JOLIET, ILLINOIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

### **SECTION I – GENERAL:**

This Citizen Participation Plan is prepared in compliance with 24 CFR Part 91.105, *Citizen Participation Plan; Local Governments; as amended at 71 FR 6962, February 9, 2006; 76 FR 75967, December 5, 2011*. This Citizen Participation Plan sets forth the City of Joliet's policies and procedures for resident participation by encouraging residents to participate in the development of the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, amendments to these plans, applications for Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), as well as other related Federal programs, as applicable.

The City of Joliet is a member of the Will County Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Consortium. Will County acts as the Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) for the HUD Federal HOME allocation; as such all policies and procedures for Citizen Participation for HOME Federal funds are defined by the County's applicable administrative and compliance requirements.

### **SECTION II – STANDARDS OF PARTICIPATION & GOALS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

The Standards of Participation and Goals for Citizen Participation in the City of Joliet, Illinois, are as follows:

- A.** All aspects of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and other related Federal programs, as applicable, shall be conducted in an open manner with freedom of access for all interested persons, groups and/or organizations.
- B.** To the greatest extent possible, there shall be involvement of: (1) low- and moderate-income persons, especially those living in slum and blighted areas; (2) in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used; (3) by residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods; (4) members of minority groups; (5) residents of neighborhood revitalization strategy areas (NRSA)s; (6) the elderly; (7) persons with disabilities; and (8) all persons directly or indirectly impacted or affected by the Community Development Block Grant Program and Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and/or other related Federal programs.



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- C.** Public Hearings shall be held in places accessible to low- and moderate-income individuals. If requested, the City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division staff will speak to any group about the City's Community Development Block Grant Program, program past performance, and proposed or future program activities.
  - D.** There shall be, to the greatest extent possible, and throughout all stages of planning and development of the CDBG Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and other related Federal programs, a continuity of participation by resident representatives.
  - E.** Residents shall be provided, to the greatest extent possible, with timely and adequate information for the purpose of meaningful input into the CDBG Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and other related Federal programs, as applicable.
  - F.** Low- and moderate-income persons, residents of slum and blighted neighborhoods, residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, members of minority groups, residents of neighborhood revitalization strategy areas (NRSAs), the elderly; persons with disabilities, and all persons directly or indirectly impacted or affected by the Community Development Block Grant Program, and Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and other related Federal programs, shall be encouraged to submit their views and proposals regarding these programs.
  - G.** The City of Joliet will explore alternative techniques to encourage additional resident participation in the development of the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, amendments to these plans, applications for Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), as well as other related Federal programs, as applicable.
  - H.** Consultations will be made, in conjunction with the Will County Housing Authority, with residents of public housing, residents of assisted housing developments, and residents of areas within which proposed developments are located during the process of developing and implementing the Five Year Consolidated Plan, One Year Annual Action Plans, Section 108 Loan Guarantee, and other related Federal programs.
  - I.** The City of Joliet shall provide information to the Will County Housing Authority concerning consolidated and annual plan activities related to the Housing Authority's developments and surrounding communities, so that the housing authority can make this information available in its annual Public Housing Comprehensive Grant Program.



- J. The City will take appropriate actions to encourage participation of all its residents, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

### **SECTION III – SCOPE OF PARTICIPATION:**

#### **A. Application Development:**

Prior to the submission of the Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, any application for CDBG funds, application for Section 108 Loan Guarantee funds, and any other application for related Federal funds, and prior to the submission of an application for a substantial amendment, the City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division, in addition to meeting the minimum requirements, shall provide the following for public comment:

1. application requirements
2. eligibility of project activities
3. time table for submission
4. funding amounts of both CDBG funds, and program income
5. budget changes, revisions or amendments
6. range of activities that may be undertaken with available funds or activities that may be deleted
7. estimated amount of benefit to persons of low- and moderate-income
8. any other information necessary to involve residents in the development of plans and applications

Information provided to the public will be in conformance with Section II above. Furthermore, prior to the development of an annual application for CDBG funds, the progress of the City's Community Development Block Grant Program will be made available to the public at meetings, public hearings, and through the local news media.

#### **B. Program Implementation:**

Resident involvement may take the form of advisory committees, direct involvement, self-help efforts, or other types of resident participation during program implementation. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) of the City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division will be made available to the general public for the purpose of



reviewing the accomplishments of the City's CDBG and other Federal programs, as applicable.

The roles that residents of the area will play in the implementation of the CDBG programs are as follows:

1. "direct involvement and self-help" in project development and implementation
2. "continued advisory role" via call-ins, write-ins, and group meetings with organized and recognized groups

**C. Monitoring Evaluation:**

Opportunities for residents to monitor and evaluate the CDBG program shall be consistent and continuous. Methods available to further these objectives are as follows:

1. direct contact with staff
2. direct contact between staff and groups
3. direct contact between residents and the City Council

**D. Submission of Views and Proposals:**

The submission of views and proposals from low- and moderate-income persons, minority groups, non-English speaking residents, and any other person or organized groups can be on a continuous basis and shall be encouraged to the greatest extent possible. Submissions can be in the form of:

1. personal contact
2. mail, email, and telephone contact
3. petitions
4. attendance at public meetings/hearings
5. through questionnaires
6. other available means

The submission of views and proposals shall be an on-going process and at a minimum during the following stages:

1. the planning process
2. the annual HUD application process
3. the implementation process



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Responses to all submissions shall be in a timely fashion and shall not exceed a period of fifteen (15) days after the voicing of a comment or the date of receipt of a written comment or inquiry.

**E. Complaints:**

All complaints regarding any aspect of the Community Development Block Grant Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and other related Federal programs shall be responded to in a timely manner via a written response provided within fifteen (15) working days after the voicing of a complaint or the date that the written comment was received by the City.

**F. Technical Assistance:**

The staff of the City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division shall provide technical assistance to groups or organizations which are representative of persons of low- and moderate-income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding assistance under any of the programs covered by the City's Consolidated Plan.

The City's staff will assist these groups to prepare their proposals and will provide assistance in preparing cost estimates for projects proposed by low- and moderate-income groups.

**G. Adequate Information:**

The City shall provide full public access to the CDBG program information and encourage efforts to provide adequate information to residents, especially those who are low- and moderate-income, those who are residing in predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods or slum and blighted neighborhoods, the disabled, and non-English speaking residents. Information shall be provided on the Community Development Block Grant Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and other related Federal programs, as applicable, including at a minimum the following:

1. At the time when the City begins its Community Development Block Grant Program, Section 108 Loan planning process, or participation in other related Federal programs, the City will include the following information:
  - a. total amount of funds available, including program income
  - b. the range of activities that are eligible and ineligible, including the estimated amount of



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- funds that will benefit persons who are low- and moderate-income
- c. a plan to minimize displacement and to assist any persons displaced, specifying the types and levels of assistance the City will make available to persons displaced, even if the City anticipates no displacement; the Five Year Consolidated Plan must state when and how the City will make this information available
  - d. the process that will be followed in developing and approving projects, activities, or programs
  - e. the standards of participation and goals of the Citizen Participation Program
  - f. summary of important program requirements
2. Upon request, copies of all materials relating to the Community Development Block Grant Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and all other related Federal programs, as applicable, will be made available to any person and/or group for the cost of copying only, particularly documentation concerning the following:
- a. all mailings, promotional materials, and news releases
  - b. key documents, including all prior applications, letters of approval, performance and program evaluation reports, and any other applications or reports, proposed or approved, required by HUD
  - c. copies of the CDBG regulations
  - d. information on contracting and purchasing procedures, environmental policies, fair housing, equal opportunity, relocation provisions, the 24 CFR Part 58 environmental review process, affirmative actions, and any other requirements or regulations relating to the CDBG program
  - e. cost of copying will be as established by local and state laws, as outlined in the City's Freedom of Information Policy



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## H. Meetings:

All meetings shall be held in a timely fashion and shall be accessible to all segments of the City's population including any accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents. These meetings shall be held at a time and place that is convenient and accessible to potential or actual beneficiaries, as follows:

1. Public meeting/hearings shall be held on a continuous basis, at least two (2) times per year at different stages of the program year for the purpose of obtaining resident views on the development of needs, the review of proposed activities and review of program performance. At least one (1) public hearing must be held during the planning process for the proposed Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Application, as well as all other related Federal program applications. The second public hearing must be held on the proposed plans or applications for funds prior to City Council approval and submission to HUD.
2. Public meeting/hearing notices shall be published at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing date and shall be advertised in the local newspaper of general circulation in the area.

## I. Public Notice:

1. A notice will be published in the local newspaper of general circulation in the City that the proposed Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and substantial amendments will be on public display for a period of not less than thirty (30) days in order to receive resident comments prior to approval by City Council.
2. Copies of the proposed plans will be available at the following:
  - a. **City of Joliet – City Hall**  
150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432
  - b. **City of Joliet Public Library**  
150 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet, IL 60432
  - c. **City of Joliet Public Library**  
3395 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60435





d. **Electronic**

[www.cityofjoliet.info/comment](http://www.cityofjoliet.info/comment)

3. Included in the plans will be an Executive Summary of the proposed plan which describes the contents, purpose, and a list of the locations where copies of the entire proposed Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans may be examined. In addition, a reasonable number of free copies of these plans will be made available to residents or groups that request a copy.
4. The City of Joliet will consider all comments or views of residents received in writing or orally at the public meetings/hearings during the preparing the final Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. A summary of all comments, including those comments not accepted and the reason therefore, shall be attached to the final Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.
5. Final copies of the Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans will be available for public inspection at the following locations:
  - a. **City of Joliet – City Hall**  
150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432
  - b. **Electronic**  
[www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info)
6. The Neighborhood Services Division will mail/distribute notices for public meetings/hearings to all City departments, City Council members, libraries, local churches and organizations, and will be posted at the City Hall, as well as in the offices of the Neighborhood Services Division.

**J. Continuing Activities:**

All continuing activities shall be subject to the resident participation process as herein outlined.

**K. Copies of Substantial Amendments to the Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports:**

Copies of the above will be available for reading upon request at the offices of the City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division and via the website at [www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info).



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**L. Access to Records:**

The City shall provide full and timely disclosure of its program records. The City will provide these disclosures within a reasonable period of time. Additionally, all public non-private records and documentation concerning the Community Development Block Grant Program, and all other applicable Federal programs shall be made physically available to be viewed via appointment during the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Personnel records and the personal financial records of program participants/applicants are not available for public inspection.

**M. Substantial Amendments to the Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans:**

**1. Definition:**

A substantial amendment to the Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans is defined as one or more of the following changes:

- a. a change in the allocation of priorities, National Objectives, or a change in the method of distribution of funds
- b. a proposal to undertake a new activity, using funds from any program covered by the Five Year Consolidated Plan (including program income received from previous year's funds), and activities not previously described in the annual action plan
- c. a change in the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of a previously approved activity
- d. the use of Program Income that was not previously allocated to an eligible activity
- e. deletion or elimination of a previously approved activity
- f. a change of 50% or more of a line item amount of an approved activity, either increased or decreased
- g. the use of contingency or unprogrammed funds, based on the following criteria

**2. Criteria:**



The criteria used to determine what constitutes an amendment are based on the following:

- a. **Purpose** - the original purpose for which the activity was selected has changed, including the category of the National Objective selected
- b. **Scope** - the size or scope of work of the project activity has increased or decreased which changes the cost of the activity by more than 50% of the total original budgeted dollar amount for that activity
- c. **Location** - the location of the project activity is different from that originally proposed, or the size of the project service area has increased or decreased by 25% in size, or the location of the activity had to be relocated to another area
- d. **Beneficiaries** - the number of beneficiaries has been reduced by 25% or more, and/or the activity no longer serves at least 51% low- and moderate-income persons
- e. **Cost** - the total cost of the activity has increased or decreased by 50% or more than the original budget amount
- f. **New Activity** - a new activity is proposed which was not previously approved
- g. **Deleted or Canceled Activity** - a previously approved activity is proposed to be deleted/canceled from the approved plan

If any one of the above criteria applies, then a substantial amendment to a project activity has occurred.

### 3. Procedure:

A description of the substantial amendment to the Five Year Consolidated Plan or the Annual Action Plan will be published in the local newspaper of general circulation. A period of no less than thirty (30) days will be provided to receive resident comments prior to the approval of the amendment. The date, time, and place of the public meeting/hearing shall be listed. The public meeting/hearing shall be published at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the



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hearing date and shall be advertised in the local newspaper of general circulation in the area.

- a. The City will consider any comments or views of residents received in writing or orally at the public hearing in preparing the substantial amendment of the Five Year Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plans. A summary of any comments or views, as well as a summary of any comments or views not accepted and reasons therefore, shall be attached to the substantial amendment of the Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.
- b. The substantial amendment will be presented to City Council after the public meeting for review and approval of the substantial amendment.
- c. The substantial amendment must be presented to and approved by City Council.

**N. Emergency Activities:**

During the course of implementation of the CDBG program, if the City makes an emergency declaration as a result of a situation or condition that has arisen through no fault of the City, immediate action or remediation may be taken. If CDBG funds are not available to resolve or remediate that situation or condition, the City may proceed with corrective action during the 30-day comment period. The City must publish a notice concurrently, in the newspaper of general circulation in the area, and allow residents to respond to the expenditure of CDBG funds during the 30-day comment period.

**O. Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER):**

A notice will be published in the local newspaper of general circulation in the area informing the public of the availability of the City's CDBG Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and providing the opportunity to comment on the CAPER. A period of no less than fifteen (15) calendar days will be provided to receive resident comments prior to adoption by City Council.

The City will consider all comments or views of residents, received in writing or orally, concerning its Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report. A summary of these comments or views shall be attached to the CAPER.



**P. Non-English Speaking Residents:**

The City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division will need to be notified at least three (3) days in advance of a public meeting/hearing that special accommodations are needed, including a translator, for any person who is disabled or for non-English speaking residents, so that arrangements can be made to accommodate the resident to fully participate in the public meeting/hearing. Also, a summary of the minutes of the hearing will be transcribed, when requested, for the benefit of non-English speaking persons.

**P. Resident Comments on the Citizen's Participation Plan:**

The City of Joliet will provide residents with the opportunity to comment on this Citizen Participation Plan. Copies of this proposed Citizen Participation Plan will be available at the City of Joliet's Neighborhood Services Division and [www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info). A public notice will be published in the local newspaper of general circulation in the City for a period of thirty (30) calendar days prior to the adoption of the Citizens Participation Plan by City Council in order for residents to comment on the Plan. Copies of the Citizens Participation Plan will be made available upon request, in a format accessible to persons with disabilities. Substantial amendments to this plan will follow the same procedure as the adoption of the original plan.

**SECTION IV – RESOLUTION:**

Attached is the Resolution from the July 19, 2016 City Council Meeting approving the updated Citizen Participation Plan.