



CITY OF MONROE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

CONSOLIDATED PLAN FY 2020-2024 REPORT

The City of Monroe's Consolidated Plan identifies housing and community development needs that will be accomplished through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME).

The Consolidated Plan sets goals and strategies to be achieved over a five-year period, including analysis of housing and community development needs. Also, the City completes an annual update to the Consolidated Plan, called the Annual Action Plan, which identifies how it will implement and administer these programs. Development of these plans includes substantial community participation through forums, workgroups, public meetings, and surveys (online and in-person).

Please note that this report does not ensure federal funding for each category and its goals.

Below are the results from the public meetings held on February 21st and February 22nd, as well as the workgroup meeting held to discuss each category on February 28th.

Housing Workgroup

Goals:

- 1) Increase the number of affordable housing in the City
 - a. Review and reduce code hindrances to [property adjudication];
 - b. Public/private ordinance to deal with vacant buildings
- 2) Incentivize developers to stimulate /extend housing that meets the needs of the community
 - a. More multi-family housing
 - b. repurpose vacant and recently abandon commercial to residential;
 - c. Unique housing needs for low to moderate-income residents
 - i. Supportive housing
 - ii. Persons need safety
 - iii. Mental health/vulnerable populations
 - iv. Felony convictions (Formerly incarcerated persons)
 - d. Create a livable community adjacent to housing
 - i. Walkability
 - ii. Healthcare
 - iii. Homeownership

Infrastructure Workgroup

Goals:

- 1) Partner with Monroe Transit Authority to research improving transit service
 - a. Begin a conversation with MTA researching best practices for restructuring bus routes;



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- b. Assist with increasing ridership by developing criteria for a targeted demographic (senior citizens) to receive bus passes.
 - 2) Assist with developing a comprehensive campaign to address the aging drainage system:
 - a. Fund a campaign to educate citizens regarding illegal dumping;
 - b. Investigate structuring a low to moderate-income homeowner grant program to find replacing the broken clay pipes on their property.

Education/ Training Workgroup

Goals:

- 1) Awareness campaign of existing services & opportunities
 - a. Create partnerships that leverage, fund, optimize existing resources;
 - b. Motivate participant buying
 - c. Develop a coalition of public service providers to address top issues
- 2) Case Management with workforce development/ skill development/literacy development that makes a connection outside of already funded programs:
 - a. Increase skill levels for those entering the workforce or wanting to move beyond entry-level
 - b. Awareness
 - c. Educate

Economic Development Workgroup

Goals:

- 1) Promote entrepreneurship among low to moderate-income individuals
 - a. Microlending: Ask/partner with banks to lend 100 \$10,000 loans to qualified small business owners
 - b. Southside Monroe Business Incubator
- 2) Upgrade workforce skill capacity
 - a. Create a pipeline for employers and employees
 - b. Market workforce programs using social media
 - c. Focus on skills needed for the future workforce (e.g., IT, engineering, industrial skills)
 - d. Grassroots & non-profit organization & companies should collaborate and partner to leverage resources

Notes:

- align workforce skills with employer needs
- Help community college & university get the word out
- Focus on technology /IT jobs
- Change the mindset of the workforce
- Job & employment marketing
- Heavy Social media presence



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- Promote entrepreneurship / micro-lending for minority small business owners