

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Grants and Community Development Committee **Issue Briefing**

Topic: **Citizens Participation on Housing and Community Development Needs in the Township for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 CDBG Funding**

Prepared By: **Emily Crane, Community Development Technician**

Date: **February 14, 2018**

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Hold a public hearing to inform the community and obtain public comment on the Township application for Federal Funding through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

HUD requires the municipality to hold a public hearing to obtain input from the community on housing and economic development needs for low to moderate income people.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

Federal regulations require citizens participation through public hearings to receive the community's input regarding the Annual Action Plan submittal to HUD for fiscal year 2018-2019 CDBG funding to the Township. Activities are based on the Township's 5-Year Consolidated Plan which states the goals and objectives to benefit low to moderate-income people.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

The Township will hold public hearings in February and April and will adopt the CDBG annual budget in May. This budget must be submitted to HUD by May 15th to request funding from HUD. This date is subject to change based on the date of HUD's release of actual allocation funds. In a change from previous years, HUD will not accept Action Plans submitted using estimated allocation amounts, but also does not know when actual grant amounts will be available. HUD recommends moving ahead with normal Citizen Participation Process and suggests several methods for building in the flexibility that may be needed. The Action Plan has been approved by the Board in the past based on estimated numbers with built in flexibility. The only difference for our purpose this year is that the submission date to HUD may change.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

In fiscal year 2017 the Township received \$887,870 in Federal funding under HUD's CDBG program. This funding supplements Township funds used to supply services to

low to moderate-income people in the community and rehabilitation of public facilities.

- VI. Staff Recommendation:** This is a public hearing and does not require action by the Board of Commissioners so no staff recommendation is needed.