

## 5 Year Consolidated Plan

### Oakland Community Meeting #1—5/6/15

#### Q&A and Comments

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1. On slide #32, what does “exempt from aggregate public benefit standard” mean? (MB: \_\_\_\_\_)
2. Resident remembers when MacArthur Blvd flourished with businesses. Is MacArthur Blvd corridor in the targeted revitalization area initiative? I would like to see it in the initiative. There are many buildings that need façade improvements; the Blvd needs more neighborhood serving businesses; Support Women’s Initiatives entrepreneurship program in East Oakland. (MB response: The City will consider other areas such as MacArthur Blvd, to target resources in the next 5 Year Plan period.)
3. Resident is concerned about decisions to expand bus services—seems that they only provide services to areas where economic development is focused and not to all neighborhoods where residents need service and that might not currently have City or other resources focused.
4. Constituent is employed as a Patient Care Navigator and I am concerned about the out-migration of the critically ill. I see many people disabled by illness whose symptoms are exacerbated because that are fearful of losing their housing. Some people in her case load are on the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers. Is there a way to expedite allocation to critically ill people who are at-risk of homelessness? Can HOPWA be expanded to assist those who are critically ill/disabled? (MB: response: Oakland currently partners with Alameda Co. Public Health Dept, other jurisdictions in the Continuum of Care, and OHA. HUD’s emphasis on rapid re-housing could be an answer to this situation though it is only temporary housing assistance. City staff also works closely with the Oakland Housing Authority and will forward these comments.)
5. Are any of the public service needs going to lose any money? Is money going to be cut from any of these services? Fair housing? Homeless services? (MB response: We know we need to beef up fair housing and homelessness services. Unfortunately we can’t fund everything. This public comment process will assist us in determining what to prioritize. Public Safety and Housing are critical in Oakland. Education is important as well.)
6. Constituent employed at an agency that provides services to the homeless. He is limited by who he can provide case management services to. He can only provide services to people with mental health needs. He is concerned because the Rapid Re-housing funding gets cut to individuals after a certain period. (Darin Lounds, ED of Housing Consortium of the East Bay commented that Rapid Rehousing is a temporary fix with the expectation that individuals find other permanent housing eventually. MB response: HUD has redefined how they think about homeless program – looking more at rapid re-housing. The homeless population is a critical population that need services and we will consider this in our analysis.)
7. Comment on Section 8 voucher program: There is a problem with people waiting for years before they get a Section 8 housing voucher. During sequestration vouchers were frozen. When are they going to release the hold on funding additional vouchers? Also, there are permanently disabled persons (wheelchair users, on dialysis) who cannot find housing with these vouchers. (MB response: She knows that there are efforts to support

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reinstating Section 8 voucher funding levels to pre-sequestration levels. What she also knows is a current problem in Oakland is that people with vouchers cannot find housing in the currently over-heated rental housing market. People with vouchers are taking them to other nearby Cities to utilize them because they can't find units here in Oakland.?

8. Comment on the chronically homeless living in Oakland: It is a lot easier to give them an SSI check or have them go to ER or go to jail. It makes a lot more sense economically to house these folks then to just throw them to wolves on the street or have them use services that are much more costly (i.e.ER or jail).
9. How can City generate revenue to add to the pot that is allocated through these programs? (MB response: These funds are grants and considered subsidies. If the City generates program income from these subsidies, it is reported to HUD and then they determine if the City can keep the funds or not.)
10. Thomas Gonzalez from Dream Catcher, and organizations that serves LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 18 years old. They program is focused on the commercial sexually exploited children (CSEC). The organization currently has 8 beds and is trying to add 6 beds to their program. He brought clients of the program to the meeting so that they could share their experiences in the program.
11. Dwayne Chenevert a staff member of Dream Catcher shared that he has been with the organization for 15 years. What are their needs? Youth are the future and we need to support them—especially those who have been abused and abandoned. The youth that this program serves are the heroes in the program. These kids are our future here. Dream Catcher is the only youth shelter for 13-18 year olds in Alameda County.

**\*NOTE: Following names of youth who gave testimony have been anonymized for privacy purposes.\***

12. L (18 yrs old), former resident of Dream Catcher program, says that they have touched many youth. She was abandoned there by her father at 17 yrs old. Adults have failed the kids in this program. The program staff really care and continue to support her even if she is not a current resident. The program gives residents hope, listens to residents, it is a really good program. She is currently stably housed in her own apartment.
13. M has been a resident of Dream Catchers for 3 months. Prior to being a resident, she missed 90 days of school in the last school year, she would stay out all night, her parents threatened to throw her out at 18 years. Her parents were physically abusive. She feels safe at the program and program has encouraged her to go back to school. She is now a senior in high school. Her family placed her into bad situations with bad men that took advantage of her. They support her to do her school work and to encourage her to not do the things that she used to do. She feels more stable and does not lash out at people anymore.
14. C is a current resident of Dream Catcher. The night h came to dream catchers he saw his friend get stabbed. He walked all the way to Dream Catchers from San Leandro. He

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waited outside and didn't think anyone would answer the door. When the sun rose, he knocked at the door and sure enough someone answered. He never thought he could trust people again until he came to Dream Catchers. He can let his guard down. When he came to Dream Catchers it was easy to trust the staff and residents. He is now transitioning into permanent housing. Staff assist him and does it without expecting anything in return.

15. Dream Catcher staff noted to look at the HUD Pilot Programs for CSEC in Cincinnati and Houston. It would be great to get assistance from Oakland staff to expand the program here in our City.
16. Do we know how much money is allocated to the City of Oakland for FY 15-16? Or is that the purpose of this event? (GG/MB: \_\_\_\_\_.)
17. How much of the CDBG funding will be allocated to District Programs? (GG/MB response: \_\_\_\_\_.)