

Town of Brookline

Department of Planning and Community Development



FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

FISCAL YEARS 2021 -2025

PUBLIC HEARING

JANUARY 28, 2020

CDBG – Sponsored Projects

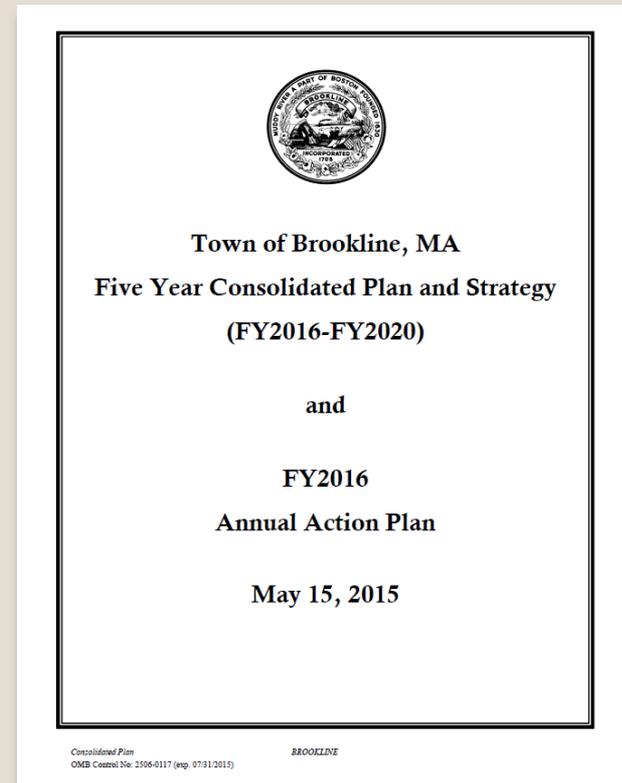


Why a Consolidated Plan?



The Town must complete a Con Plan every five years to receive CDBG (and HOME) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Prompts the Town to reassess the needs of some of its most vulnerable residents
- Provides opportunity for community to have input on CDBG spending priorities
- Serves as Strategic Plan to address community needs using federal resources over five year timeframe
- Acts as guiding document for allocations made under Annual Action Plans



Community Needs

How are Needs and Priorities Determined?

- ❑ **Review of Data:** Census/ACS data, housing market data, local and regional plans
- ❑ **Community Survey:** Over 470 responses to widely-disseminated survey
- ❑ **Community Discussions:** Utilize events like Brookline Town Day to obtain face-to-face community feedback
- ❑ **Meetings with Stakeholders:** Over 20 organizations, departments, programs and committees consulted to date
- ❑ **Public Meetings/Hearings** – Piggyback when possible - held at strategic points in plan's development process



Town of Brookline

Department of Planning and Community Development
Alison Steinfeld, Director

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!

Please help us understand Brookline's housing and community development needs by completing this survey. **There are 4 easy ways to do it!**

1. **Complete the survey online at:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PLJZSCH>
2. **Complete the survey on your smart device:**

3. **Download and print paper copies of the survey at the Town website under 'Hot Topics':**
<https://www.brooklinema.gov/203/Planning-and-Community-Development-Departments>
4. **Please visit us at the Department of Planning and Community Development, Town Hall, 333 Washington St. and pick up a copy.**

Every five years, the Town of Brookline develops a Consolidated Plan which acts as a roadmap for how the Town will utilize its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and HOME Partnership Investment Program funds. These funds support projects and programs that primarily serve the Town's low- and moderate-income residents. It's important to hear from you so that the Town can identify the most important housing and community development needs in Brookline and to help develop strategies to address them! Please complete the survey by **September 30, 2019**. Completed copies of the survey can be dropped off at the Department of Planning and Community Development in Town Hall at 333 Washington Street.

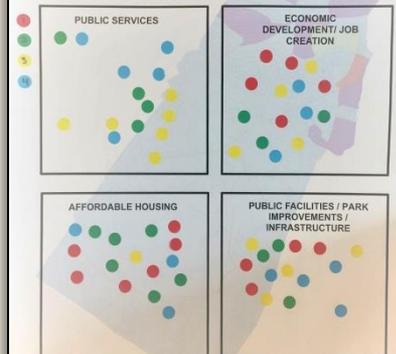
For further information on the Consolidated Plan process, please call 617-730-2130 or email Ebates@brooklinema.gov

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BROOKLINE CDBG PROGRAM

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Look at the activities below which CDBG funds can support and rank them by what you think are the most and least important needs the Town should focus on. Please take the four stickers and place them on the sheet.

1. MOST IMPORTANT
2. IMPORTANT
3. SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
4. LEAST IMPORTANT



Your guidance is greatly appreciated!

Findings



Affordable Housing:

- There is a need for more affordable housing in the town (and region) for all incomes, in some cases with access to social services, especially for seniors and families between 30-80% AMI.
- Consistently, many residents are being pushed out of the community due to the lack of supply and rising costs of rental and ownership housing.
- Increasingly, a larger percentage of low- to moderate-income residents' incomes are being spent on housing costs and causes many families to have issues with meeting basic needs.

Youth:

- Many low/mod income youth do not have the same access or exposure to activities and programs that their peers have
- There are gaps in programming for “tweens”
- Some students, including low/mod youth who are not on the college track, need job readiness and skills training to help them succeed in vocational or service-oriented careers

Public Spaces/Infrastructure:

- There is a need to create infrastructure that supports alternatives to automobile travel, such as walking and biking, that is designed to serve the mobility needs of the disabled and seniors
- There is a need to make parks and public spaces more accessible to the disabled and seniors

Public Services:

- The Town's low/mod income population is not homogenous, and many populations require different types of services from ranging from mental health, transportation, job training, childcare services to English language lessons

Funding:

- Overall, funding for many programs services in the Town is scarce and dwindling; local organizations that serve lower-income populations require increased fiscal support to meet the needs of their clientele

Timeline



Summer 2019 – Ongoing:

Conduct Needs Assessment - Prioritize Strategies to Meet the Needs

January 2020:

**Release DRAFT Consolidated Plan for Public Review
Hold 1st Public Hearing**

February – March 2020:

RFP Process to Complete Annual Action Plan

March - April 2020:

30 Day Public Comment Period for Con Plan and AAP Drafts

May 2020:

Select Board Reviews and Approves Plans as part of 2nd Public Hearing

May 15, 2020:

Final Submission of Con Plan and AAP to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Immediate Next Steps



- ❑ RFP for CDBG funds will be available to prospective grantees on January 30, 2020
- ❑ CDBG Advisory Committee will meet in March to review applications and formulate recommendations for the Select Board's consideration

Staff will request that Select Board hold 2nd public hearing in May 2020 to approve the Con Plan and AAP for submission to HUD

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?



Contact Community Planning Staff with any questions about eligible activities or to offer comments on the DRAFT Con Plan:

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(617) 730-2130

elindo@brooklinema.gov

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/239/Community-Development>