



CITY OF LANCASTER

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM COMMUNITY IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

THE CITY OF LANCASTER'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (CDD) SOLICITED PUBLIC INPUT ON THE NEEDS OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME (LMI) RESIDENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF LANCASTER UTILIZING THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY.

THE RESULTS ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES REGARDING THE INVESTMENT OF HOW FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED WITHIN THE CITY DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (FY 2018 – FY 2022).

THE CDD ALSO SOLICITED THE PUBLIC'S INPUT ON THE USE OF COMMUNITY IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP) FUNDS PROVIDED THE CITY RECEIVES 2018 GRANT FUNDS. THE CHIP PROGRAM IS A COMPETITIVE TWO (2) YEAR GRANT PROGRAM FROM THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY (ODSA).

Note: All activities to be funded must be in compliance with a national objective and be an eligible activity as listed in OMB 24 CFR Part 570 of the Federal Register and the CHIP Funding Application.

CDBG ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES
SURVEY RESULTS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING LISTED ITEMS

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES - HOUSING	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Homeownership Assistance	38.4%	33.1%	28.2%
Affordable Rental Housing Assistance	41.5%	29.9%	27.1%
Affordable Owner Housing Assistance	34.9%	34.9%	28.9%
Owner Occupied Residential Rehabilitation	37.0%	34.9%	27.5%
Rental Residential Rehabilitation	23.2%	37.7%	38.0%
Fair Housing	47.9%	31.7%	20.4%
Residential Historic Preservation Assistance	18.7%	33.5%	44.7%
Lead Based Paint Abatement Assistance	33.1%	33.5%	32.0%
Handicapped Accessibility Modifications	52.8%	32.4%	14.1%
Emergency Shelter for the Homeless	56.3%	25.7%	16.9%
Emergency Repairs for owner occupied housing	49.3%	33.5%	16.2%
Housing for people with special needs	52.1%	36.6%	10.6%
Foreclosed Property Assistance	18.3%	42.6%	37.0%
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES – SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES			
Handicapped Services	53.5%	35.9%	10.6%
Domestic Violence Services	58.8%	28.2%	13.0%
Substance Abuse Services	51.4%	24.6%	22.9%
Neglected/Abused Children Services	75.7%	14.1%	7.0%
Homeless Shelter/Prevention Services	50.0%	34.9%	13.7%
Mental Health Services	64.1%	23.9%	10.9%

CDBG ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES
SURVEY RESULTS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING LISTED ITEMS

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements	46.8%	41.2%	9.9%
Public Facilities – Fire Protection Equipment – In LMI Areas	49.6%	33.1%	15.5%
Parks and Recreation Facilities	26.1%	44.0%	27.8%
Parking Facilities	22.2%	40.5%	35.2%
Drainage Improvements	41.2%	40.1%	17.3%
Water and Sewer Improvements	41.9%	40.5%	15.5%
Commercial/Industrial Infrastructure	19.7%	43.7%	33.8%
Code Enforcement – LMI areas in conjunction with Public and/or Private projects	18.0%	25.0%	11.6%

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES – COMMUNITY SERVICES

Youth Center/Services	45.1%	34.9%	18.0%
Child Care Centers/Services	33.8%	41.2%	23.2%
Senior Center/Services	45.8%	39.8%	13.4%
Health Facilities/Services	46.8%	34.9%	16.5%
Anti Crime Programs	50.4%	39.4%	8.8%
Transportation Services	35.2%	43.3%	19.7%
Drug Awareness Education	45.4%	36.9%	17.6%
Fire Prevention Education	28.2%	44.0%	25.0%

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employment Training	44.4%	39.1%	15.1%
Job Creation/Retention	60.2%	25.7%	12.0%
Commercial/Industrial Building Rehabilitation	23.9%	43.3%	30.3%

**CHIP HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSESSMENT
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

The Housing and Community Service Assessment’s primary purpose is to identify gaps in the service area’s housing services for unserved low-to-moderate (LMI) households and recommend eligible CHIP Program activities that will increase service to those populations. The following is a list of the current eligible CHIP Program project categories with respective activities.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING LISTED ITEMS

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Assistance	40.1%	41.9%	16.2%
Rental Rehabilitation Assistance	23.9%	44.4%	29.9%
Homeownership (Down Payment Assistance/Rehabilitation Or Down Payment Assistance only)	31.3%	39.1%	28.9%
New Construction with Habitat for Humanity	34.2%	38.7%	25.7%
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	27.8%	37.3%	34.2%

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

NOTE: The city received two hundred eighty four (284) surveys.



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM COMMUNITY IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Listing of Additional Comments or Suggestions As Submitted:

How about assistance for people who are having hard times but work. I lost my job and we're over income for everything my utilities and electric have both been shut off. I went for help and was told I was better off not working I'd be eligible for a lot of assistance. People who work and find their selves in emergency situations should be able to get it not just people who Could work but don't.

There are many homes in the area that need major repair work done to them. Having the repair work done would benefit the entire community.

Property owner. I understand CDBG and its purpose of LMI assistance, however I would encourage the administration to not engage in activities that provide assistance to individuals who could not otherwise afford a home without gap financing. Eventually, there will be an issue with them not being able to afford upkeep and things will be put off, lowering not just their home's value but perhaps an entire neighborhood. I am however, fine with micro-targeted loans to areas (perhaps the housing built by Anchor for their employees) that need rehabilitation assistance. I would also suggest a paint program targeted at the main corridors or in the downtown area. There are some beautiful homes that really need a touch up. Lastly, I think giving incentives to landlords who own rental properties is a nice carrot that you can balance with a stick. Require them to keep their properties up to code, come down hard on those that don't, but have an incentive to assist with some of their troubled properties.

Use some of the money for the Lancaster Festival to bring in a bigger name performer. The mall is about to go under and will be a big eye sore when it closes use some money to redevelop the area make it useful again.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY**

Listing of Additional Comments or Suggestions As Submitted:

This community very much needs more transitional living placements. In my experience when working with homeless or substance users, making housing a priority has made their success rate much higher which in turn makes Lancaster safer and more likely to thrive. This town's rental prices are ridiculous high and I think illegal for what landlords try and charge, makes it impossible to get ahead for some people

Economic Development should have been happening, so we need to work twice as hard to work outside the box to entice business here. Not a part time position for a retiring employee. Sharp edge, active drive. Training for these jobs are needed, LCS do not offer advanced computer classes, why? Computers and data programming are crucial now. We need to address the DRUG epidemic we have. Court either releases with no or little time, or there are no rehab facilities to turn this situation. No rehab in the jail facility, although it was offered...why? Business needs to be procured on all sides of town, not just on the one side. The East Side is lacking business, the Memorial corridor is becoming vacant. Lancaster needs to be proactive. Be a Leader...we have enough bars...enough restaurants that are the same...we need more to bring people here...that is out of the norm. We cannot afford to be a bedroom City

Education in budgeting and financial responsibility as a requirement for any public assistance program. You must learn in order to participate.

We should assist the youngest, the oldest, disabled and our veterans if we are able. Lancaster is a proud community and we should help our citizens.

Repair "ALL" of the streets and alleys, not just patch fix. Dump as much money possible into drug task force! Expedite the prosecution of drug dealers...offer a snitch hotline. Stop spending money on rehabilitation and go after those dealing. Make FF County Ohio's most feared county to bring drugs into or getting caught selling/possession. It's sad that our library is now a holding area for homeless people during the day. I walked in on a guy snorting "Meth" off of the restroom counter on 2-16-18. Why is Hocking County out pacing FF County in development?

More money should be appropriated for paving more streets and alleys. This may not come under this grant, but it needs to get done. Drivers have to dodge pot holes on almost every street in town.

Sidewalks installed on the north side of Columbus street to Ety road.

Activities should be concentrated on areas in which there is a lack of or inability for private development and assistance and to increase the possibility of such private activity.

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Listing of Additional Comments or Suggestions As Submitted:

do something about the cost of natural gas for heat in the city of lancaster. as it is now we have only one choice.

Repair the streets in neighborhoods they are in bad shape. With streets in shape they are the residence aren't try to keep up properties. That attract crime. Always fixing downtown and forgetting neighborhoods unless your on council for city.

Many business struggle to survive in this town, through no fault of there own or wrong doing on their part. Not enough free safe community events to keep seniors and kids from being isolated.

As a recipient of the HEAP program, more help toward that program would be appreciated. In addition to a one time yearly HEAP credit, maybe Lancaster could also offer discounted utility services in association with that program.

If we do not do things to make the community a nicer place business and such will not flourish. Catering to the low income and spreading that throughout the city will lessen the value of land and make this city less of what a place of business would want to call home.

This survey is not what I assumed that it would be. And so what? I hope that it's helpful.

jobs that pay a fair wage & rental

I think seniors are left out need more assistance

My husband and I have lived in our home for over 50 years. We have always maintained & cared for our home with no assistance from anybody. Our combined income thru Social Security & retirement is less than \$23,000 for the both of us. We have never asked for help from anybody.

Code enforcement in making people clean up around their homes. The alleys are in need of assistance. Some of the alleys have become almost impassable.

parks can use more playground equipment, help low income homeowners with house repairs

More Help for Our Seniors More Local Transportation Services Our streets - pot holes, - bad roads - etc More control with parking & traffic - can't see from side streets to get on main streets - cars parked and block view

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Listing of Additional Comments or Suggestions As Submitted:

think that people need different help and if it can be then they should receive the help that they need. God bless

Assistance with Homeowner Insurance Costs would be a big help. The costs of it going up about 15% a year with no claims filed against it are ridiculous. People making \$15,144 a year can't afford it but have to have it.

Stay Focused on This!

For our age, most of these do not apply to us.

Property owners/owner rentals need fixed and are taxed and held to standards that pay for schools and city jobs.

Rent is too expensive

I work for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). We have locked arms with the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) and the State Treasurers Office to extend CRS's Heritage Home Program statewide through partnerships with other municipalities. OHFA and the Treasurer's Office have set aside funds to buy down interest rates that allow CRS and partnerships with local banks to offer low-fixed rate financing (1.4 -3% on average) based on after rehab value of historic homes. The benchmark criteria is the home must be 50 years or older. The funds can be used for interior and exterior renovations. I believe this program can greatly aid in the upkeep of Lancaster's beautiful historic neighborhoods. You can find more information at www.heritagehomeprogram.org

Would like to see the most needy get help as needed

1. High Priority: Performing Arts and Visitors Center in Down Town Area. (Memorial Dr. & W. Main Street corner) 2. High Priority: Parking Garage on Chestnut Street Between S. Broad Street S. Columbus Street. These priorities would bring thousands of Local & Visitors to Lancaster area Downtown every month.

Keep up the good work. Thanks for permitting me to share my ideas. Shirley Wasem

Weekend Bus Service and/or Evening Bus Service for the City of Lancaster

would like to see more items in this community that our children have access to so that they may keep themselves busy and not on the streets looking for trouble.

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COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY**

Listing of Additional Comments or Suggestions As Submitted:

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this survey. There are so many priorities that I do not envy those who are forced to determine resource allocation.

the roads and alley ways in this town are terrible and have been for several years. Trash in the alleys packed up and falling over. In need of a community pick up.

street repair & rain water drainage Streets flood & breeding ground for insects. NO drainage,

Alley needs Blacked Topped Bad Street Needs Blacked Topped Bad Hasn't Been Blacktopped Since 1970 Bring Back Lancaster's Black Top Crew, They did a Great Job

Why would anyone want to move to Lancaster? There are no jobs that pays anything (minimum wage). The streets are in horrible condition. There are kind people that live in Lancaster. I have lived in Lancaster all my life & I can see good & bad things here. Thank You!