



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Carole Kendrick, Interim Community Development Director
DATE: February 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Adoption of the 2025 Community Needs Assessment Survey Results and Approval of CDBG Funding Priorities

Description Adoption of the 2025 Community Needs Assessment Survey results and approval of the City's CDBG funding priorities for public improvements and community services under the 2024-2029 Consolidated Plan.

Background and Analysis:

The 2024-2029 Consolidated Plan, developed in coordination with Riverside County Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Community Planning and Development (CPD), serves as a strategic blueprint for addressing community development needs across Riverside County and within the city of Beaumont. As a participating jurisdiction under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the City receives funding to support projects that benefit low and moderate income residents by improving infrastructure and community services.

As a part of Riverside County's CDBG program, the City is required to conduct a Community Needs Assessment Survey to help inform the County's Consolidated Action Plan. The previous survey was conducted in 2018 to guide the 2019-2024 plan; this new survey focuses on the 2024-2029 cycle to ensure that local and countywide community development efforts remain aligned with evolving needs.

Community Outreach and Survey Participation:

To ensure public input on funding priorities, the Community Needs Assessment Survey was distributed through multiple outreach channels, including:

- Posting on the City's official website and social media channels
- Mailing survey information on residents via utility billing
- Providing physical copies at City Hall

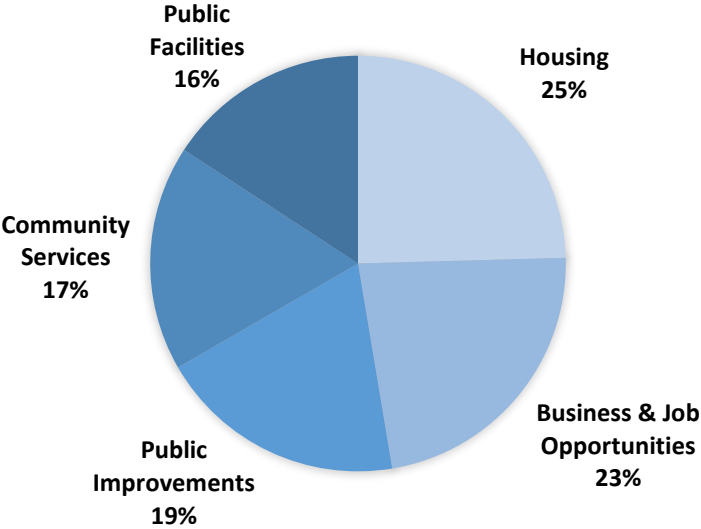
The survey was open from January 6, 2025, to February 7, 2025, and received 38 responses.

While the number of responses may appear low, it is consistent with historical trends. The last time this survey was conducted in 2018, the City received only 22 responses. Additionally, the timing of this survey, shortly after the holiday season, may have contributed to lower engagement. Another possible factor is that the survey was issued by Riverside County HUD-CPD rather than the City itself, which may have led to disengagement. The combination of these efforts, along with multiple city-led surveys, may have contributed to low engagement among residents.

Survey Results:

Survey respondents ranked the following categories as priorities, with percentages reflecting those who selected each category as their top priority:

- 1. Housing (25%): Affordable rental units, home repair, down payment assistance, eviction prevention
- 2. Business and Job Opportunities (23%): Job training, small business loans, coaching for small businesses
- 3. Public Improvements (19%): Street and sidewalk repairs, water and sewer improvements, trash removal
- 4. Community Services (17%): Health and mental health services, homeless services, crime prevention programs
- 5. Public Facilities (16%): Libraries, parks, senior centers, youth centers



While housing and business/job opportunities received the highest prioritization, CDBG funds are limited and do not provide sufficient resources to fully address these areas. The estimated FY 2025-2026 CDBG allocation is \$151,000, which is not enough to support large-scale initiatives such as affordable housing development or comprehensive job training programs. CDBG funds are best suited for projects that are scalable and can be completed in phases aligned with yearly allocations.

Public improvements, such as sidewalk repairs, are an eligible use of CDBG funds and can be completed in stages as funding is received. The City has already incorporated CDBG funding into its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the five-year period through FY 2029, specifically for Citywide Sidewalk Improvements.

Community services, particularly youth and afterschool programs, have historically been funded through CDBG and provide direct benefits to residents. These programs align with HUD-CPD goals by offering services to low- and moderate-income families and addressing community development needs. By focusing CDBG funding on public improvements and community services, the City ensures that resources are directed toward projects that are feasible, impactful, and scalable within the available budget.

Fiscal Impact:

The City of Beaumont's 2024-2029 Consolidated Plan outlines funding priorities for the five-year period, including the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated through Riverside County HUD-CPD. For FY 2025-2026, the estimated CDBG allocation is \$151,000.00.

Annual allocations vary based on federal funding levels and are finalized upon award. Adoption of these funding priorities will ensure that the City directs CDBG funds to eligible projects that align with both HUD regulations and the community's highest needs as identified in the survey.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the City Council approves the City's five-year HUD-CPD funding priorities as follows:

1. Public Improvements: to include street and sidewalk repairs.
2. Community Services: services for children such as after school programs and advocacy.

Attachments:

- A. Community Needs Assessment Survey Results