

B. Managing the Process

Lead Agency

The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Lancaster has been designated by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners as the lead agency responsible for coordinating the consolidated planning and submission process. The Redevelopment Authority is also responsible for the administration of the programs covered by the Plan.

The development of the Consolidated Plan for 2006-2010 relied upon a variety of methods to obtain public input, including surveys, correspondence, consultations and meetings. The development of the Consolidated Plan also relied upon the information gathered as a result of the public input obtained through related plans described below.

1. **Redevelopment Authority Survey:** In order to obtain public input on how to best allocate entitlement funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address needs in low income areas, the Redevelopment Authority conducted a survey. The survey requested the level of need for physical/capital improvements, social services, homeownership, affordable rental housing, and economic development, based on a four-point scale (with “1” indicating one of the most important needs and “4” indicating one of the least important needs). Over 300 surveys were issued with a response rate of 30%. The surveys were issued on May 9, 2005 and the last survey was accepted on June 15, 2005. Respondents were able to complete the survey on the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority’s web site, by fax, or by mail. Respondents were primarily interested citizens (43%), municipal or county government representatives (28%), or nonprofit organization representatives (20%).
2. Several nonprofit representatives and government officials were consulted to prepare the various services segment of the plan. They include, but are not limited to:
 - Jacqueline A. Burch, Director, Lancaster Co. Office of Aging
 - Lisa Riffanacht, Director of Community Integrated Programs, United Disabilities Services
 - Jennifer Stover, Mental Health Contract Specialist, Lancaster Co. MH/MR Office
 - Donna Bonnie Glover, Director, Domestic Violence Services
 - Phillip K. Goropoulos, President/CEO, AIDS Community Alliance
 - Suzanne Long, RN, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
 - David Bender, Executive Director, The Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

In order to obtain input from local governments, the staff of the Redevelopment Authority also consulted with representatives of all boroughs in Lancaster County, as well as, three townships: Brecknock Township, Warwick Township, and Paradise Township. All local governments were invited to participate in the previously mentioned survey.

3. Interaction with Related Plans

The Consolidated Plan is built upon these four other related planning initiatives in the County:

- the draft Housing Element Update to the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan
- the draft Growth Management Element through the Lancaster County Planning Commission
- the United Way of Lancaster’s “State of Housing and Homelessness”
- Economic Development Company of Lancaster County’s “Lancaster Prospers”

The draft Growth Management Element and Housing Element establishes a framework for future land use and development in the County and its municipalities, consistent with the Vision and Key Focus Areas set forth in the Policy Plan (“ReVisions”). The Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan is comprised of three major components:

- the Policy Element (“ReVisions”)
- the Growth Management Element
- Functional Elements, which address topics such as transportation, housing, and open space

Looking 25 years into the future, it identifies areas that are appropriate for urban growth and reinvestment; areas that should be maintained in agriculture, natural resources, and similar uses; and strategies and tools that municipalities and the County can use to shape growth to achieve the desired patterns of development and preservation. The goals and objectives of the draft Growth Management Element establish direction for and are supported by the recommendations for specific topics contained in the Functional Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Since December 2003, a Task Force consisting of 60 citizens prepared a second update to the Growth Management Element. The recommendations in the Growth Management Element were shaped by citizen input received through various forms of direct outreach, such as, a countywide survey and a three-part Public Meeting Series titled “This Land is Your Land,” which consisted of nine community forums held in different parts of the County during the planning process.

Efforts to Broaden Public Participation:

Public involvement was an integral part of the draft Housing Element Update to the Comprehensive Plan. A media plan was organized to raise general awareness about the Housing Plan and participation opportunities. A survey on housing needs was incorporated in a Citizens Guide that was published in the Lancaster New Era

newspaper, and 145 responses were received as a result of this media outlet. Four general outreach meetings with a total of 165 attendees were conducted in April 2005. These four presentations were held at the Township Supervisors Meeting, the Borough Association Meeting, Millersville University and the Agricultural Preserve Board.

In addition to advertising meetings to the public at-large, leaders of neighborhood organizations, homeowner associations, businesses, churches and special interest groups were specifically invited to participate. At each outreach orientation, participants were asked to assist in the outreach efforts for their areas. Each meeting presented an opportunity for the participants to brainstorm and visualize techniques to address issues related to the development patterns of Lancaster County. Surveys assessed participants' impressions related to 16 illustrated concepts and rated their level of importance on a scale of zero to five; 117 questionnaires were collected and analyzed. Draft goals were formulated based on the feedback from these public meetings. Targeted groups met again to review the proposed goals and provide feedback. The steering committee and Lancaster County Planning Commission provided a draft plan at an open house forum on Housing Issues in April 2005. 1,384 people attended one or more of the meetings.

Another source of public input for the development of the Consolidated Plan was obtained from the United Way of Lancaster County's 2005 Community Needs Survey. The purpose of this survey was to rate the seriousness of health and human service issues as perceived by persons living in Lancaster County. This survey was completed by 1,348 respondents comprised of people affiliated with health and human service agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations, community members, education, clients, community volunteers, and clergy.

The Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority has a Citizen Participation Plan that relies upon citizen-based review panels to make funding recommendations to the Lancaster County Board of Commissions. For physical improvement projects, the citizen-based process uses three regional committees and an overarching steering committee to make funding recommendations. For the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program and public service dollars of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, committees of citizens with backgrounds in human services provide funding recommendations. The use of citizen panels is described at length in the County's Citizen Participation Plan referenced above.

The development of the Annual Action Plan also relies heavily on the use of citizen volunteers. Over 100 volunteers from all areas of the County, outside the City, make funding recommendations on applications for CDBG and ESG funds annually. HOME funds are distributed based upon recommendations of staff.

Chart 11. Summary of Consultation Process

| Contact/Agency | Method | Issue |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Daniel Basehoar, Lancaster Housing Opportunity Partnership | LCRA Survey, United Way survey | Housing |
| James Kelly, SouthEast Lancaster Health Services; Terri Trimble, Welsh Mountain Medical & Dental Center | LCRA Survey, United Way Survey | Health Services |
| David Bender, Executive Director, The Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse | LCRA Survey, Consultation, United Way Survey | Social Services |
| Donna Bonnie Glover, Domestic Violence Services | LCRA Survey, United Way Survey | Special Needs Populations |
| Jacqueline A. Burch, Lancaster Co. Office of Aging | LCRA Survey, Consultation | Elderly |
| Lisa Riffanacht, United Disabilities Services | LCRA Survey, Consultation, United Way survey | Persons with Disabilities |
| Jennifer Stover, Lancaster Co. MH/MR Office | | |
| Phillip K. Goropoulos, AIDS Community Alliance | LCRA Survey, United Way Survey | Persons with HIV/AIDS |
| Interagency Council for the Homeless | LCRA Survey, Consultation, United Way Survey | Homeless Services |
| Brecknock Township, Warwick Township, Paradise Township. and all Boroughs | LCRA Survey, Consultation | Local and Adjacent Governments |

In order to convey a summary of the information in the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan, the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Lancaster prepared a "Citizen Summary." The Citizen Summary provides the basic information and summarizes the key elements and strategies of the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan. The staff of the Redevelopment Authority found that citizens are much more likely to read an abbreviated summary of the Consolidated Plan than to read the full document. The goal of the Citizen Summary is to broaden public participation and encourage more public comment on the Consolidated Plan.