

**SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE
2013-2018 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR LEE COUNTY
February 2018**

Background

Lee County's Consolidated Plan details the multi-year funding strategy for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. The Annual Action Plan implements a jurisdiction's multi-year Consolidated Plan and is developed through citizen participation, analysis, and planning.

The County's Citizen Participation Plan describes the efforts that the County will take to encourage the community to participate in plan development. It also describes the process for amending the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan when necessary.

Proposed Substantial Amendment

Lee County is proposing to amend the 2013-2018 Consolidated Plan. On November 7, 2017 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved Lee County's request to extend the Consolidated Plan Cycle by one year through September 30, 2019 for the purpose of submitting a regional Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) with other collaborating participants. To finalize the approval of this extension, this amendment will extend Lee County's 2013 – 2017 Consolidated Plan cycle one additional year to cover 2013 – 2018. In accordance with 24 CFR 91.115, Lee County will continue to submit an Annual Action plan for program year 2018, and will complete a new Consolidated Plan, that will cover 2019-2023, prior to the August 2019 deadline.

In addition to extending the Consolidated Plan Cycle, this amendment will incorporate several programmatic and administrative changes made by Lee County throughout the first four years of this cycle. These changes are summarized below:

1. A HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program was implemented in 2015. By using HOME funds for TBRA, Lee County will continue to serve individuals and families who are homeless and who may not have otherwise been assisted. By amending the Consolidated Plan for TBRA, the program allocation will reduce the HOME Direct Homeownership Assistance activity. Amendments to the Consolidated Plan also reflect project budget adjustments necessary to fund the HOME TBRA program.
2. HOME funds are no longer used for the owner occupied housing rehabilitation program.
3. The amount of CDBG funds allocated for homeless housing and services is reduced to more accurately reflect the amount used to date, and the estimated amount needed for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan cycle.
4. The Lee Medical Office Skills program has been eliminated. Lee County Human and Veteran Services now offers soft skills training and financial literacy courses to increase job mobility and family self-sufficiency.
5. *Lee County Department of Human Services* changed to *Lee County Human and Veteran Services*. The department name is updated throughout the amended Consolidated Plan.
6. Lee Mental Health and Southwest Florida Addiction Services merged in 2013, and became SalusCare Inc.
7. The provider for the Supportive Services for Veterans' Families (SSVF) program has been updated.
8. Pertinent data in the Market Analysis and Needs Assessment sections is updated to demonstrate the need for program amendments.
9. Lee County Human and Veteran Services no longer receives Weatherization Assistance Program funds.
10. The strategic plan section, expected resources, and goal outcome indicators have been updated to more accurately reflect outcomes, funding, and program changes.
11. Minor grammatical corrections and changes were made throughout the entire plan.
12. Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information has been updated.

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Analysis

This proposal qualifies as a substantial amendment because it meets two (2) of the four (4) criteria within the Citizen Participation Plan:

- There is a reallocation/reprogramming of funds equaling more than 10 percent in the aggregate of the County's annual CDBG and HOME entitlement for that program year; and
- A decision is made to carry out an activity not previously described in the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan(s).

Citizen Participation

Lee County has provided a public notice in the newspaper advertising a 30-day public comment period regarding the amendments here within as part of the citizen participation requirements. The 30-day public comment period began January 15, 2018 and ends on February 16, 2018.

Comments may be provided to Jeannie Sutton, Grants Coordinator, Lee County Human and Veteran Services, by email at jsutton@leegov.com, or addressed to the Lee County Human and Veteran Services, Attn: Jeannie Sutton, 2440 Thompson St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.