

## Chapter 2

# CONSOLIDATED PLAN PROCESS

### **Citizen Participation Plan**

The development of the draft Consolidated Plan was accomplished through a participatory process involving public and private nonprofits and citizens. The process has taken advantage of existing citizen participation activities, is on-going, and will continually involve key stakeholders. The City of Grand Junction's Citizen Participation Plan, developed and adopted in 1996 and included as Attachment 2A to this Plan, lists in detail the series of activities the City designed and followed to encourage the involvement of all citizens in the development of the Plan.

### **Citizen Involvement in Consolidated Plan Creation**

From the onset citizens have been involved in the creation of this Consolidated Plan. The majority of the information used to define and prioritize needs was gained from people involved in direct service to low- to moderate-income residents as described in detail in other sections.

Concerned citizens from many segments of the community met and developed an action plan to build a Continuum of Care to serve the homeless in Grand Junction. Their assessment, priorities, and plans are incorporated into this document.

The Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee, as discussed below, provided input and direction in the development and editing of the Plan. The Committee met every two weeks from January through April, 2001.

### **Citizen Review of Draft Consolidated Plan**

Announcements about the development of a Consolidated Plan as a guide for short and long term community development efforts in Grand Junction were published in the Daily Sentinel during the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The news article included information about the availability of a draft proposal on June 7<sup>th</sup> and invited citizen input. During the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001 copies of the proposed Plan were made available for public review at City Hall and at the main branch of the Mesa County Public Library. Background documents, major reports and master plans referenced within the Plan were also made available to residents upon request.

The draft Consolidated Plan was also sent to community representatives and nonprofit organizations, the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee, and local government departments for review.

Public comments were received through July 9, 2001. A summary of the written comments received during this comment period are included in Appendix D.

## **Lead Agency**

As the lead agency in the development and submission of the Consolidated Plan (the Plan) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Grand Junction Community Development Department (City) encouraged involvement in the Plan's development by local public and private institutions. The Plan has also been guided by citizen input, by the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee, and by the collective thinking of the human service community in Grand Junction.

In the planning process, the City incorporated pertinent data from existing public plans and documents wherever appropriate. It conducted one-on-one interviews with agency directors and staff to secure program-specific data and recommendations regarding priority needs and service gaps. The City also assumed responsibility for making the draft Plan available to the community, especially low- to moderate-income residents, to assure that their input was incorporated.

The Grand Junction Housing Authority (GJHA) helped in identifying key participants of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee and provided much of the data and information pertaining to subsidized housing. The GJHA also supported this process through its coordination of the development of the Homeless Continuum of Care.

As the lead agency, the City will assume responsibility for oversight, administration, distribution and monitoring of CDBG funds as it has since 1996.

## **Consultation with Other Public and Private Agencies**

To effectively execute its role as lead agency, the City developed task-specific collaborative partnerships with other governmental agencies and with private nonprofit organizations. Close working relationships with these entities have enabled the City to develop a Consolidated Plan that represents a shared vision of community needs, priorities, objectives and strategies.

The City invited extensive community involvement to create the Plan. Interviews and discussions with local government, individual meetings with over 40 nonprofit organizations that serve the very low- to moderate-income population, and discussion with citizens and private sector entities were included in the process.

A Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee was formed of leaders of housing, health service, and social service agencies directly serving low- to moderate-income households (listed to the right). These leaders engaged in bimonthly work

### Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Members

1. Grand Valley Catholic Outreach
2. Hilltop Community Resources
3. The Energy Office
4. Grand Junction Housing Authority
5. Mesa Developmental Services
6. Colorado West Mental Health
7. Marillac Clinic
8. Latin Anglo Alliance
9. Mesa County Department of Human Services
10. Partners of Mesa County
11. Western Colorado Aids Project

sessions from January 25<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 to review and analyze survey data, strategically plan to meet service spectrum gaps, and provide input into the Strategic Plan in this document. Refer to Chapter 5 for a brief description of each of the agencies represented on the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee.

Staff developed a questionnaire and conducted individual one-on-one and telephone surveys of over 40 different service organizations to gain an understanding of each agency's: mission, target population needs, service objectives and outcomes, and service delivery plans for the future. See Attachment 2B for a complete listing of participating agencies. In addition, public meetings were held to disseminate and gather information on community development needs.

Because Grand Junction is a relatively small community and the private nonprofit sector has worked and grown together over many years, there are close working relationships and open lines of communication between public and private agencies. The Grand Junction Housing Authority and the Grand Junction Homeless Coalition sponsored the development of the Homeless Continuum of Care. Homeless needs, essential homeless services, and action plans were clarified in several community meetings. Service gaps to the homeless, quantified by the data generated by a March 15, 2001 Point-In-Time Survey and subsequent analysis, initiated the homeless objectives and strategies reflected in this Plan.

The findings and the needs identified by those who serve and work with the very low- to moderate-income population are the basis of the development of this Consolidated Plan. All process participants and pertinent data are compiled into a Matrix of Service Providers and a list of Agencies Serving Low-Income persons and Persons with Special Needs. See Attachments 2B and 2C, and HUD Tables 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2C.

## **Institutional Structure**

The City of Grand Junction Community Development Department is one of seven departments that comprise the administration of the City of Grand Junction. The CDBG Manager reports to the City Manager through the Assistant City Manager. The City Council sets policy on community development activities and adopts the final Consolidated Plan.

The Grand Junction Housing Authority (GJHA) was created in 1974 by the City in response to a growing need for affordable housing, particularly for elderly and disabled persons. GJHA now develops and manages housing resources for extremely-low and low- to moderate-income residents, and is governed by a seven member Board appointed to five year staggered terms by the City Council. One member of the Board is a City Council member and one member is a client of the GJHA.

The Grand Junction City Council has provided guidance in the development of the Consolidated Plan, particularly the One-Year Action Plan in Chapter 6. A subcommittee

made up of six City Council members met on May 7, 2001 to discuss funding the 2001 applications for CDBG funding. From this City Council subcommittee, a recommendation was formed for 2001 projects and forwarded to the full City Council at the Consolidated Plan Public Hearing held June 6, 2001.

Highly effective nonprofit organizations deliver a wide array of services to Grand Junction's citizens. The City, as lead agency responsible for the development and implementation of the Plan, depends upon these private agencies to meet the needs of the low- to moderate-income population. Despite the City's dependence on the effectiveness of these private agencies to implement the Consolidated Plan, the capacity of the City to fund their operations is limited. It is clear that all of the human service needs cannot be met with the annual allotment of Community Development Block Grant funds from HUD, and that service providers must continue to seek other resources to fund their operations. The Consolidated Plan will be fully implemented only with the cumulative effort of every public and private agency serving the low- to moderate-income and special needs residents.

In its role as CDBG funds administrator, the City of Grand Junction will disburse grant funds, oversee their effective use, and with community involvement prepare and submit annual Consolidated Action Plan Evaluation Reports (CAPER) to HUD.