



# Chapter 6

## Citizen Participation

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# Citizen Participation

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## **FY 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan**

The development of the Consolidated Plan incorporates a public participation process. Public meetings were held to solicit input on the use of federal entitlement funds and there was a public comment period for citizens to evaluate and comment on the Draft Plan.

The Citizen Participation activities included consulting with the Metropolitan Housing Commission, the Housing Rehabilitation Collaborative, and the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless. Two public hearings were held to obtain citizen input on the formulation and preparation of the Consolidated Plan.



# Citizen Participation

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## **Constituent Work Sessions**

Work sessions were held with four constituent groups to garner input on the priorities for the development of the Consolidated Plan. The groups included:

- ❑ Homeless
- ❑ Housing
- ❑ Special Needs
- ❑ Human Services

At these meetings, a general overview of the housing and homeless needs assessment and housing market analysis were presented. In three of the meetings, a panel discussion was presented by individuals knowledgeable on the subject matter. Following the panel discussion, citizen input on key issues and impediments was obtained and recorded.

A total of 160 people attended the four meetings. Sign in sheets and input from these four work sessions are included in the Appendix.



# Citizen Participation

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## **Citizen Participation**

The citizen participation process for the Consolidated Plan involves a public review and comment period followed by public hearings before the Tucson City Council and the Pima County Board of Supervisors to allow citizens the opportunity to evaluate and respond to the 2006-2010 City of Tucson and Pima County Consolidated Plan.

Notices of the Public Hearings were published in the local newspaper and the report was made available for a 30-day public review and comment beginning March 14 2005, at the City of Tucson Community Services Department, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop, In addition the Plan was available on the Community Services Department website at:  
<http://ci.tucson.az.us/csd>

The draft Annual Plan was available for a 30-day public review and comment period on March 14, 2005. Public notices announcing the comment period and explaining how to obtain copies, ran on March 13 and 14, 2005.



# Public Meetings

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## **FY 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan**

- ❑ Homeless – January 13, 2005; 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- ❑ Housing – January 13, 2005; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ❑ Special Needs – January 26, 2005; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- ❑ Human Services – January 26, 2005; 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- ❑ Public Hearing – March 16, 2005; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ❑ Public Hearing – April 14, 2005; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Citizen comments were obtained throughout the planning process



# Access to Meetings and Records

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- ❑ Notices of meetings were published in the local newspaper, which are included in the Appendix
- ❑ Documents relating to the Consolidated Plan were posted on the City of Tucson's web site, and a hard copy available at the city and county offices for the public to review and comment.
- ❑ Information requests were directed to:

City of Tucson  
Community Services Department  
310 N. Commerce Park Loop  
Tucson, AZ 85



# Technical Assistance

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- ❑ The Consortium will provide assistance to very low- and low-income persons (and groups representative of them) that request assistance in developing proposals for funding under the CDBG, ESG, HOPWA or HOME resources stated in their Consolidated Plans.
- ❑ Such assistance will be provided to interested parties as requested and be noticed as available to the public.



# Notices

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Public hearings were held on March 16 and April 14, 2005 to obtain citizen input. Public meeting notices were mailed to service agencies and placed in the local newspaper. All hearings were held at a central location reachable by public transportation and building accessible to the disabled.



# Comments and Complaints

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- ❑ Any citizen, organization or group desiring to make a complaint regarding the Consolidated Plan may do so in writing or verbally during the public hearings.
- ❑ Complaints can also be made verbally or in writing to the City and/or County Community Services Departments. At all times, citizens have the right to submit complaints directly to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well.
- ❑ The Consortium shall respond to citizen complaints, grievances, or comments in writing within 15 working days. The response will include a description of any action that will be taken as a result of citizen comments.



# Meeting the Needs of Non-English Speaking Residents

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- ❑ Where applicable, a bilingual (Spanish/English) staff person shall be present at public hearings to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate.
- ❑ All public hearings to be conducted will be held at times and locations convenient to prospective program beneficiaries, and be conducted with accommodation for persons with disabilities as requested in advance by at least three working days. Specific determinations on the issues noted above shall be made by Consortium staff on a case-by-case basis.