

2022 Low-Income Residents' Needs Assessment

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

December 2, 2021

**SUMMARY NOTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Community Development Operations Manager/Hearing Officer Marjan Behzadi called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Civic Arts Plaza Boardroom, 2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. The meeting was conducted in person and via videoconference. In addition to staff, 4 persons were present in person and 14 were present via videoconference. Community Development Analyst Lynn Oshita, IT Supervisor Atanas Beltchev, and Senior Recording Secretary Lori Goor were also present, and Office Supervisor Michelle McMurtry was present via videoconference.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

After a brief welcome, Hearing Officer Behzadi recognized Community Development Analyst Oshita for staff comments who reported the City of Thousand Oaks annually receives an entitlement grant from the Federal government known as the Community Development Block Grant or CDBG. These funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDBG funding must be used to primarily benefit low-income persons or households.

- The July 1, 2022 CDBG grant is estimated to be approximately \$582,000. Sixty-Five percent of this amount, \$378,000 would be available for community development projects and approximately \$44,000 available from the prior year, for an approximate budget of \$422,000 for community development projects.
- The City expects approximately \$118,000 for City administration and \$86,000 for public services primarily benefitting low-income households.
- In addition to the regular HUD allocation, the City estimates \$235,000 in Special CDBG-CV Cares Act Funding for eligible public services to primarily benefit the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless through activities related to the Coronavirus. This estimate may increase as funding becomes available. Should there be a compelling urgent need to fund before July 1, 2022, HUD has made waivers available.

- Now through Tuesday, January 18, 2022, the City is soliciting CDBG funding applications from non-profit agencies seeking an award of CDBG por CDBG-CV funds to address an unmet need of the lower-income households. The application can be found on the City’s website [www.toaks.org](http://www.toaks.org) on the Community Development page.
- Staff will evaluate the 2022 CDBG and CDBG-CV proposals and prepare a proposed spending plan that is expected to be available for 30 days of public review, as soon as the HUD advises the City of the actual dollar amount of the City’s entitlement grant. The City’s CDBG funding year begins in July 2022 and ends in June 2023.

In compliance with the City’s “Citizen Participation Plan,” under City Council Resolution 2020-013, this administrative hearing is being held to receive public comment on the needs of the City’s lower-income persons. These needs may potentially be addressed by the City using CDBG funds or another funding resource.

Hearing Officer Behzadi opened the Public Hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Community Development Operations Manager Marjan Behzadi invited those present in person and via teleconference to provide comments on the needs of low-income Thousand Oaks residents. There were 14 speakers whose comments are summarized below and on the following pages.

Speakers:

- 1) Espy Gonzales, Ventura County Human Services Agency RAIN Transitional Living Center serves the increasing numbers of homeless and noted an increase in domestic violence. They provide supportive services such as self-sufficiency classes.
- 2) Lee Sherman, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association provides home health care for homebound patients with a percentage who are low-income. They have also provided services for those who have lost loved ones through grief and bereavement services.
- 3) Heidi Marine, Quality Assurance Manager for Many Mansions serving chronically homeless individuals and families and several low-income individuals. Seen an increase in food insecurity. They run a food share and solicit grocery gift cards, permanent supportive housing, low income housing, and case management. Many Mansions provides permanent supportive housing and low-income housing.



- 4) Maria Sundeen, Grants Manager Many Mansions added that they are also a developer finding and rehabilitating properties to build affordable housing. They have 18 apartments and they are building more in primarily Ventura County, with some in L.A. County.
- 5) Jamie Chen, Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County, supporting lower income families in home ownership units with critical health and safety home repairs.
- 6) Janet Young, Development Director Conejo Valley Senior Concerns, noting financial hardship, food insecurity, elder abuse, caregiver burnout, and social isolation have increased with the pandemic. Since March 2020 they have increased home-delivered meals by 375%; provided 256% more services for family caregivers; and fielded 315% more calls from seniors needing help with insurance, low-income housing, elder abuse, and legal and financial services. Thousand Oaks has a growing senior population being cared for in their homes and a need to support low-income seniors.
- 7) Karen Escalante-Dalton, Westminster Clinic providing care for the low income working poor uninsured providing free volunteer-based care to primarily adults including primary care, medication, diagnostic testing, mental health counseling, dental, vision, and chronic disease support and education. Assistance is provided via free healthy food and in applying for Housing Is Key Program. Teen support is provided by assisting those seeking careers in health care.
- 8) Sally Hibbitts, Director of Resources Adelante Comunidad Conejo delivering food for food insecure families for primarily low-income Spanish-speaking families in the central core of the City. They are a 100% volunteer organization. Currently focus has shifted to a monthly free community marketplace and a food bank. Supermarkets, recreation facilities, public meeting spaces, computer training within walking distance are a concern as are sidewalks.
- 9) Lisa Perry, Momentum, let everyone know that their group was formerly known as United Cerebral Palsy.
- 10) Sheri Groenveld, Director of Operations Harbor House providing services for the poor and homeless in the Conejo Valley including food insecurity through a meal program, street outreach in encampments, the streets, and the parks. Serve 600 meals a week. Case management is provided with house clients with rental and utility assistance and car repairs. Need for food and shelter for homeless and resources to keep those housed in their homes.



- 11) Ed Krol, Treasurer St. Vincent de Paul Society providing emergency rental assistance, car repairs, utilities, and a Saturday drive through food and grocery gift certificates program for City residents. They are an all-volunteer agency.
- 12) Jennifer Parkinson, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Conejo Valley serving those low-income residents who cannot work from home with food, tutoring for kids, social-emotional wellness. They are having their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have had 80,000 kids come through their doors.
- 13) Jacqueline Marcantonio, Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County Home Repair Program for safety and critical needs of low-income home owners noted the rise in single-family detached home residents requesting assistance where in the past it was primarily mobile home residents.

The following organizations were represented via the voluntary in-person attendance sheet:

- Espy Gonzales, HSA RAIN Transitional Living Center
- Jim Wolf and Kathy Goodspeed, Senior Alliance for Empowerment (SAFE).
- Christopher Ojeda, no affiliation noted.

The following organizations were represented via teleconference:

- Jacqueline Marcantonio and Jamie Chen, Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County
- Janet Young, Conejo Valley Senior Concerns
- Rick Schroeder, Maria Sundeen, and Heidi Marine, Many Mansions
- Sheri Groenveld, Harbor House
- Jennifer Parkinson, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Conejo Valley
- Lisa Perry, Momentum
- Karen Escalante-Dalton, Westminster Clinic
- Lee Sherman, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association
- Sally Hibbitts, Adalante Comunidad Conejo
- Ed Krol, St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Sarah Mailes, City of Thousand Oaks, City Manager's Office

### **CDBG WORKSHOP:**

Ms. Oshita provided a presentation on the CDBG Application Workshop, followed by a question and answer period.



It was noted that written comments may also be submitted to Lynn Oshita in the Community Development Department any time by January 18, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Community Development Operations Manager/ Hearing Officer Marjan Behzadi closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Summary notes approved on December 6, 2021 by:

*Marjan Behzadi*

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Marjan Behzadi, Hearing Officer  
Community Development Department

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