

Appendix 5.6. Summary of Public Comments

Comments on the draft 2005 Action Plan were accepted in writing and in person. A summary of these comments and the Municipality's response is included below.

1. WRITTEN COMMENTS

Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services

Comment: Include Essential Services and Maintenance and Operations activities under "Addressing the Special Needs of Persons who are Not Homeless"

Response: This was not included because ESG Essential Services and Maintenance and Operations funds are specifically for those who are homeless, not those who are not homeless, so no change was made.

Comment: Anti-Poverty strategy (1.9.4) can include the LINK Program. Homeless Services Forum can be mentioned in 1.6.5(F)

Response: Reference to the electronic interface offered by LINK was added. In addition, reference to the upcoming Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness report was added. Reference to the Homeless Services Forum was added to 1.6.5.

Anchorage School District

Comment: Notes the *2005 Action Plan* does not include funding for bus passes for homeless students as it has during the past two years. Provides information on past seven years of historical funding for this service. Recommends the Municipality continue to fund bus passes.

Response: The maximum percentage of CDBG funds that may be spent on Public Services (which is what bus passes would need to be considered) has been contractually committed through the Municipality's Public Services grants. This cap may not be exceeded. However, the 2005 Action Plan also acknowledges the need for bus passes for homeless children. Therefore, the Community Development Division will work with the Anchorage School District and other Municipal departments to try to replace this funding source before the new year. No change to the 2005 Action Plan was made.

Habitat for Humanity

Comment: Supports the concept of encouraging owners to facilitate affordable housing development by partially or wholly forgiving Municipal liens if a property will be used for affordable housing. However, Habitat also notes that a 15 year affordability requirement may mean the program would not work for Habitat.

Response: This is important information that will be considered as the Municipality looks into the possibility of this affordable housing strategy. Mention of this was added to the *2005 Action Plan*.

2. COMMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 PUBLIC HEARING

Comment: Katsumi Kenaston, Anchorage Resident expressed support for the 2005 Action Plan, especially the affordable housing development actions under the HOME program. She also expressed support for affordable housing for people with mental illness.

Response: Ms. Kenaston's comments and participation are appreciated.

Comment: Dan Loring, Resident of the Fairview Neighborhood in Anchorage expressed concern about the safety improvements being considered by the Department of Transportation on 13th and Gambell. He requested funds be added to that project in order to enhance that intersection, which is central to Fairview's commercial sector.

Response: Mr. Loring's comments and participation are appreciated. Though the 13th and Gambell project is not in the 2005 Action Plan, the Community Development Division will look into this project and see if any enhancements may be included, and report back to Mr. Loring. No changes to the Action Plan were made.