

Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3204 Date: December 13, 2010

See survey online: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HUDPlan

Charleston County Seeks Input on Community Services Projects

Citizen input will be used to develop five-year plan to allocate federal funds

<u>Charleston County Government's Community Services Department</u> is seeking input from citizens in order to identify the most pressing community needs that are eligible for funding from the County's Urban Entitlement award through the <u>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</u>.

The public can provide input through the County's survey located online at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HUDPlan through February 7, 2011.

The County currently receives a direct allocation of funding from HUD annually through the <u>Community Development Block Grant Program</u>, <u>HOME Investment Partnerships Program</u>, and the <u>Emergency Shelter Grants Program</u>.

Each program has federally-defined eligible areas. For example, there are only four eligible project categories for which HOME funds may be granted. Data gathered from the survey will assist County staff in ranking the eligible activity areas. Eligible activities among the four programs range from community infrastructure projects and rehabilitation of substandard housing to homeless shelter operations and affordable housing development.

"Receiving widespread community input to this survey is critical to developing a meaningful plan that will address the needs of our area," said Christine DuRant, Charleston County's Community Services Director.

County staff is in the early stages of developing Charleston County's Consolidated Plan that will assist in the annual process of awarding HUD grant funds over the next five-year period. The plan is a HUD-required document that the County must submit every five years.

For those who do not have online access, printed surveys are available at the following locations:

- Charleston County, Community Services Department (4045 Bridge View Drive; North Charleston)
- Awendaw Town Hall (6971 Doar Road, Awendaw)
- City of North Charleston, Community Development Office (2500 City Hall Lane; North Charleston)
- Hollywood Town Hall (6322 Highway 162; Hollywood)
- Isle of Palms City Hall (1207 Palm Boulevard; Isle of Palms)
- Lincolnville Town Hall (493 Hope Road; Lincolnville)
- Meggett Town Hall (4776 S.C. 165; Meggett)
- Mount Pleasant Town Hall (100 Ann Edwards Lane; Mount Pleasant)
- Ravenel Town Hall (5962 Highway 165 #100; Ravenel)
- Sullivan's Island (1610 Middle Street; Sullivan's Island)

Additional meetings, public hearings and studies will be conducted before the draft plan is submitted to Charleston County Council for final approval and subsequent submittal to HUD in May of 2010. All public meetings and hearings will be posted on the County's Web site.

Anyone with questions on the survey may call <u>Charleston County Government's Community Services</u>

<u>Department</u> at (843) 202-6968. Visit <u>www.charlestoncounty.org</u> for more information, news and services relating to Charleston County Government.