

CDBG Consolidated Plan 2020-2024

Online Questionnaire Comment Summary

The following comments were provided by individuals completing the online Engage Ashland Questionnaire between February 1 and March 1, 2020. 251 people visited the topic to assist in evaluating the spending priorities for the local use of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Of these visitors 134 people completed the questionnaire. In addition to ranking various community needs on a scale from “very low need” to “critical need” (which results are provided in a separate graph summary) respondents provided their perspectives through providing additional comments relating to the CDBG program's goals as follows:

Please provide any additional comments regarding Ashland's affordable rental housing needs:

Affordable homes for low income individuals and families to purchase needed in Ashland. rganizing current program
affordable RENTAL programs ensure housing to benefit more people, compared to affordable ownership programs that cost more per family served.
After living and working here 20 years including raising a child and attending SOU, affordable housing that was decent and maintained was a critical issue and remains so now as an elderly single senior with increase in homes off the market now used as AirBnB, vacation homes of part time residents and affordable houses / complexes more often located away from the city center and Lithia Park limiting regular access to green space and barriers to easily reach the bike/walking path safely.
Again, I have only answered for the ones I know a little about. I know of older people and younger singles, as well as families, who have had a very hard time finding places to rent.
Any new construction MUST have 80%+ affordable (below market) rentals available. We have a housing shortage for poor, low-income and working poor folks. They deserve new, safe, quality housing they can afford. Income levels can't be 3x rent... the people who need to live her can't afford it.
Ashland is not an appropriate community for "extremely low income" families due to our cost of living, not just housing. The City should encourage residential balance, with more families, fewer retirees, to keep our town vibrant. We want our low and middle-income families to live here so they are invested in Ashland.
For fixed income persons routinely increased rent erodes what is available for other needs.
I want my community to remain diverse. Economic diversity is important to me. I am a home owner in Ashland and have a family, I want to see families and low income people being able to stay.
I'm a senior single woman living on \$1200 month. I have been looking for a place to live for over a month and cannot find anything I can afford from Ashland to Medford. Will I be moving into my car in 2 weeks?
I'm about to loose my afforadable rental to a developer, and I have no idea where I'll live.
It is arbitrary to rank the above without specific need assessment data. Absent such data, I would place highest priority on low income workforce housing.
Lots of new construction for housing going on in Ashland and I believe the contractors have the most to gain.
Our city needs more housing that's Section 8 acceptable



Our town needs more balance: we need to support working families so our schools and town will thrive. We need to support our aging population who require smaller apartments near transit. We need more permanent supportive housing for our residents in crisis.
People who cannot afford housing in Ashland have cheaper alternatives very nearby. The community does not need to be responsible for housing except for those who are unable to work.
Rent control should be considered.
Rental assistance might be more helpful than additional housing.
Some of the current section 8 rentals need to be looked at and re-evaluated. The conditions and reoccurring problems are borderline inhumane.
Spending money on poor moochers just encourages them to come to our town. I'm sick of it and so out the rest of us voters. Get rid of the tax and spend.
Stop allowing low-density high priced home construction on land zoned for multiple family.
The inventory of all kind of rental units is extremely low. Reducing the barriers imposed by city planning would help: reduce parking space requirements, allow 3 story units, etc.
The Rental Monopoly ran by CPM needs to be dealt with. They are a huge reason we have so many housing problems.
There is a need to upgrade existing housing in mobile homes
There needs to be affordable housing for students and young adults in Ashland. Ashland needs to admit that there is a college here and work to help the students who live here instead of ostracizing them and pushing them out as hard as possible.
There needs to be some kind of fair calculation made so that Ashland is doing its fair share in the County.
We are seeing people who have become homeless due to rent increases, high deposit requirements and a lack of affordable alternatives. this is a disgrace, costing the social services system money and stressing resources.
We need all types of housing in Ashland, not just housing for the wealthy elite who finance the campaigns of council members. Do not issue any building permits for single-family construction ever again. Schools are closing because families with children can no longer afford to live here.
We need to maintain and increase truly affordable housing in Ashland.
We need workforce housing. We need temporary and permanent housing for people who have become homeless or are about to.
We're priced out this year. Will buy in Talent or Medford. Very disappointed, 15yr resident and our kids love their school. We need a home under 250k.

Please provide any additional comments regarding Ashland's needed Public Services, and list any unmet service needs or gaps in our community:

A dedicated Mediation service available for Ashland residents would be a great asset in resolving differences and/or unmet needs for individuals and/or groups assisting with miss communications, Miss perception for a variety of issues listed above.
Are group living situations for person experiencing mental illness around our area?
Ashland has great community programs for youth and seniors. Just keep supporting existing programs.
High school classes provide some of this support, e.g. job skills training and life skills training
HUGE unmet need in Ashland for long term mental health support, skills training support, and housing for homeless.
I believe we have many supportive services in the area, if not Ashland itself, and hope to see these services continue..
I'm not real keen on enabling and supporting homeless that are part of of the homeless population that are "traveling". I feel that we do need to support homeless folks that are unintentionally homeless that can hold a job if given the opportunity. But many of the homeless folks I meet don't want to contribute to the public good but would rather leach off the system by "traveling".



In general more services than buildings and if buildings they should be to help the lower income and crisis individuals.
mental health and services for the homeless are #1
Minimal youth services available. The homeless shelter has demonstrated that navigators and case management make a huge difference in homeless populations.
More focus on youth less on tourists
Nobody should be homeless or without shelter.
Our youth need facilities such as an all ages center and activities to do besides drugs
People who need these services are moochers who contribute nothing. Kick them out and Make Ashland Great Again!
The City should not be in the business of providing services redundant with other agencies and governments, except where those services are seriously derelict and needed in individual cases.
The homelessness problem only improves through one-on-one Case Management
Transportation, even with The Connector, is needed for the week-ends for those who cannot drive and when there is no bus service.
We need to strengthen safety net services but also need to invest in people teetering on the edge of crisis.
We need to support local organizations that provide the necessary navigation to our residents in crisis. These organizations must have sustainable funding to continue these services.

Please provide any additional comments regarding Ashland's homeownership needs:

A supposed "affordable" house is at about \$278,000. which is beyond the means of many who work and serve in Ashland, causing medical personnel and other service providers to have to live outside the area they serve.
Evaluate development code to promote higher density development.
Families who live and work in Ashland should be able to stay in Ashland
Help young families get established in Ashland.
I don't know the merits of rental vs owned low and moderate income housing. Emphasis should be placed on maximizing the City's impact on housing affordability and availability.
I feel grants could be better spent on rental housing than home ownership assistance.
I work more than full time (in Ashland) and am nowhere near being able to afford a home.
If Ashland is too expensive there are cheaper places in the valley to live.
If you're buying a house, you pay for it yourself. Otherwise, you rent.
Land use laws and building regulations appear to be the largest contributor to the housing shortage. Grants won't solve legislative issues. Grant use should prioritize the disabled who need safe housing and cannot provide it for themselves. The goal should be to create as much self-sufficiency as possible.
Low income families simply cannot own here. Period. And it seems as though the city of ashland is just fine with that. Disappointing.
Not qualified to comment or answer survey questions pertaining to issue.
Ownership programs serve fewer people per dollar invested, and need for housing is rising..
The City should not be in the business of helping people buy homes. Many larger government programs already exist, and renting is a more sustainable, easier solution to bringing families into Ashland.
There's nothing affordable. Made 67k this year, and have to move our family to another town while still working in Ashland.
This is a wealthy community and I'm sick of all the poors trying to be part of it. Put them on a bus to Methford and don't ever let them come back to our beautiful community.

Please provide any additional comments regarding Ashland's Fair Housing needs:

Again, this is a critical need to diversify our community and support those who are being unfairly treated.



Ashland needs a rental housing law that requires certain levels of clean, repaired, safe housing in rentals.
CPM is horrible. HUD should keep them in line.
effective education and advocacy should reduce the instances of discrimination
I do not have enough familiarity with existing resources available so reserve comment.
I have no idea what "fair housing" means.
I read often about rentals discriminating against families with children.
I was recently a home owner in a mobile home park i was discriminated against and evicted.
Many management properties in Ashland could use more education and rent control.
People need to know more about their rights as renters. They need help in getting assistance with rental agreements.
This entire issue is not a problem in Ashland and should be low priority, so long as good rules are in place.
Too much government intervention creates dependence. Fair housing issues appear tiny in Ashland.
What is "fair"?
You know what's not fair? Making me rent out to poor people who damage everything and then making me pay for with my tax dollars.

Please provide any additional comments regarding Ashland's Public Facility Improvement needs:

Allow multi story development with green space
Ashland is a really nice city. Street improvements and building maintenance should be the priority. No new city hall downtown.
Ashland needs to keep streets maintained or they become unusable. As a tourist town, downtown beautification is important.
Ashland should move to be a 21st century climate change forward City. So much more can and should be done! Including subsidized solar on all available roofs.
Bike path behind a street/hardware store.
designated bike lanes so we don't have to risk our life to be low impact
Don't tax residents to cover your extremely expensive City Hall proposal, etc. with a bond.
Downtown has had enough "beautification," why not focus on putting the homeless into sheltered areas rather than create more art that costs money and has 0 affect on the communities problems.
Focus on ensuring walking and bicycling are safe for all ages and abilities. Making bicycling a viable form of transportation is essential. Transportation is expensive, representing a higher proportion of family expenditures than food. Each one percent increase in bicycle mode share reduces the carbon emissions from the transportation sector by approximately one percent.
Housing and mental health first, please.
I'm opposed to a new city building
More bathrooms for the homeless and expanded shelter, especially in the cold months is a critical need.
More bus routes!
More parking - multi level garage perhaps.
Need to continue and expand the Ashland Connector services! Provide safe bike lanes. Help Green Development through less auto transport, more peds, bikes, and transit. Build greener buildings.
Our program serves food to the homeless at Uncle Food's Diner and we feed an average of 115-125 people each Tuesday.
Please fix Pioneer Hall and The Community Center without raising taxes with a new bond.
Please stop spending money on public art! Fix the roads and work to provide shelter for low and moderate income families. Oh -- we don't need a new swimming pool either!



Regarding downtown revitalization: lane reassignment for bicycle and multi-modal transportation would go a long way in revitalizing downtown. The noise, hazard and emissions from three lanes of automobiles are not worth the extra convenience for drivers.
Sidewalk accessibility and bike paths are essential,
Stop wasting our money on these ridiculous liberal wastes.
Stop worrying about frills and deal with the underlying problems!
There has been a lack of easily accessible available public gathering places such as for instance serving overnight shelters and/or meal centers for homeless and low income, available public options for special interest groups with tech support features, (I've belonged to 2 tech groups both losing members due to limited facilities / cost options), the limited size and options available though the Senior Center facilities, Pioneer Hall, The Grove for its high population of seniors seems proportionally out of balance
Traffic seems to be steadily increasing, with more need for street & sidewalk improvements, and critical need for sufficient parking -- for safety and revitalization of downtown area.
Transportation options for home-bound seniors is a critical need and will only grow.
We moved here in 2018 and were shocked by the lack of weed control especially along Tolman creek road between Ashland and Siskiyou. We also notice the city does not maintain the area between sidewalks and streets. Street sweepers are seldom seen. Private landscaping is so overgrown as to appear to be a dangerous fire hazard. Visibility at corners is another concern. One must pull considerably forward to view oncoming traffic. Obstructing bushes and trees should be cut back. The nicest work the city does is the center parkway on Siskiyou. Thank you for that nice stretch of road.
We need sidewalks!
With our longer periods of hot weather in the summer, our tourist season, it would be to our benefit to plant and maintain shade trees in the downtown walking & shopping areas. None of our downtown trees grow large enough nor are they numerous enough to provide shade and make strolling downtown pleasant in the hot weather. No new development or expansions without off street parking inclusion.

Additional Comments, Concerns or Suggestions. Please feel free to provide any further comments regarding the City of Ashland's use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds:

\$175,000 isn't a lot of funding when you have 5 big buckets like this. Please don't try to do it all. Focus this funding on the services and support people need the most and let go of some things. We need to see a significant uptick in support for poor, working poor and houseless people.
Block grants tend to start a good thing then stop. Be sure the funds don't create a dependency that cannot continue to be supported.
Don't spend any of it! Give it back to we, the people! Make Ashland Great Again!
Fix the community building that is fenced off at present.
Get our kids OUTSIDE and IN NATURE it's about time Ashland takes the forefront on this. Youth population growing in Ashland.
HOUSING! Provide employer assistance to create living wage jobs.
I am a homeowner and resident in Ashland, al am age 37 and would like to stay here. I am raising my kids here and have my business here. I want working class and poor people to be able to live here. If people work here they should be able to find housing here that fits there pay. People with disabilities and on Social Security disability should be able to find housing here if it means they can be close to there support networks and family.
I have limited knowledge about most of these topics, and answered the best I could on the ones that were relevant.
I'm very happy to see the new homeless program on east main, with case management and a stable overnight shelter in one place. That is quite an accomplishment for a town our size!



Mental health services and outreach are needed to assist the many travelers that park on Tolman Creek for several days to two weeks at a time. Some of these panhandle.
most of what I see deemed as "affordable housing development" is NOT affordable when you consider income opportunities and minimum wage.
Mostly I would like to see it used for affordable housing. But I wonder too if we need better case management of vulnerable people. It breaks my heart when I hear about people showing up at the Peace Meal, who have just been released from the hospital or are elderly, and they have no place to go that night to sleep. It seems like the entire county needs to do better at providing temporary shelter for those desperate cases. And then work to get them into a more permanent situation.
Parking
Pleas apply funding to affordable housing!
Thank you for the work you do trying to make decisions about such serious dilemmas in our community.
The city hall is a divisive issue and should be separately voted on and funded from all other issues to remain transparent. I for one think if we need a new city hall it should be in a more affordable location rather than downtown. Use the current space to have a developer retrofit and bring in tourist dollars.
This is a very odd survey. How would the average citizen be able to judge these needs and services?
With the limited funds available it would be impossible to cover all of the options listed. Hopefully a long range plan with selective immediate goals can be outlined and acted on including with the help of this survey

