



Study Session

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

DATE: November 5, 2014

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF STUDY SESSION ON OCTOBER 28, 2014: REVIEW OF 2015/20 CONSOLIDATED PLAN PRIORITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING CYCLE FY 2015/17 (NO FISCAL IMPACT)

Report in Brief

The City Council is being asked to continue their review of the 2015/20 Consolidated Plan funding priorities for activities as recommended by the Community Services Commission (CSC) and as presented and discussed in the study session on October 28, 2014. These study sessions are intended to focus on future activities for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, which will meet the priority needs of Concord's lower income neighborhoods and residents. They are also intended to provide guidance to the CSC to move forward with the FY 2015/17 grant funding cycle.

Background

In order to continue to receive CDBG funds directly from the Federal Government for distribution to eligible projects and programs, the City must produce a Consolidated Plan every five years. The City of Concord collaborates with Contra Costa County and the cities of Antioch, Pittsburg and Walnut Creek to produce one Consolidated Plan that serves the need of all local entitlement jurisdictions, thereby saving time and money for all of the jurisdictions. The five entitlement jurisdictions have formed the CDBG Consortium and the Consortium is currently preparing the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. Council will be asked to review and approve the Consolidated Plan in April/May, 2015, before its submission to HUD.

One part of the Consolidated Plan that the City must produce is a list of community needs that rank "High," that qualify for HUD funding, and that the City of Concord will fund with CDBG grants over the life of the Consolidated Plan.

Because HUD regulations dictate that all funding categories ranked high must receive funding at some time during the five years of the Consolidated Plan, the City is put in the odd position of needing to refine the list of high priorities after all funding decisions are made for funding years 2015-17, the first CDBG grant cycle under the new Consolidated Plan.

Consequently, the CSC has created a working document, Attachment A, that Council is being asked to review and refine, that will identify the type of grant applications the City will consider for CDBG grant funding in the funding cycle 2015-17. The City will not entertain grant applications for any activity not ranked high on this list.

Subsequent to the Council making its CDBG grant funding decisions for FY 2015-17, the list will be narrowed to only include those activities that actually receive CDBG funds from the City of Concord. The final list of high priority activities will then be incorporated into the City's Consolidated Plan for submittal to HUD.

Please note that an activity not ranked as a high priority need by the City does not mean that there is not a need in the community for those services or projects. It only indicates that the City's limited funding is being directed to other high priority areas.

Discussion

At the study session on October 28th, Councilman Helix asked that information be added to the matrix that is Attachment A. Specifically, he requested that the priorities identified in the current Consolidated Plan (Years 2010-15) be identified, and that a list of grant recipients for the 2010-15 years be added. This has been done and is shown in gray-shade on Attachment A. Note that until this year, HUD allowed cities to designate "High" and "Medium" priorities, with high priorities funded and the choice to fund or not fund medium priorities. This is no longer the case. HUD no longer recognizes a priority of "Medium," and HUD requires all activities identified as "High" priority to receive funding.

The priorities matrix attached to this report as Attachment A is a working document for the City and will not be included in the Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD. It serves only to determine what applications will be accepted for the upcoming grant cycle. As presented, the recommendations from the CSC allow submission of grant applications for all activities that have been funded over the last five years. It also allows the City to entertain applications in a number of new areas, most significantly under the Public Facilities/Infrastructure Improvements category. In recent years the City has directed all of this funding towards implementation of its ADA Transition Plan (primarily sidewalks and curb ramps). Though this remains a high priority, the CSC is recommending the City consider applications from other groups in this category as well.

At the October 28th meeting, Councilmember Hoffmeister asked for copies of the results of the Community Needs Survey that the CSC members reviewed as part of determining their recommended rankings on Attachment A. This information is included in the Council's packet as Attachment B.

Recommended Action

Council is being asked to continue their review of the Consolidated Plan high priority activities (Attachment A) and to provide input for those activities which should be targeted for funding.

Note: Grant applications will be available to the public on November 6 and are due by December 15, 2014. More information can be obtained by interested parties at www.ci.concord.ca.us/community/grants.

Fiscal Impact

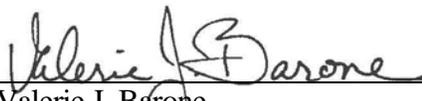
There is no fiscal impact in reviewing the Consolidated Plan priorities.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council Joint Study Session Agenda. Copies of the agenda and report have been provided to the Community Services Commission.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that Council review Attachment A to this report (the 2015/20 Consolidated Plan high priority activities) and provide input to staff on their priorities for funding in FY 2015/16 and 2016/17.



Valerie J. Barone
City Manager
Valerie.barone@cityofconcord.org

Prepared by: Brenda Kain
Community Services Program Manager
Brenda.Kain@cityofconcord.org

Reviewed by: Joan Carrico
Director of Parks and Recreation
Joan.Carrico@cityofconcord.org

Attachment A: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Priorities
Attachment B: Community Needs Survey Results

PRIORITIES MATRIX DRAFT

ATTACHMENT A

Matrix Code	Activity	2015-20 Proposed Funding Categories*	2010-15 Funding Priorities	INFORMATION ADDED AT COUNCIL'S REQUEST	
				2010-15 Funded Categories and Programs	Eligible Activities
Acquisition, Disposition, Clearance, Relocation					Real Property
01	Acquisition of Real Property				Acquisition of real property developed for a public purpose
02	Disposition of Real Property				Sale, lease, donation of property acquired by CDBG funds
Public Facilities/Infrastructure Improvements (to include ADA and facility improvements)					ADA Improvements including Streets/Curbs, Neighborhood Facilities, Facilities for Persons with Special Needs; Energy Efficiency; Design features to improve services to clients.
03A	Senior Centers	H			Acq , const, rehab of senior centers/facilities
03B	Handicapped Centers	H			Acq, const, rehab of centers, group homes
03C	Homeless Facilities (not operating costs)	H			Acq, const, rehab of shelters/transitional housing
03D	Youth Center	H			Acq, const, rehab of facilities for ages 13 - 19
03E	Neighborhood Facilities	H			Acq, const, rehab of neighborhood multiple-purpose facilities
03F	Parks, Recreational Facilities	H	M		Development of open space for recreational use
03G	Parking Facilities				Acq, const, rehab of parking lots and garages
03H	Solid Waste Disposal Improvements				Acq, const, rehab of solid waste disposal facilities
03I	Flood Drainage Improvements		M		Acq, const, rehab of flood drainage facilities
03J	Water/Sewer Improvements				Acq, const, rehab of water lines, sewers, fire hydrants
03K	Street Improvements		M		Installation or repair of streets, drains & gutters
03L	Sidewalks	H	H	City - ADA Transition Plan - curb ramps and sidewalks	ADA Accessibility improvements including ramps/crosswalks
03M	Child Care Centers	H	M		Acq, const, rehab of facilities primarily for children 12 & under
03N	Tree Planting				Beautification
03O	Fire Stations/Equipment				Acq, const, rehab of stations/purchase of equipment
03P	Health Facilities	H			Acq, const, rehab of physical/mental health facilities
03Q	Facilities for Abused/Neglected Children	H			Acq, const, rehab of centers, facilities or temp. housing
03R	Asbestos Removal				Rehab of public facility to remove asbestos
03S	Facilities for AIDS Patients	H			Acq , const, rehab of facilities/housing for persons with HIV/AIDS
03	Other Public Facilities and Improvements	H	M		Other improvements not listed above
Public Services					Agencies providing services to low/moderate income clients.
05A	Senior Services	H	H	Caring Hands, Ombudsman, Concord Shopping Shuttle, Meals on Wheels, Care Management, CC Café, Monument Crisis Center (Senior Nutrition)	Services for the elderly
05B	Handicapped Services	H	H	Lions Blind Center	Services for the handicapped regardless of age
05C	Legal Services		M	Bay Legal (Legal Safety Net Project)	Legal services to low/mod income clients
05D	Youth Services (Ages 13 - 19)	H	M		Recreational services, teen counseling programs
05E	Transportation Services				General transportation services
05F	Substance Abuse Services		M		Substance abuse recovery/abuse prevention/education
05G	Services for Battered/Abused Spouses	H	H	STAND! (Rollie Mullen Emergency Shelter)	Services for battered/abused spouses and their families

PRIORITIES MATRIX DRAFT

Matrix Code	Activity	2015-20 Proposed Funding Categories*	2010-15 Funding Priorities	2010-15 Funded Categories and Programs	Eligible Activities
05H	Employment Training				Assistance to increase self-sufficiency; literacy; job training
05I	Crime Awareness/Prevention				Promotion of crime awareness/prevention
05J	Fair Housing Activities	H	H	ECHO (Fair Housing)	Counseling on housing discrimination
05K	Tenant/Landlord Counseling	H	H	Bay Legal (Tenant/Landlord Counseling)	Counseling to prevent/settle disputes
05L	Childcare Services (Ages 0 - 12)	H	H		Benefit children 0 -12, including parenting skills classes
05M	Health Services				Services to address the physical health needs of the community
05N	Services for Abused/Neglected Children	H	H	CASA (Children at Risk)	Daycare/other services for abused/neglected children
05O	Mental Health Services	H	M		Services to address the mental health needs for the community
05P	Screening for Lead Poisoning				Activities to provide screening for lead poisoning
05Q	Subsistence Payments	H	H	Shelter Inc (Homeless Prevention)	One-time or short term (< 3 mos) emergency rental assistance
05R	Homeownership Assistance (not direct)				Down payment assistance
05S	Rental Housing Subsidies				Rental subsidies for more than 3 months
05T	Security Deposits	H			Tenant subsidies specifically for security deposits
05U	Housing Counseling				Housing counseling for new homebuyers
05V	Neighborhood Cleanups				One-time or short term efforts to remove trash/debris
05W	Food Banks	H	H	Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center	Operation of food banks, community kitchens, food pantries
05	Other Public Services	H	H	Community Violence Solutions (Sexual Assault Victim Empowerment), Contra Costa Crisis Center (211, 24-hour Crisis Line), CCC (Adult Interim Housing Program), ANKA (Hope Plus)	Other services not listed above.
Housing					Homeownership/Rental Activities
14A	Rehab: Single Unit Residential	H	H	City - Housing Conservation Program	Housing rehabilitation loans and grants
Other					Misc. Services
15	Code Enforcement	H	H	City - Code Enforcement (PD), Multi-family Housing Inspection Program (C&ED)	Property inspection/follow-up related to enforcement of codes
18C	Ec. Dev: Micro-Enterprise Assistance	H	M	CC Child Care Council (Road to Success - Home Day Care Microenterprise Assistance)	Financial/technical assistance for micro-enterprises
19C	CDBG Non-Profit Org. Capacity Building				Activities to increase capacity of non-profit organizations
21E	Submission of Application for Fed. Programs				Preparation of documents to receive CDBG funds
Administration					
21A	General Program Administration	H	H	CDBG Administration	Program administration including salaries, wages & related costs

*Denotes categories of which applications will be accepted and does not guarantee an allocation of funds in the category

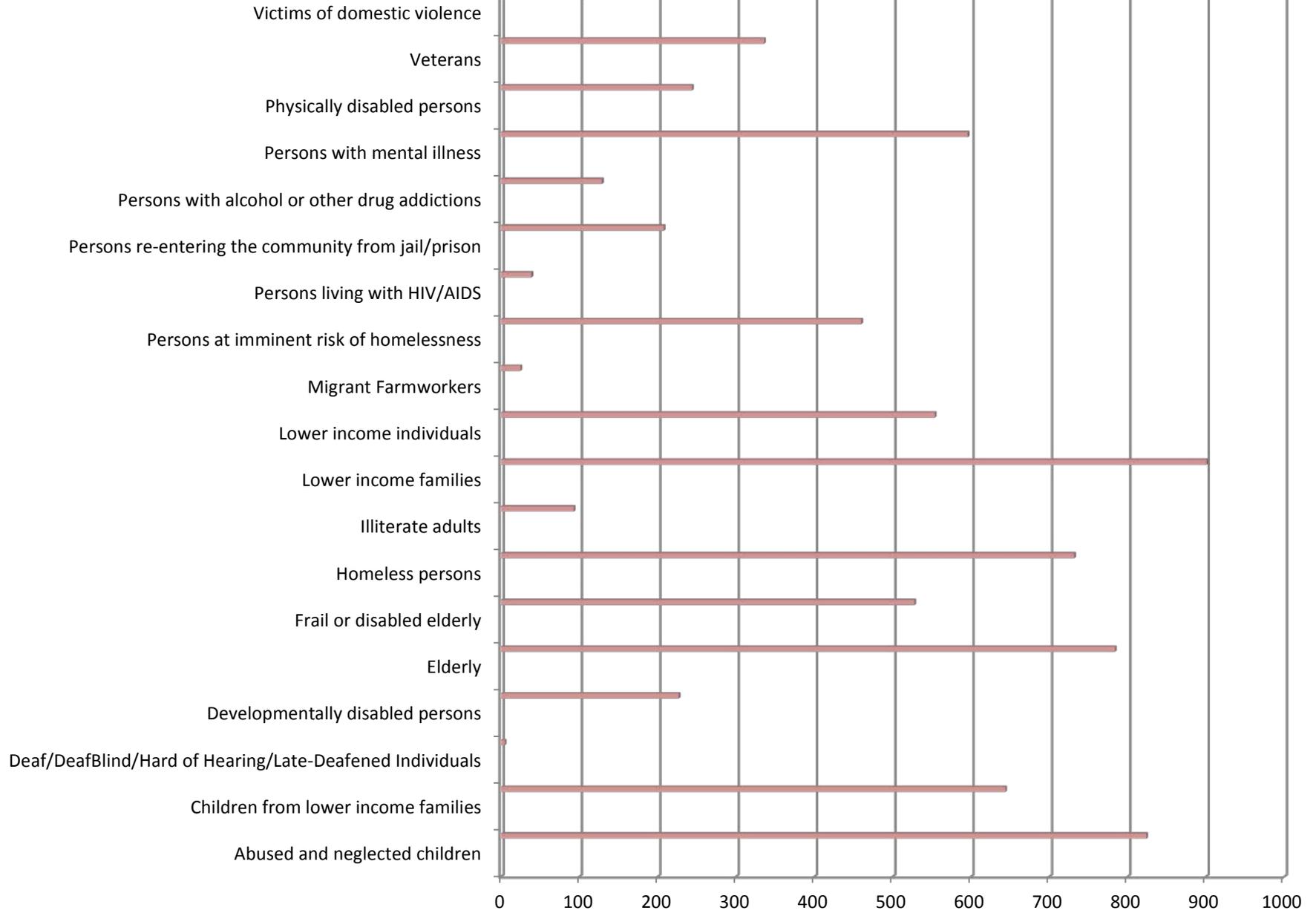
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Attachment B: Community Needs Survey Results

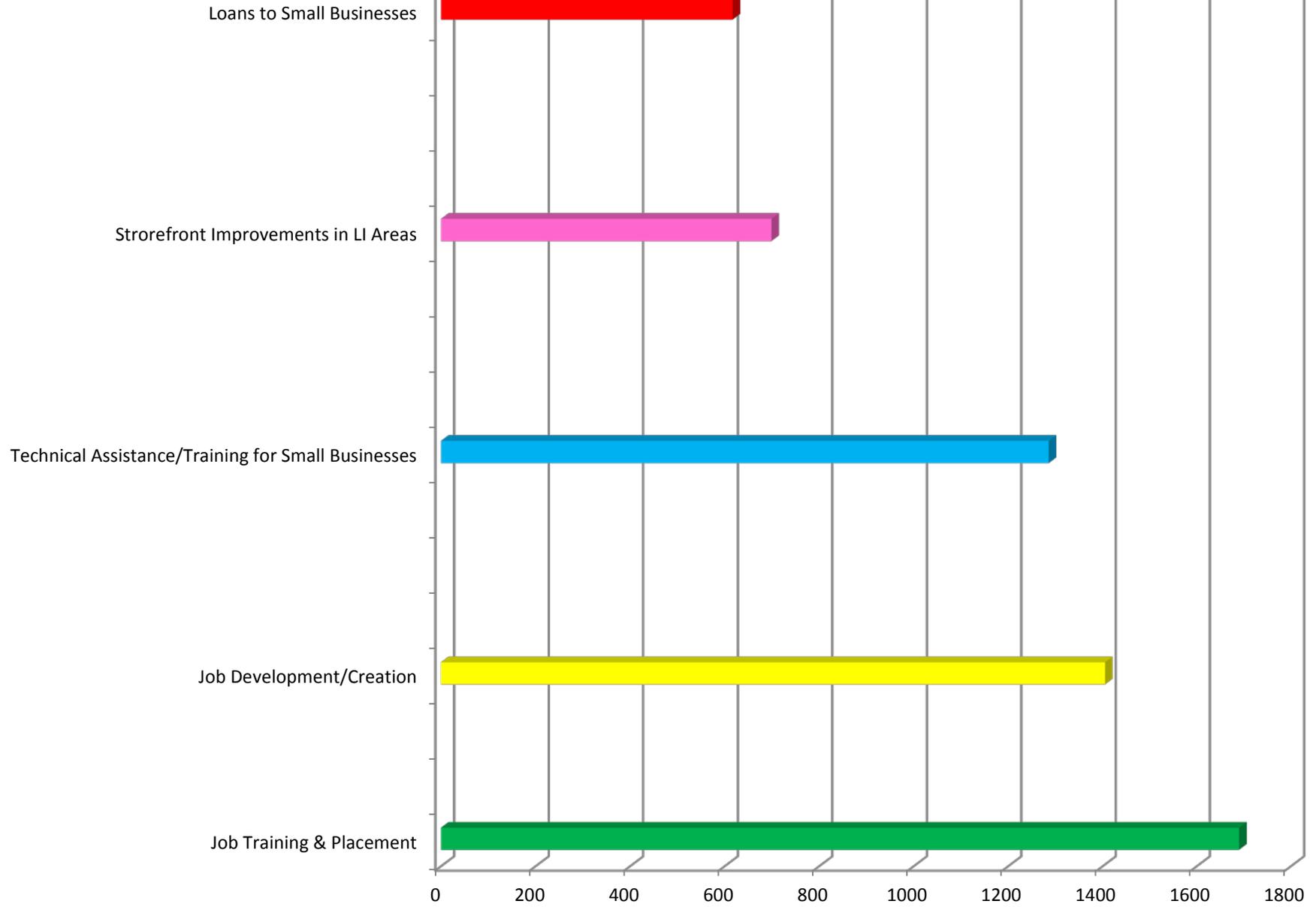
Public outreach to determine community needs included a Community Needs Survey that was distributed to over 150 organizations providing services to lower income residents. It was completed by more than 700 residents County-wide and by 157 who indicated they are residents of Concord. Historically, it has been possible to refine the results to isolate those responses from Concord. Due to database issues it was not possible to do so for this survey however, consultations with a wide range of service providers and stakeholders in both the public and private non-profit sector indicate that County-wide results are indicative of the concerns of residents of the City.

Council requested copies of the survey results, which are included as Attachments B1 – B4. These graphs reflect input from throughout the County.

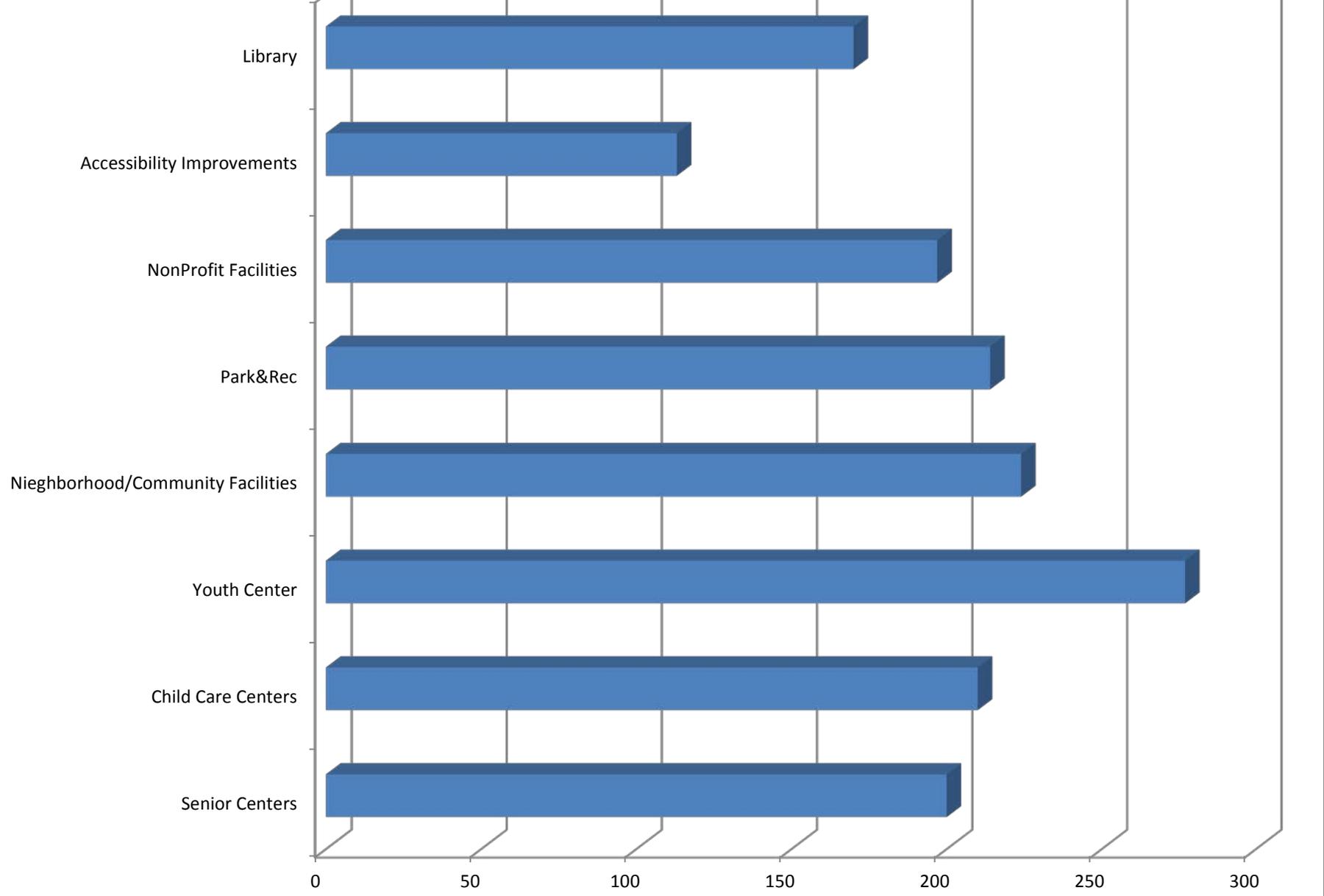
Attachment B1: Public Services



Attachment B2: Economic Development



Attachment B3: Public Facilities



Attachment B4: Infrastructure

Accessibility/Safety for Disabled

Attractive Downtown

Historic Preservation

Beautification

Curb Cuts

Flood Control/drainage

Sidewalk Improvements

Street Lighting

Street Improvements

