



HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

A 30-day public comment period is expected to begin after May 11 for the City of Mesa's proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Annual Action Plan regarding funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The plan contains the City's short-term goals and strategies, including specific activities recommended for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. The funds are used for housing and community development activities that benefit low and moderate-income residents and assist in the prevention or elimination of slum and blighting influences.

The City anticipates the following allocations from HUD for FY 17/18:

• CDBG	\$3,224,529
• HOME	\$1,002,129
• ESG	\$287,998
Total:	\$4,514,656

Allocations are based on prior year funding; however, HUD may be reducing 17/18 funding which probably won't be known for a few weeks. Staff have identified possible reductions of 15 percent and provided the funding cutoff at that level.

More information will be available soon at www.mesaaz.gov/housing.

LA MESITA PHASE 3

Construction is scheduled to be completed by mid-June on Phase 3 of La Mesita Apartments, 2245 W. Ella St. The new four-story building will have 30 units including 10 studio apartments, 18 one-bedroom units and 2 two-bedroom units. Funding for the affordable housing facility includes Arizona Department of Housing low-income tax credits and HOME funding.

La Mesita Apartments is a three-phase redevelopment owned and operated by A New Leaf and operated as a supportive service office and emergency housing. It is built on the site of the former La Mesita Homeless Shelter, which was built as a motel during World War II. Phase One, an 80-unit facility, opened in March 2014. Phase Two is the La Mesita Family Homeless Shelter, which opened in April 2015, to provide families a place to call home for up to 120 days.



NSP UPDATE

While no houses are currently for sale as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization 3 Program (NSP3), one home is nearing completion of rehabilitation and will be available for sale soon. Another house is being advertised for a bid to rehab it.

The City of Mesa has sold 20 properties as part of the NSP3 program.

The NSP program, which began in 2009, provides funding from HUD for communities to acquire foreclosed or abandoned homes and rehabilitate, resell or develop them to stem the declining property values of neighboring homes. All 39 homes purchased as part of the original NSP program have been sold. However, money left from that program is being used as part of the funding for Eagles Park, which will be built at Horne and Broadway.

For more information about the NSP program, visit www.yourmesahome.com.

LA MESITA AND ESCOBEDO NEED FAMILIES

La Mesita Apartments, 2254 W. Main St., and Escobedo at Verde Vista, 435 N. Hibbert, both need homeless families with four or five members, to accommodate larger apartments at both facilities that are currently vacant. La Mesita needs three and four bedroom applicants while Escobedo is looking for applicants needing three bedrooms.

Applicants at both apartment complexes must be chronically homeless. This is defined as "An individual and/or family who has experienced at least two episodes of shelter living and has a substantiated need for long term case management and supportive services. The individual must be registered in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), with the exception of domestic violence victims." Applications are accepted online at <http://www.mesaaz.gov/hcvwaitlist>.

ABC PROGRAM

The need is greater than ever for Mesa's most vulnerable citizens. The ABC: A Better Community program needs donations throughout the year. Donating allows you to take a charitable contribution donation on your 2017 tax return.



ABC: A Better Community provides shelter, meals and other essential services to Mesa children, families and seniors in need. For the 16/17 fiscal year, the City has allocated \$108,000 in ABC grant money to four non-profit agencies:

- American Red Cross - local disaster relief for Mesa residents (temporary housing, food, clothing, medication)
- Mesa Community Action Network (MesaCAN) - family stability services (emergency financial assistance for the working poor in Mesa)
- East Valley Adult Resources - assistance for independent living (transportation, grocery shopping and various at-home support for homebound older adults). Funding is also provided for Meals on Wheels (daily meals delivered to the homebound elderly)
- Oakwood Creative Care - therapy and meals (day services such as meals and activities for those with Alzheimer's, Dementia and other cognitive illnesses)

There are several ways to easily donate to ABC. City utility customers can contribute by automatically donating money with their monthly utility bill payment. Visit www.mesaaz.gov/abc to enroll. You can also enroll by calling City of Mesa Customer Service at (480) 644-2221. This allows you to add a donation of five dollars per month or any amount of your choice. You can also round up on the dollar on your utility bill or contribute a one-time amount.

If you are not a utility customer, you can still donate and claim the tax deduction. Just send a check to City of Mesa Customer Service, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211-1466 and write "ABC: A Better Community" in the memo area.

NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: EAST VALLEY HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Founded in 2011, the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was created to help promote Hispanic businesses, culture and traditions. There are nearly 8,000 Hispanic owned and operated businesses in the East Valley and more than 300,000 Hispanics living in the region. Collectively, they represent an estimated \$4 billion in consumer purchasing power.

During the 16-17 fiscal year, the City of Mesa allocated Human Services funding to begin outreach efforts to develop a business directory for the Chamber. During the 17-18 fiscal year, the City has proposed allocating additional Human Services funds, pending City Council approval, to complete the directory, provide business counseling, give tips to bid on contracts and offer instructions about the importance of maintaining records. The business directory will give minority and woman-owned businesses more awareness and opportunities to bid on construction and vendor projects with the City, a stipulation of Mesa's contract with HUD.

The East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Directory, which is expected to go live online by June, will complement the work of other diverse organizations in providing more economic opportunities to all businesses in Mesa and throughout the region.

The East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce also sponsors a summer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) program attended by over 100 Mesa and Tempe students over the past five years, many of who are the recipients of college scholarships sponsored by the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce businesses members.

NEW EMPLOYEES

LISA FLORES has joined the Housing and Community Development Division as a Housing Specialist Trainee

JAMES DUTY has joined the Housing and Community Development Division as an Office Assistant II

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

THUR., MAY 4. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MAY 8. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., MAY 11. CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION. (Review and approve final funding recommendations for CDBG, HOME, ESG and Human Services). 7:30am. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MAY 22. CITY COUNCIL. 7:30am. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JUNE 5. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JUNE 19. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JULY 3. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

TUES., JULY 4. ARIZONA CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM. 6pm-10pm. Mesa Convention Center complex, 263 N. Center St.

MON., JULY 10. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.



CONTACT:

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

480-644-3536 | housing.info@mesaaz.gov | Hours 7am-6pm Monday-Thursday