



## Community Development Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

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June 26, 2025  
10:00 AM  
Amarillo Downtown Public Library, Room AB  
413 SE 4th Ave  
Amarillo, Texas 79101

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

On June 26, 2025, the Community Development Advisory Committee met at 10:00 AM at Amarillo Downtown Public Library; 413 SE 4th Avenue in Room AB, Amarillo, Texas 79101, to provide comments regarding the 5-Year 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Action Plan Allocations and the Citizen Participation Plan.

In attendance were:

Tommie Knox – Vice Chair	Community Development Advisory Committee
Katt Massey	Community Development Advisory Committee
Lee Studer	Community Development Advisory Committee
Maya Marrujo	Community Development Advisory Committee
Jason Riddlespurger	Community Development Director
Stefanie Rodarte-Suto	Community Development, Deputy Director

One member of the public was present.

Tommie Knox established a quorum and called the scheduled meeting of the **Community Development Advisory Committee** to order at 10:00 AM.

- 2. Public Address** Citizens who desire to address the Community Development Advisory Committee with regard to matters on the agenda or having to do with the City’s policies, programs, or services will be received at this time. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. The Committee may not discuss items not on this agenda, but may respond with factual, established policy information, or refer to staff. The Committee may choose to place the item on a future agenda. (Texas Attorney General Opinion JC-0169.)

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### 3.A. Discuss and Consider Minutes from the February 4, 2025 Meeting

Members reviewed the minutes. Katt Massey noted her name should be spelled Katt, with two “t”s instead of one “t”. Katt Massey made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted modification, and Lee Struder seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote by CDAC members present.

### 4. Regular Meeting Items

#### 4.A. Discuss and Consider 5-Year, 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

Tommie Knox announced that Jason Riddlespurger, Director of Community Development, would present the **2025-2029 Consolidated Plan** for public comment and discussion. Power Point presentation slides are available upon request. Complete copies of the plan will be sent to committee members once the final version is available. The plan will be published to facilitate a 30-day public comment period. Key highlights include:

##### **2025 Funding:**

- CDBG 2025 Award: \$1,603,518
  - Estimated CDBG 2025 – 2029 Total: \$8,017,590
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- HOME 2025 Award: \$677,160
  - Estimated HOME 2025 – 2029 Total: \$3,385,800

##### **Priority Needs:**

- Provide Decent Housing
- Create a Suitable Living Environment
- Expanded Opportunities for Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) residents of Amarillo

##### **Goals:**

- Housing
- Public Facilities and Neighborhood Improvements
- Public Services

- Administration

It was suggested that the CDAC board be notified of upcoming community engagement activities of the Community Development department. To avoid quorum issues, no more than three CDAC board members should attend any single event unless a notice of a possible quorum is published beforehand.

Tommie Knox opened the floor for public comment on the 5-Year, 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan.

Arbnore Haliti, an Amarillo resident who arrived during the presentation, posed a question regarding the underlying cause(s) of homelessness in Amarillo. Jason Riddlespurger responded to the inquiry and facilitated a brief discussion on the topic. Tommie Knox closed public comment at 10:45 AM.

#### **4.B. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OF THE 2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

This item considers a resolution adopting the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnership Programs.

Tommie Knox introduced Stefanie Rodarte-Suto to present the Fiscal Year **2025 Annual Action Plan Allocations** (10/01/2025 – 09/30/2026) to the Committee. This represents the funding allocation for the first year of the new Consolidated Plan. Key highlights include:

**CDBG 2025 Award: \$1,603,518** Funds will be allocated as follows:

- Planning & Administration: \$320,703
- Public Service: \$240,527
- Neighborhood Improvements (parks & sidewalks): \$356,286
- Demolition & Clearance: \$200,000
- Owner-Occupied Improvements (CARE and Minor Repair Program): \$486,000

**Public Service Priorities:** Nonprofits serving those experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. Amarillo Public Service funding is to be used for low- to moderate-income families experiencing homelessness or those at risk of experiencing homelessness. Due to federal funding uncertainties, the decision was made to keep the same Public Service subrecipients as this year for the upcoming fiscal year. Each subrecipient will be required to submit an application with updated financial and program information for the new funding year. Each program will also be subject to continued monitoring to ensure federal and local

compliance in order to receive continued funding.

**HOME 2025 Award: \$677,160.93** Funds will be allocated as follows:

- Planning & Administration: \$67,716
- Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO):
  1. Operations \$33,858
  2. New Construction \$101,574
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): \$474,012

Due to uncertainty regarding future federal funding, the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program has developed a voluntary self-sufficiency initiative. This program is designed to support individuals and families in working toward financial independence, with the goal of reducing or eventually eliminating the need for continued assistance.

Tommie Knox opened the floor for public comment on the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Action Plan Allocations (10/01/2025 – 09/30/2026). No public comments were received, and the public comment period was closed at 11:02 AM.

At 11:03 AM, Tommie Knox opened the floor for Committee discussion and consideration of the proposed allocations. Katt Massey made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Action Plan Allocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Lee Studer and approved by a unanimous vote of the CDAC members present.

#### **4.C. Discuss and Consider Citizen Participation Plan**

Tommie Knox announced the Committee would now discuss and consider the **2025 Citizen Participation Plan**. Copies of the plan were distributed to all in attendance. Jason Riddlespurger provided an overview of the plan through a formal presentation. The full document is available to the public on the Community Development Department's website.

#### **Goals of the Citizen Participation Process:**

- Encourage citizens to participate in local government.
- Provide opportunities for low and very low-income residents to engage in the planning and development of the programs.
- Ensure the process is transparent and open to all.
- Give City officials valuable feedback on community needs and priorities.

Through meaningful participation, the City of Amarillo ensures the CDBG and HOME programs address the needs of those who need it most.

**ii. Key highlights of the plan include:**

- The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) provides oversight, guidance and opportunities for citizen input on the use of federal funding provided for CDBG and HOME programs.
- The City will hold at least two public hearings prior to submission of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. This meeting serves as the first; the second is scheduled with City Council on July 22, 2025.
- A 30-day public comment period will be held for the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Citizen Participation Plan.

Tommie Knox opened the Public Hearing for the Citizen Participation Plan. All comments made during the Public Hearing will be included in the report to HUD.

Amarillo resident Arbnore Haliti asked how citizens can become more effectively involved in making a real impact. Jason Riddlespurger acknowledged this as an ongoing challenge and noted that he has previously asked CDAC members for suggestions. While meetings like this one are publicly announced, attendance remains low. He added that a major barrier is the decline in consumption of local news in favor of social media. We have proposed that in addition to inviting the public to these meetings, we would attend their gatherings. Attending public gatherings does not meet the requirements for holding meetings like this one. We can only attend public events to engage citizens and request them to complete surveys to provide information to us.

Arbnore Haliti recommended using promotional videos featuring familiar, local faces to boost community engagement. She noted her experience producing such content and organizing events that raise awareness and offered to assist with these efforts.

Jason Riddlespurger agreed that we need targeted engagement.

Lee Studer asked if upcoming meetings are announced at community centers like Guyon Saunders Resource Center. Jason Riddlespurger responded that the meeting announcements are distributed via the United Way Listserv to a wide range of local agencies and individuals, but it is unclear whether those agencies share the information directly with their clients.

Stefanie Rodarte-Suto noted that the Community Development department conducted surveys related to the 5-Year Consolidated Plan available to several of the agencies in town and community events.

Lee Studer raised the concern that efforts to involve the community may be overly complicated given the low participation rates. He pointed out that surveys

are still capturing valuable feedback, even if public meetings are poorly attended. Jason Riddlespurger confirmed that such meetings rarely attract more than two or three members of the public. He suggested attending neighborhood association meetings to better connect with residents, though Katt Massey noted that past attempts to engage through such meetings have had limited success. She emphasized that community apathy remains a significant obstacle, and building participation will require time and persistence.

Lee Studer commended staff for prioritizing outreach to individuals directly impacted by the programs, rather than focusing on those less familiar with the issues.

Tommie Knox shared an example of a well-attended public meeting where community members gathered to address safety concerns about children crossing dangerous train tracks. He noted that the level of community engagement often depends on how relevant or urgent the issue is to residents. In the case of children crossing dangerous train tracks, the community's strong concern motivated a higher turnout and active participation.

Lee Studer responded that the target population is individuals and families experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness. He commended the group for the assistance being provided despite the low participation at the meetings.

Maya Marrujo added that addressing public apathy toward homelessness is essential for making meaningful progress. She suggested that efforts should start small, with the hope that engagement will grow over time. She emphasized that community members must move beyond simply "doing their job" to become truly invested in making a difference.

Tommie Knox asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the 2025 Citizen Participation Plan. Katt Massey made the motion, seconded by Maya Marrujo. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the CDAC members present.

#### **4.D. Discuss Future Agenda Items**

Tommie Knox opened the floor to discuss future agenda items. No comments were provided. Tommie Knox closed the discussion.

#### **Final Announcements and Adjournment**

Tommie Knox announced that all items presented today will be presented to the City Council on July 22, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Additionally, the Community Development Department will also open a 30-day public comment period during the month of July for the community to provide feedback on the 2025–2029

Consolidated Plan, Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Action Plan Allocations, and the Citizen Participation Plan. All public comments received will be reported to HUD during the official submission.

Tommie Knox adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.