

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



MEETING DATE:	January 10, 2023
PROJECT:	Consideration of Town of Bluffton Needs Assessment for Housing, Public Facilities, and Economic Development
PROJECT MANAGER:	Michelle Knight, Community and Economic Development Director, Lowcountry Council of Governments and Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience

RECOMMENDATION:

Following the public hearing, Staff recommends Town Council approve a formal motion which prioritizes the community's needs as established by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program as follows:

1. Transportation and Pedestrian Safety.
2. Affordable Housing for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors.
3. Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing.
4. Infrastructure improvements including sewer, water and drainage.
5. Restoration of Properties or facilities of special value to the community.

BACKGROUND:

Elected officials and Town Staff receive input from citizens regarding community needs which may lead to Town projects or programs that can be supported by the SC Department of Commerce's CDBG Program. These recommendations on community needs may be received through phone calls, face-to-face discussions, comments at public meetings, and public hearings. The CDBG application process requires the Town develop a citizen participation plan which includes a Needs Assessment Public Hearing. The Public Hearing serves three purposes:

1. Provides an opportunity for the community to learn about the CDBG program and the types of projects eligible for grant funding;
2. Provides a forum at which citizens can voice their suggestions for community needs; and
3. Identifies formally at least three top priorities for community needs.

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Town Council prioritized community needs in prior years as follows:

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
1. Transportation & Pedestrian Safety	Infrastructure Improvements including sewer, water and drainage	Infrastructure Improvements including sewer, water and drainage	Infrastructure Improvements including sewer, water and drainage	Infrastructure Improvements including sewer, water and drainage
2. Affordable House for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors	Transportation & Pedestrian Safety	Transportation & Pedestrian Safety	Transportation & Pedestrian Safety	Transportation & Pedestrian Safety
3. Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing	Affordable House for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors	Affordable House for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors	Affordable House for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors	Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing
4. Infrastructure Improvements including sewer, water and drainage	Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing	Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing	Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing	Restoration of properties or facilities of special value to the community
5. Restoration of properties or facilities of special value to the community	Restoration of properties or facilities of special value to the community	Restoration of properties or facilities of special value to the community	Restoration of properties or facilities of special value to the community	Affordable House for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors

These community needs continue to be identified as key citizen suggestions, and Staff recommends that Town Council prioritize them as follows:

1. Transportation and Pedestrian Safety.
2. Affordable Housing for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals, families and seniors.
3. Residential Rehabilitation of Housing for safe and dry housing.
4. Infrastructure improvements including sewer, water and drainage.
5. Restoration of Properties or facilities of special value to the community.

NEXT STEPS:

Identify formally at least three top priorities for community needs.

SUMMARY:

Following a Public Hearing, Town Council needs to approve a formal motion which prioritizes at least three of the community's needs as established by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Recommended Motion