

CDBG Basics

Meridian's CDBG Program receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to promote decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities principally for persons with low to moderate incomes.

There are four (4) main components to the CDBG Program:

1. Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) - identifies the housing and community development needs, especially for its low-moderate income residents, and the strategies and resources to meet those needs over a five-year period.
2. Action Plan – identifies the specific projects and actions that will meet the goals of the Con Plan. This is submitted annually and acts as an application for the next year's funding.
3. Project Implementation – the service/activity occurs over the designated timeframe, typically a program year that runs from October to September. During this time staff processes reimbursement requests, progress reports, and monitors the project.
4. CAPER – outcomes achieved during the implementation of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plans are reported annually in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

CDBG Projects

All projects are evaluated to ensure the following criteria are met:

- National Goals
 - Provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing
 - Provide a suitable living environment
 - Expand economic opportunities
 - Benefit low-moderate income persons
 - Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- National Objectives
 - Low/Mod Benefit
 - Slum/Blight
 - Urgent Need
- Meridian Consolidated Plan – must address the goals identified in the Con Plan.
- Allowable Activity – must be eligible in accordance with the regulations at 570.201–570.207.

Consolidated Plan

When developing a Consolidated Plan, the City must first analyze the needs within Meridian and then propose strategies to meet those needs. The Consolidated Plan and First Year Action Plan consists of the following sections:

- ES - Executive Summary

- PR – The Process
- NA - Needs Assessment
- MA - Market Analysis
- SP - Strategic Plan
- AP – Annual Action Plan 2022

The **Housing Needs Assessment (NA)** and **Housing Market Analysis (MA)** outline levels of relative need in affordable housing, homelessness, special needs, and community development. This information is gathered through several methods, including consultation with local agencies, public outreach, a review of demographic and economic data sets, and a housing market analysis.

The **Strategic Plan (SP)** details how the City will address its priority needs and utilize funding over the next five years. The strategies must reflect the current condition of the market, expected availability of funds, and local capacity to administer the plan. The **Annual Action Plan (AAP)** describes funding and projects for the upcoming year and gives a more specific look into how the program will operate.

The City utilized the following analysis to further gather information about the needs in Meridian:

- Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) – reviews housing challenges and fair housing issues in the city and broader region. This document is typically completed on a 5-year cycle in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan.
- Analysis of Built Environment – evaluates the impact of Meridian’s built environment on the health of its citizens, particularly in LMI areas.

Housing Stability

The definitions of “homeless” and “at risk of homelessness” used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are derived from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.

The definition of those who are **experiencing homelessness** includes:

1. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation, **or**
2. An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence (within 14 days), provided that no subsequent housing has been identified and the individual/family lacks support networks or resources needed to obtain housing, **or**
3. Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth who qualify under other Federal statutes, such as the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment, **or**
4. An individual or family who is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

The definition of those who are **at risk of homelessness** includes individuals and families who:

1. Have an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD, **and**
2. Do not have sufficient resources or support networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or place not meant for habitation, **and**
3. Exhibit one or more risk factors of homelessness, including recent housing instability or exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care such as foster care or a mental health facility

Potential Goals and Priority Needs

This section is a draft of the goals and priorities that will be submitted in the Con Plan for approval.

Priority Needs

The following priority needs were identified in the City of Meridian’s Consolidated Plan to guide funding allocations during the five-year planning cycle.

Provide Decent Housing

A decent place to live removes the barriers to opportunity, success, and health that have been part of a family's life for years, if not generations. Creating safe and decent places to live can have incredibly positive effects on a family's health, on the study habits of students, and a neighborhood's overall attractiveness and stability. Decent housing includes a spectrum of solutions: new construction, repair, and renovation, housing finance, infrastructure development, secure land tenure, among others.

Create a Suitable Living Environment

A good living environment is essential for good quality of life. A functional and sound living environment allows different people to lead their daily lives and fulfill their basic needs: living, services, working, recreation, hobbies, and rest and privacy.

Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons

Expanding opportunities to low- and moderate-income persons helps to foster local economic development, neighborhood improvement, and individual self-sufficiency.

Goals

To address these needs, the Meridian CDBG Program identified the following goals for the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. These goals will guide the activity selection for the duration of this plan.

Goal	Description	Potential Projects
<i>Public Facilities and Improvements</i>	Public Facilities and Improvements are publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure such as streets, playgrounds, underground utilities,	Meridian's goal to improve and expand public facilities may include, but is not limited to:

	<p>and buildings owned by non-profits open to the general public. Safe and accessible infrastructure is essential to the quality of life and building communities that support community diversity and stability. In general, public facilities and public improvements are interpreted to include all facilities and improvements that are publicly owned or owned by a nonprofit and open to the general public. Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and installation of public facilities and improvements are eligible activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Improvements • Senior Centers • Homeless and Domestic Violence Facilities • Neighborhood Facilities • Health Facilities
<i>Public Infrastructure</i>	<p>Public Infrastructure Improvements will focus on safe and accessible infrastructure essential to the quality of life and building communities that support community diversity and stability. In general, public infrastructure improvements will include acquisition, construction, reconstruction, and installation of public infrastructure.</p>	<p>Meridian's goal to improve and expand public infrastructure may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Improvements • Sidewalks • Curb cuts
<i>Public Services</i>	<p>Public services are an integral part of a comprehensive community development strategy. Public Service activities provide for a wide range of activities that address needs in the community provided for the target population. Public services can strengthen communities by addressing the needs of specific populations. They can address a range of individual needs and increase CDBG dollars' impact by complementing other activities.</p>	<p>Meridian's goal to improve and provide public services may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment services • Crime prevention and public safety • Child care • Health services • Substance use services • Fair housing counseling • Education programs • Energy conservation • Services for homeless persons • Services for seniors • Welfare services (excluding income payments)

	<p>The City of Meridian may allocate up to 15% of CDBG funds to public services programs that provide supportive services to low- to moderate-income persons or prevent homelessness. In general, these services are provided by local non-profit partners. This funding is capped at 15% of the CDBG entitlement plus program income.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down payment assistance • Recreational services
<p><i>Housing</i></p>	<p>The City prioritized goals and objectives for using CDBG funding to strategically and effectively benefit low- and moderate-income residents by increasing access to decent housing and creating a suitable living environment while expanding economic opportunities for LMI persons. Meridian is committed to improving and expanding access to safe and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. Affordable and safe housing helps to provide financial stability, reduces the chances of a person becoming homeless, and promotes housing sustainability.</p>	<p>Meridian's projects to improve housing sustainability may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeownership Assistance • Rehabilitation (single-unit residential and/or multi-family residential) • Energy efficiency improvements • Acquisition • The administrative cost for rehabilitation activities • Lead-based paint testing/abatement • Housing counseling
<p><i>Program Administration</i></p>	<p>General Administrative funds will pay reasonable program administrative costs and carrying charges related to the planning and execution of community development activities. Administering federal funds and ensuring compliance is critical for utilizing Federal resources. Meridian is committed to using CDBG entitlement funding for administration to help to continue growing a community development</p>	<p>Meridian may have administration projects that include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management, oversight, and coordination • Providing local officials and citizens with information about the CDBG program • Preparing budgets and schedules • Preparing reports and other HUD-required documents • Program planning • Public Information • Monitoring program activities

<p>program that is efficient, effective, and resourceful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Housing activities • Indirect costs • Submission of applications for Federal programs
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Applying for CDBG

The Meridian Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program opens two competitive applications each year.

- Public Service Application – available from April 1 to April 30.
- Housing, Public Facility, and Infrastructure Application – requires a higher level of review to ensure projects are eligible and viable, so it has an added Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply requirement. If the project appears to be a good fit, the organization will be invited to complete the full application. The NOI is available from March 1 to March 15 and the complete application is available from April 6 to May 6.

Applications are evaluated using: 1) Project Eligibility Determination to ensure the project meets the basic federal guidelines; 2) Pre-Award Risk Assessment to determine the level of risk associated with the project; and, 3) Notice of Intent Evaluation to determine if the project falls within the guidelines of the Consolidated Plan. If the applications meet all of the criteria they are reviewed by a scoring committee who will evaluate and score the application. These scores will determine the rank of proposed projects.

Meridian divides funding into four (4) categories:

- Admin (20% cap)
- Public Services (15% cap)
- Housing
- Public Facilities and Improvements

The City typically funds 4-7 projects per year.

Important Dates

- April 30/May 6 – Applications are due.
- May – Applications scored and ranked.
- June 24 to July 29 – Con Plan and Action Plan (including ranked projects) are open for public comment.
- June 28 – Con Plan and Action Plan presented to Council.
- July 26 – Public hearing for Con Plan and Action Plan.
- August 2 – Resolution on consent agenda.