



Best Practices in AFFH Community Engagement

Philip Tegeler
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
www.prrac.org

The community participation timetable: minimum requirements

- Consolidated Plan program participants must update their Citizen Participation Plan
- Make data available to the community
- Publish the proposed AFH in a manner that affords residents and others the opportunity to examine its content and submit comments;
- Provide a period of not less than 30 calendar days to receive comments from residents of the community;
- Provide for at least one public hearing during the development of the AFH;
- Report on the community participation process and outcomes in the AFH; and
- Provide the public with opportunities to be involved in the incorporation of the priorities and goals established in the AFH into the Consolidated Plan, PHA plan, and other planning processes

The community participation timetable: best practices

HUD recommends starting the citizen participation process **at least six months prior** to the submission of the Consolidated Plan. The same process should be used for the community participation process in the AFH. This will ensure adequate time to successfully fulfill the following community participation requirements:

- *Develop and release the AFH Citizen Participation Plan before beginning the process*
- “Make the HUD–provided data and any other data to be included in the AFH available to its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties”
- *Engage the public in the process of developing the draft AFH*
- “Provide for at least one public hearing during the development of the AFH”
- “Publish the proposed AFH in a manner that affords residents and other the opportunity to examine its content and submit comments”
- “Provide a period of not less than 30 calendar days to receive comments from residents of the community.”
- “If submitting a *revised* AFH to HUD, the program participant must also provide for community participation before the revision is submitted.”

1. Who are key community stakeholders?



- Community groups
- Tenant groups
- PHA residents and resident leaders
- NAACP chapter
- Fair housing groups and legal services
- School based parent organizing networks
- Faith based activists
- Environmental justice groups
- Local government agencies
- Service providers
- CDCs and other housing providers
- Local universities

2. What “local knowledge” do you need to bring to the table?

- Crime data
- Public health / population health data
- Student demographic and enrollment data
- Employment data
- Workforce training jobs forecasts
- Parks and recreation
- Car ownership/trips to work
- Family organization and structure by neighborhood
- Civil rights history
- Voting patterns



3. Think about planning processes the AFH is intended to influence – who needs to be in the room at the beginning?

- Housing plans
 - Consolidated Plan & Annual Action Plans
 - Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI)
 - PHA Plan & § 8 Administrative Plan
 - State Long Range Housing Plan
 - Qualified Allocation Plan (LIHTC)
- State environmental planning
 - Conservation and Development Plan (CT)
- Transportation planning
 - Statewide Transp. Improvement Plan (CT)
 - DOT five-year capital plan (CT)
- Public Health plans
 - Healthy Connecticut 2020
- Education planning
 - State BOE five-year comprehensive plan
 - Local school capacity and enrollment plans



Set your own table -



(...don't wait for your jurisdiction to do it for you)

p.s.

...if a local community or advocacy group has a complaint regarding the community participation process of the AFH, you should follow the procedure specified in the jurisdiction's citizen participation plan for complaints. The jurisdiction is required to provide a "timely, substantive written response to every citizen complaint, within an established period of time (within 15 working days, where practicable, if the jurisdiction is a CDBG grant recipient)."