



**City of New Bedford, Massachusetts**  
 Mayor Jon Mitchell  
**Office of Housing & Community Development**  
 Patrick J. Sullivan, Director



# Community Forums

**Your opportunity to speak up about how we should spend federal money to improve the City!**

As part of its five year Consolidated Planning Process and its Annual Action Plan, the City of New Bedford's Office of Housing & Community Development is hosting three public meetings in December and January to discuss the federal funding that the City receives as an entitlement under the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant and HOME Programs.

These meetings will briefly explain these programs and provide you with an opportunity to discuss your ideas about how these limited federal funds could be used to serve the needs of New Bedford residents, particularly those of low and moderate incomes over the next five years.

If you are unable to attend one of our Community Forums, please make Your Voice Heard by taking our survey online: <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-development/>

<b>December 9th</b>	<b>New Bedford Public Library, Main Branch</b> (This meeting will focus on the 5-Year Con Plan—Needs & Priorities Process)	<b>6pm—7.30pm</b>
<b>January 13th</b>	<b>Carney Academy 247 Elm Street</b> (This meeting will focus on the 5-Year Con Plan –Needs & Priorities Process)	<b>6pm—7.30pm</b>
<b>January 14th</b>	<b>Office of Housing &amp; CD, 608 Pleasant Street</b> (This meeting will focus on the Annual Action Plan Process & Proposal funding)	<b>6pm—7.30pm</b>

Information will be made available in alternative formats upon request by contacting OHCD at 508.979.1500. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services or interpreters, require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability. Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) are available in upon request.



For more information please contact: Joseph Maia, Community Development Coordinator  
 Office of Housing & Community Development  
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 508.979.1500 or 508.979.1581

## What is the Consolidated Plan?

The Consolidated Plan is created every five years and assists the City to determine community needs. The planning process to create the Consolidated Plan serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing, economic, and community development priorities.

The federal funds included in the Consolidated Plan are:

- \* HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- \* Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and
- \* Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

## Why is this Important to You?

These federal programs have limited funding. There is more need within our communities than available funding. The City must determine how to use these funds to achieve the biggest public benefit and, when you Make Your Voice Heard, you are helping City leaders prioritize spending.

Eligible uses of these federal program funds include: improvements to facilities that serve low and moderate income (LMI) families and individuals; improvements to public infrastructure in LMI neighborhoods; provision of public services; economic development assistance; and projects that increase access to affordable housing and address homelessness. Things like: senior centers, park, beaches and recreational facilities, accessibility improvements for public facilities, cleanup of contaminated sites, food banks, business expansion and storefront improvements, etc.

What is low and moderate income (LMI)? LMI refers to individuals and families with incomes below 80 percent of the area median income.

## What if I Cannot Attend a Meeting?

If you are unable to attend one of our Community Forums, please Make Your Voice Heard by taking our quick survey online: <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-development/>

If you have questions or need paper copies of our survey, contact:

Joseph Maia at 508.979.1500 or [jose.maia@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:jose.maia@newbedford-ma.gov)

or

Patrick Sullivan at 508.979.1500 or [patrick.sullivan@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:patrick.sullivan@newbedford-ma.gov) .

