

2019 Action Plan Survey Results

17 Participants Total (9 online submissions, 8 paper submissions)

Category Results

Ranking	Category	Total Score
1	Youth Programs & Facilities	9
2	Street, Sidewalk, & Green Space Improvements	8
3	Targeted Blight Clearance	6
4	Crime Prevention Services	3
	Housing Rehabilitation	3
	Storefront/Local Business Investment	3
7	Workforce Development	1
	Public Facility Improvements	1

Public Comments

Full Public Comments as Written (14 Comments total)

When prompted:

Is there anything else you think is important to target in the 2019 Action Plan?

Overall maintenance of streets and public spaces

The city playgrounds.

clean-up of the Cauga island Jane Park Waterfront, so families can enjoy this valuable assett, and the only large public access to river waterfront in LaSalle.

Not at this time

We have to get rid drug houses! [Remainder of comment contains personally identifiable information.]

Teens and young adults. NF Board of Education and BOCES should take the lead. CD could offer some funding. CD should NOT compete with or try to out-do educational programming.

Target blight/housing rehab. Jobs

Youth programming!

Roads Roads Roads. Health and welfare programs. Keep kids busy. Bring back LaSalle field day, not just a carny. Community programs alerts.

When prompted:

Community Development wants to hear your input. Please provide any further comments you have.

Thank you for the hard work you do for this city. I appreciate it and feel hopeful knowing there are people trying to help tips city.

Keep up the good work and reaching out to the community in all of the various methods that I've seen.

CD's role in my opinion is not dealing with the opioid problem. Alleys, cameras, lighting, housing, blight is where CD's focus should be. Also demolitions.

Outside housing renovation. Resident pilot program for home improvements.

Great job, friends!

City of Niagara Falls – Department of Community Development
DRAFT 2019 Action Plan
Pizza with the Plan Public Meeting Written Comments
January 8, 2019, 6pm – 7pm

Project #	Organization	Project Name	Public Comment
12	City of Niagara Falls	Housing Rehabilitation	“I strongly support this funding. Home owners need help in updating their properties.”
N/A	General Comment	General Comment	“Youth Program”
N/A	General Comment	General Comment	“The program I want to see is a art and music.”
N/A	General Comment	General Comment	“The type of programs that I would like to see are building and veterinarian programs.”

City of Niagara Falls – Department of Community Development

DRAFT 2019 Action Plan

Public Hearing

City Hall – Council Chambers – 745 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

January 16, 2019 – 6pm

Public Attendance: Approximately 30 members of the public attended, though not all members signed the sign-in sheet.

City Staff in Attendance: Seth Piccirillo, Director, Community Development
Jarrett Steffen, Compliance Officer, Community Development

The public hearing began at 6:00pm. Copies of the Draft 2019 Action Plan were available for members of the public to take.

Seth Piccirillo (Director, Community Development) welcomed all those in attendance and introduced Jarrett Steffen (Compliance Officer, Community Development). Seth Piccirillo explained the format for the meeting, explained the Action Plan process and public comment process, and reviewed the Action Plan process to date.

Jarrett Steffen read aloud the Draft 2019 Action Plan projects line-by-line and stopped to answer questions on each project.

Jarrett Steffen explained that the purpose and scope of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding source is to fund projects that primarily benefit low-moderate income persons, slums and blight removal, and emergency disaster relief. Jarrett Steffen read the proposed CDBG projects line-by-line.

Chris Voccio asked for details clarifying line item #4, City of Niagara Falls (Participatory Budgeting Process). Jarrett Steffen explained what Participatory Budgeting is and its process, how it was conducted in 2017 and 2018, and stated that the topic for Participatory Budgeting has not been decided to date.

Jarrett Steffen explained that the Draft 2019 Action Plan uses estimated budget numbers and that actual funding allocation must be provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before the 2019 Action Plan submission is provided to HUD.

Jarrett Steffen explained that the purpose and scope of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding source is primarily to benefit housing rehabilitation projects for low-moderate income persons. Jarrett Steffen continued to read the proposed HOME projects line-by-line.

Jarrett Steffen explained that the purpose and scope for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) funding source is for homelessness activities. Jarrett Steffen continued to read the proposed ESG projects line-by-line.

Jarrett Steffen asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed projects listed in the Draft 2019 Action Plan. There were no further comments on the proposed projects at this time. Jarrett Steffen opened up the meeting for general public comments.

David Houghton (Development Director, Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission) expressed that the 2019 Draft Action Plan has some wonderful and deserving organizations that provide great services to the community. Dave Houghton stated that Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission applied for 2019 ESG funds and was disappointed not to be included in the Draft 2019 Action Plan. Dave Houghton provided an overview of the projects and programs that Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission provides as well as planned future projects at Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission.

Tomorrow Allen-Collins, a staff member at Niagara Falls Housing Authority, stated she is attending to support funding the Niagara Falls Housing Authority's application for the summer and after-school youth program. Tomorrow Allen-Collins said that the Niagara Falls Housing Authority learned a lot of information about the CDBG program since the last public meeting. Tomorrow Allen-Collins stated that the Niagara Falls Housing Authority was disappointed not to be included in the Draft 2019 Action Plan. Tomorrow Allen-Collins explained that Niagara Falls Housing Authority has made amendments to the program and has submitted that information to the Department of Community Development. Tomorrow Allen-Collins noted that there are no preventive programs on the Draft 2019 Action Plan. Tomorrow Allen-Collins stated that the Niagara Falls Housing Authority serves approximately 200 children and that any funds to support the program are critical.

Legend Lewis gave her support for funding the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program and read written comments from other children that supported the project.

Brooklyn Arce spoke in favor of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program.

Lucia Ligammar stated her support for the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program and read a written statement supporting the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program.

Elizabeth Day expressed her support for the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program and read written comments from other children that supported the project.

Jarrett Steffen asked if copies of the written statements that were read could be made and submitted to the Department of Community Development for inclusion in the Draft 2019 Action Plan Public Comments. A staff member of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority stated that she will do so.

Saladin Allah, a facilitator for the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program, stated that many past participants in the program come back to volunteer and work as paid youth summer staff through the Niagara County summer youth job program. Saladin Allah stated other positive projects, outcomes, and results that grew out of the program.

Rachel Williams explained the positive benefits of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program for her son. She stated that the program was a safe and structured program that has yielded positive personal and social health and development results for her son.

Tyrone Fields, a program aide for the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program, stated the positive benefits of the program and how he has been drawn back to the program over the course of his life. He further stated that the program is instrumental in educating children and also learning from children.

Lynn Wiley asked a question about when the list of projects will be out for line item #4, City of Niagara Falls (Participatory Budgeting Process). Jarrett Steffen explained that the Participatory Budgeting topic has not been selected yet and explained the Participatory Budgeting process for those that entered the room after the initial Participatory Budgeting discussion. Jarrett Steffen stated that the Department of Community Development will solicit feedback from the community regarding the topic 2019 Participatory Budgeting and that a topic should be selected by April. Jarrett Steffen stated that the project details are not fully sketched out to date, but that the Draft 2019 Action Plan does provide funding for the project.

Lynn Wiley stated she would like to see more park improvements. She also stated that the City needs to lead the community on how to keep up the parks and work on other community projects.

David Houghton explained the community projects scheduled this upcoming summer at Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission.

Sr. Beth Brosmer, Director of Heart, Love & Soul, expressed gratitude for the Heart, Love & Soul facility project being included in the Draft 2019 Action Plan. Sr. Beth Brosmer explained the services to be provided by the new Daybreak facility and that the Daybreak facility will stabilize the surrounding community.

Ivonne asked for an update on the conversation had so far at the public hearing. Jarrett Steffen gave a summary of the purpose of the meeting and what was discussed so far. Jarrett Steffen provided a copy of the Draft 2019 Action Plan to Ivonne.

Ivonne supported the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program. Ivonne also advocated for more green space (with a focus on lawn space) in her neighborhood (North End neighborhood). Ivonne stated that summer programming is crucial. Ivonne also pointed out that

Ivonne also asked if the Draft 2019 Action Plan funds were guaranteed at this point in time. Jarrett Steffen explained that these funds must be approved by U.S. Congress and that the 2019 HUD budget has not been set to date. Jarrett Steffen also clarified that the Draft 2019 Action Plan includes the Department of Community Development's estimates for projected 2019 funds based on previous annual allocations.

Ivonne asked for clarification on the home rehabilitation programs included in the Draft 2019 Action Plan, specifically if the programs are for renters or owners. Jarrett Steffen explained that the program is for home owners, but some projects do include rental properties, but that homeowners are the participants in the program.

Legend Lewis provided further support for the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program.

Jasmine White explained that the Niagara Falls Housing Authority summer and after-school program provides a continuity of care to the children in the program and that it is important to keep funding this program so that local children receive this type of care. She also explained that the children, parents, and staff have a trusting relationship among each other that makes the program impactful for relationship building in the community and is a good investment in our local children and for community pride.

Ivonne stated that she did not see any funding for pregnancy prevention, supporting those transitioning from prison, or addiction services. Ivonne expressed support for funding agencies that provide those services. Jarrett Steffen explained that these projects are not included in the Draft 2019 Action Plan and that CDBG would be the funding mechanism for projects that provide those services. Jarrett Steffen also explained that these comments will factor into the Department of Community Development's considerations in reviewing the Draft 2019 Action Plan and making any amendments.

David Houghton stated that Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission uses its gymnasium as a community center. David Houghton, building off of Ivonne's statements, expressed the importance of preventative programs in the community.

No more public comments were made. Jarrett Steffen reiterated the timeline for the 2019 Action Plan process and provided further information on how to submit comments for the public comment period and ways to learn more about the Department of Community Development.

The public hearing ended at 6:48pm.

Niagara Falls Housing Authority



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Website: www.nfha.org Email: nfha@nfha.org

January 16, 2019

Mr. Seth Piccirillo, Director
Community Development
1022 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Dear Mr. Piccirillo:

CDBG Appeal – Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup **July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

In response to the Community Development Block Grant announcements, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority respectfully submits an appeal for review:

We would like to revise our previous request of \$60,000 to just \$30,000 to continue to provide an enhanced 5-week Summer Enrichment Program to the Niagara Falls community. This funding is crucial in support of quality care for our children. Through our programming efforts, we offer not only children who reside in public housing opportunity, but those in the surrounding neighborhoods.

We eagerly have changed the name of our Summer Enrichment Program to **“Full Steam Ahead,”** where we will incorporate interactive STEAM activities – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math into the daily routine. These activities will cultivate a creative culture and provide thought provoking fun.

“Full Steam Ahead” Budget			
Personnel Costs	Projected Hours	Hourly Rate	Total
STEAM Instructor (2)	350	\$20.00	\$7,000.00
Summer Camp Workers (8)	1,400	\$14.00	\$19,600.00
Non-Personnel Costs			
Quantity	Cost Per Unit	Total	
Art Supplies	\$13.60	\$1,700.00	
STEM Activities	\$13.60	\$1,700.00	
Grand Total.....			\$30,000.00

In noting the CDBG 2019 Action Plan Survey Results, *Youth Programs and Facilities* ranked the number one community concern of our city. Yet, the majority of projected funding does not reflect the need. We, as a community, need to look into our own backyards and not forget the children that are struggling in poverty each and every day. The NFHA wishes to take the lead in continuing the learning process through the summer months thus providing a safe haven and nurturing environment for our children.

PEOPLE & POSSIBILITIES

Harry S. Jordan Gardens • Anthony Spallino Towers • Henry E. Wrobel Towers • Packard Court • Beloved Community
Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building • Packard Court Community Center

Located in zip codes 14301 and 14305, the NFHA Summer Enrichment Program has been a staple in the Niagara Falls community for over 14 years. Serving the low to very-low income population, the program levels the playing field and opens children and youth to a variety of educational, recreational, cultural and social experiences. Many parents in our neighborhoods lack both transportation and to put it frankly – money. Children and youth in higher income level households have more advantages. They tend to do more, see more and experience more.

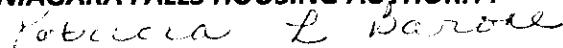
Our goal is to level the playing field.

- According to City-Data.com, the median household income for those residing in zip code 14301 is significantly below state average. The median house value is significantly below state average and the unemployed percentage is above state average. For those residing in zip code 14305, the median household income is below state average and the median house value is significantly below state average.
- A review of area summer programs notes the following:
 - Niagara University Summer Youth Camp - \$150 per week (does not include lunch)
 - Niagara Arts and Cultural Center Stages Summer Camp - \$150 per week
 - Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club - \$70 per week + \$10 registration fee (program is held outside at Hyde Park)
- The costs are extraordinary.
- Each year, we serve a minimum of **125 children and youth** through our summer enrichment programs. That's 125 children who gained exposure and experiences and who are now equipped to evolve.
- Youth development experts agree that children need a variety of experiences in their lives to help them grow into healthy adolescents and adults. *What's the most important part of camp? It's fun!* Our program speaks for itself. It is witnessed in the number of children that we serve and in the number of children who return to the program year after year. We have numerous testimonials – many from who simply have outgrown the program, but now come back and volunteer – teaching what they learned. For instance, Niagara Falls Firefighter and Niagara Falls School Board Member Earl Bass – a former resident of public housing who continues to volunteer his time serving as a mentor and role model to those in need, public housing resident Owen Steed Jr. (son of Legislator Owen Steed) who continues to lend a supportive hand at numerous **community** events, former resident and Air Force Serviceman Tyrone Fields, who volunteered so much that we now employ him as a Resource Aide working with children at the Packard Court Community Center, Art Educator Caedyn Metz who was originally paid with CDBG funds and volunteered countless overtime hours to the program – parents noticed and returned the favor – helping her to develop her studio at the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center. "It was a great lesson in building," she said. Just as she lifted them, they lifted her, former Greenbay Packer James Starks who grew up in our summer programs and played in our biddy basketball league and now donates countless very much needed school supplies to children in need.

Our program guarantees to help children learn and grow in a positive, safe and nurturing environment and provides the foundational principles that foster self-confidence, builds self-esteem and provides positive decision making skills. Through weekly adventurous field trips our participants set sails on new discoveries, passions and interests thus providing a glimpse into the world that awaits them. Please give them the chance at opportunity.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA FALLS HOUSING AUTHORITY



PATRICIA L. BARONE

Interim Executive Director