

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Planning Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all those persons who gave generously of their time to help make this document better than it otherwise would have become.

1. The Needs Assessment Chapters of the Consolidated Plan

These Chapters of the CDBG Consolidated Plan are required to examine the nature of the people, the economy, special populations, the housing market, and community facilities, services and infrastructure development needs for the City of Farmington. To this end planning staff has assembled this reference document serve the needs of the City, the County, the Cities of Aztec and Bloomfield, the Navajo Nation, State Agencies, and the numerous relevant Service Providers located within the greater Farmington community. To draft a report of this scope is a task to be carried out only once a decade – to document the US Census for the City and County. This is an essential task of the Long Range Planning Division of the City. This report provides the leading source of demographic data to serve the community until 2012 when the 2010 Census data will become available.

This document will be reviewed to identify the most significant issues and to identify the crosscutting findings that will be incorporated within the Plan Priorities Chapter and will lead to strategic action proposals within the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. From that information the Needs Assessment Chapters will be provided in a summary form that will be included with the Consolidated Plan submittal to HUD. This document will also be reviewed for the essential data pieces that need to be presented within the Executive Summary of this Plan.

2. Data Sources Utilized in the Analysis

Draft Comparative Statistical Assessment Model For San Juan County, 2004

The 2000 United States Census serves as the primary baseline source for the demographic and economic data used in this Plan, however, a variety of reliable data sources have been used to provide perspective on the regional context of Farmington. Planning Staff downloaded the vast majority of tables associated with the SF3A File so that data would be consistent from the State down to the census block group level. In all, over 200 tables were prepared from the population and housing files comparing the City to the County, HUD Region 1, the Navajo Nation, and to the State. All these tables were also prepared to the place, tract and block group level to assist in neighborhood planning during year one and to provide technical support to units of local government and area service providers. The entire plan needs assessment associated with the census is designed so as to be able to swap out the Farmington data and insert other relevant geographies data provided. The agency or jurisdiction will then be capable of performing an in-depth needs assessment at almost no additional cost to the entity outside of writing the narrative that discusses that community's issues within its regional context. This approach was developed as a means to fulfill a major portion of the Planning Division's Technical Assistance requirements of the Consolidated Plan up front during the plan formulation process.

This regional cataloguing of statistics constitutes an effort by city planning staff to document the characteristics of Farmington, San Juan County, the Four-Corners Region and the Navajo Nation. The initiative to carryout this effort was provided by the City of Farmington Comprehensive Plan, which calls for the Planning Division to disseminate the census information and to prepare information on topics relevant to area stakeholders. An additional incentive was to respond to the BLM RMP FEIS 2003, which discussed the cumulative resource impacts and the "affected environment" associated with a significant expansion of oil and gas drilling activity during the next twenty years. Staff wanted to estimate a reasonably feasible development scenario (RFDS) for the Four-Corners area and San Juan County that would compliment industry projections and assist in refining estimates of cumulative impacts upon the affected environment.

Included within the regional assessment are the thirteen tables listed within the County and City Data Book: 2000. This information assisted in documenting the circumstances of the Four-Corners region. Information within these tables is necessarily of a general nature so as to allow for comparison and aggregation of data. Data included within the County and City Data Book is organized in the following manner: 1) area and population; 2) population by age, sex, and race; 3) group quarters and institutional populations; 4) vital statistics and health; 5) income, poverty, and crime; 6) education, housing, and building permits; 7) labor force, business

firms, and employment; 8) personal income and earnings; 9) manufacturing and water use; 10) farm population, farm earnings, and agriculture; 11) wholesale and retail trade; 12) accommodations and food service, banking and federal funds; and, 13) federal programs and government employment and finances.

Information provided in each thematic listed above was tabulated for San Juan County NM, the Four-Corners Region (surrounding 11 counties), the four Southwest States, the Nation, and for 18 perceived comparable counties which all function as leading market towns; located predominantly in the western US. The purpose of this effort is to compare and contrast the County with its region and similar market centers to develop a narrative, a picture that helps describe the uniqueness and commonality of our community. Only the summary information is included within the Needs Assessment Chapters.

The counties that were included within the Four-Corners Region include: San Juan, Rio Arriba, and McKinley New Mexico; Grand and San Juan Utah; Apache and Navajo Arizona; and, Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan Colorado. The nineteen counties include: Coconino and Yavapai AZ; Mesa CO; Jasper MO; Cascade and Missoula MT; Chaves, Donna Ana and Santa Fe NM; Comanche OK; Jackson OR; Pennington SD; Victoria TX; Chittenden VT; Whatcom WA; and, Laramie WY.

In addition to the secondary data assembled by planning staff, the document drew from the datasets and narrative assembled by the Mortgage Finance Authority for the 2001 MFA New Mexico Consolidated Plan. Here the data is assembled at the state level, the HUD Region One level, San Juan County, and the City of Farmington (when available) and the Navajo Nation (when available) to add perspective of the structure of Farmington's socio-economic profile. This information source was very helpful in formatting concepts and HUD technicalities associated with the Consolidated Plan and is interspersed throughout the needs assessment and the technical appendices.

The San Juan County Public Health Report provided a gold mine of data relevant to the needs of special populations and health issues generally. We used this information liberally and are grateful for the hard work put into its publication. In addition, certain observations are drawn from reports prepared for the San Juan Economic Forum and the NWNMCOG. The CEDS report examined several key indicators across the Four-Corners Region at the county and census tract level and provided the CEDS economic development strategy to build upon.

Planning staff was also able to draw information from the City of Farmington Master Plan, adopted merely 2.5 years ago. The Plan was particularly useful in regards to the general status of city services, facilities and infrastructure. This information was supplemented with primary data collection carried out with the various city staff responsible for relevant city and agency programs.

Finally, and most importantly, the consultations with individual service agencies, meetings with the Outreach Teams, and the one-page synopsis provided by many agencies that describe their mission, services provided and clientele rounded out the data collection process and brought to light the significant issues facing our community.

3. Contents of the Consolidated Plan: An Overview

The Consolidated Plan documents the citizen participation process and plan formulation contributions, offers contextual perspective on the socio-economic profile of the City and its region, provides the results of the needs assessment of housing and community development issues carried out in consultation with area service providers, presents an area housing market analysis, and reports the community's (city, residents, agency) prioritization of needs. The plan presents a five-year program of action portraying the strategies selected for addressing the needs and actions for utilizing resources to address the City's housing and community development plan objectives. The plan concludes with a 1st year Annual Action Plan and monitoring regime to implement the Consolidated Plan.

The Consolidated Plan includes a detailed reference document, the Technical Appendix. Referenced above, this document provides the detailed tables that depict the comparative statistical assessment of Farmington in relation to its county, its region, the Navajo Nation, and the State. Additional materials that are included within the Technical Appendix are the Citizen participation Plan, Citizen Comments and Minutes of Public Hearings,

the detailed Census Block Group Database, the City-County Data Regional and Comparative County assessment, and other relevant secondary data such as Public Health Statistics. In addition, the Technical Appendix describes and documents the survey and modeling techniques utilized in the development of this Consolidated Plan and provides the summary of survey responses.

This plan document will focus on drawing out those specific indicators of need and opportunity from the extensive database for presentation and discussion. The Technical Appendix (and associated online files located within the City's website) is intended to provide the necessary contextual assessment, indicator identification, and needs documentation that will support future project proposals throughout San Juan County and beyond during the five-year planning horizon as a partial fulfillment of the City's technical assistance obligations associated with this Plan. The technical appendix will be particularly useful for units of local government, the Navajo Nation and non-profit agencies preparing applications for funding of various housing and community development projects within San Juan County. The technical Appendix will provide baseline documentation of the contextual circumstances of Farmington's residents and political economy.

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