

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Background and Purpose**

Title I of the National Affordable Housing Act established the requirement that states and local governments applying for direct assistance under certain U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs have a Consolidated Plan approved by HUD.

Federal law requires each local jurisdiction to describe its plan for providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The jurisdiction must set out a three to five-year strategy that establishes priorities, identifies resources available to meet goals and objectives, and establishes a one-year Action Plan.

## **Consolidated Plan Period**

The Sarasota Consortium is required to submit a Consolidated Plan to HUD at least once every five years. The Consortium submitted its last Consolidated Plan on August 14, 2000. The Consortium – acting through the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners and Sarasota City Commission – will submit its five-year plan in August 2005 and will cover fiscal years 2005 through 2010. The one-year Action Plan, certifications, and Performance Reports shall be submitted on an annual basis.

## **Function of the Consolidated Plan**

The Consolidated Plan is the document submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that serves as the comprehensive assessment of the jurisdictions' needs and identifies resources available to meet those needs. The Consolidated Plan is:

1. A planning document for the Sarasota Consortium which builds on a participatory process at the lowest levels;
2. An application for federal funds under the HUD formula grant programs;
3. A data driven document that details community needs and offers measurable solutions; and
4. An action plan that identifies activities undertaken by the jurisdiction annually to meet its needs and determines their effectiveness.

The Consolidated Plan includes the application requirements for the following programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program (received by the City and County);
- The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program (received by the Consortium); and
- The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program (received by the City).

It also includes other federal, state, local and private resources that will be used for housing and community development needs.

## **Consolidated Plan Strategies**

The Housing, Homeless, HIV/AIDS Housing and Special Needs Assessments, and the Housing Market Analysis describe the housing needs of extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income families, the homeless, and individuals with special needs, as well as characteristics of Sarasota County's housing market. The Strategic Plan outlines priorities for the five-year planning period. The Action Plan allocates entitlement resources for each individual year. The Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development prepared this submission in accordance with 24 CFR Section 91 *Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development Programs*.

## **Lead Agency**

The City of Sarasota is the lead agency responsible for overseeing the development of the Consolidated Plan. The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) was created to administer the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan as a result of the consolidation of the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County's housing and community development programs.

## **Citizen Participation**

The Consolidated Plan also includes a summary of the citizen participation process, including citizen comments, and responses from the Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development. The Citizen Participation Plan is included in this document.