



**NOTICE OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD  
| FY2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR HUD GRANTS |**

Notice is hereby given that Richland County, South Carolina will hold a ***Needs Assessment Public Hearing*** on **Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6:00PM**, prevailing time, in the **Council Chambers at the Richland County Administration Building located at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29204**. The location is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. If special arrangements need to be made to accommodate any resident in order for them to participate in the public hearing, including translation services, please contact the Community Development Office at (803) 576 - 2230 to make those arrangements, or for persons who may have a hearing impediment, please contact 7-1-1 for the TTY/TTD relay.

The purpose of this public hearing is to gather information for the County's Annual Action Plan for FY 2024, which the County will be submitting to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Funds, HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funds. *The hearing will be used to obtain the views and comments of individuals and organizations concerning the County's housing and community development needs.*

Funding levels for the 2024 Program Year have not been finalized, but are expected to be in line with 2023 funding levels, including: an entitlement amount of \$1,723,394 in CDBG funds, \$941,966 in HOME funds, and \$148,882 in ESG funds. In order to receive these funds, the County must prepare a one-year Annual Action Plan for the use of Federal funds. At least 70% of the CDBG funds must benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons living in unincorporated Richland County.

The County is preparing its CDBG, HOME, and ESG applications and it intends to afford residents, local agencies, and interested parties the opportunity to become involved in the planning and applications process. **The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for CDBG funds will be released on Monday, February 26, 2024 with details available on the Richland County website <https://richlandcountysc.gov/CDBG-NOFA>.**

Anyone interested in being added to the CDBG, HOME, and ESG application distribution list should contact the County's Community Development Office at 803-576-2230 or email at [richardson.callison@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:richardson.callison@richlandcountysc.gov).

The following types of activities may be eligible for funding under the CDBG program: acquisition of property; disposition costs; improvements to public facilities (including the removal of architectural barriers); demolition and environmental clean-up; public services serving LMI individuals or other priority groups; relocation payments for persons displaced as a result of a CDBG activity; rehabilitation of houses; code enforcement; slum and blight removal; special economic development activities; special activities undertaken by a community based development organization; home ownership assistance for purchase; planning; environmental reviews; program administration; audit; and other miscellaneous activities.

The following types of activities may be eligible for funding under the HOME Program: new construction of affordable housing, rehabilitation of affordable housing, reconstruction of affordable housing, conversion to affordable housing, site improvements related to the development of affordable housing, refinancing of debt on a single-family (one to four family) owner occupied housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds and the refinancing will reduce the overall monthly housing cost to make it affordable, acquisition costs, soft costs necessary for the financing, development, rehabilitation or acquisition of housing using HOME funds, CHDO costs, relocation costs for displaced households, administrative and planning costs.

ESG funds may be used for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, data collection, and administrative activities.

**All interested residents are encouraged to attend this public hearing and will be given the opportunity to present oral or written testimony concerning the needs of Richland County and the use of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds to address those needs.** Written or oral comments must be received by Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and directed to Ms. Callison Richardson, Manager, Grants & Community Development, Richland County Government, Community Development Division, 2020 Hampton St. Suite 3058, Columbia, SC 29202, (803) 576 - 2230 or email at [richardson.callison@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:richardson.callison@richlandcountysc.gov).

Ms. Callison Richardson

Manager, Community Development and Grants

Grants and Community Outreach Department

Richland County Government