



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Communications Office

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DATE: 05/12/2010

SUBJECT: Public invited to participate in needs assessment

BY: Pakou Ly

Public invited to participate in needs assessment

The City of Duluth annually receives substantial funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist persons with low and moderate incomes. The City of Duluth is requesting public participation in community needs assessment meetings as part of its annual funding process.

Meeting information is as follows:

May 12 - 6:30- 8:00 p.m. - City Center West, 5830 Grand Avenue

May 18 - 6:30- 8:00 p.m. – Grant Recreation Center, 901 East 11th Street

May 10-21 - Online Forum – www.duluthmn.gov/community_development

The purpose of these public forums conducted by the City's Community Development Division is to hear from Duluth residents (especially persons with low and moderate incomes, persons of color, and persons with disabilities) and service providers in an interactive setting about the community's needs. These needs are categorized as: 1) economic development (including job training) initiatives; 2) affordable housing; 3) public facility improvements (such as parks, child care centers, senior centers, street and sewer improvements) in neighborhoods of Morgan Park, West Duluth, Lincoln Park, Central Hillside and East Hillside/Endion; 4) public services, such as affordable health care services and youth programs. An online forum will also be held to offer another venue for public input.

Information gathered from public forums will be used to prepare the 2011 Action Plan which outlines the City's assessment of community needs and strategies to meet those needs during the coming HUD fiscal year. The Plan also serves as the City's application to HUD for CDBG, Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds and Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) funds (both the HOME and ESGP programs are strictly for housing and homeless needs). Also, in collaboration with the At Home Partners, input will be sought regarding future

activities and efforts in the neighborhoods in Duluth.

If members of the public are unable to attend one of the meetings but wish to comment on the programs, they may do so in one of the following ways:

Send written comments to: Community Development
 Room 407, City Hall
 Duluth, MN 55802

Fax comments to Community Development at (218) 730-5915, or **E-Mail** comments to khamre@duluthmn.gov

Comments may be submitted after the public forums, since the planning and funding process will continue throughout the fall. If you have special needs, such as an interpreter, please contact the Community Development Division at 730-5480 so that your needs can be accommodated.

For hearing impaired persons please call the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

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