

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Community Engagement Manager held a focus group with members of the CDBG-Citizen's District Council at a regular meeting. The conversation was focused around a handful of questions to gain insight from members. A summary of their comments / responses are listed below.

Date

January 6, 2026
5:30 PM

Location

Muskegon City Hall
Conference Room 103
933 Terrace St
Muskegon, MI

Attendance

Members: P. Dennie, J. Sanocki, M. Kelley, J. Weirich, K. Kochin,

Staff: S. Carson, W. Webster, D. Santiago-Sweet



**SHARONDA
CARSON**



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Q1. Are there groups of people or areas of the city that you feel are not being reached well by current programs or services?

- Some neighborhoods perceived as needing additional attention and support
- Marquette neighborhood specifically mentioned as having unmet needs
- Concern about gaps when neighborhood leadership changes
- Belief in the community that current funding structures limit the scale of impact
- Suggestion for additional or alternative legal funding models to help more
- Desire for mechanisms that create larger, more visible change

Q2. What should the city keep in mind to make sure community voices are heard and reflected as this plan moves forward?

- Use newsletters to share information and updates
- Promote awareness of public comment opportunities
- Ensure community members understand how to provide feedback

Q3. From what you see or hear, what are the biggest challenges families with limited income face in Muskegon right now?

Housing & Home Conditions

- Many homes that were once in good condition are now visibly deteriorating
- Major home repairs (especially siding and exterior issues) are unaffordable
- Repairs are difficult to manage even for households with two incomes
- Large amount of rundown or poorly maintained housing
- Concerns about exterior neglect (overgrowth, dirty conditions, visible disrepair)
- Shortage of housing options for residents with disabilities
- Interest in better solutions for housing maintenance and preservation
- Suggestion to revisit eviction prevention efforts to help residents stay housed

Neighborhood & Property Maintenance

- Need for more support with snow removal and plowing
- Yard waste and seasonal maintenance seen as difficult for some residents
- Concerns about general neighborhood upkeep and appearance

Transportation

- Transportation described as inaccessible for many residents
- Barriers to reaching jobs, services, and resources

Community Education / Skills

- Interest in home repair education opportunities
- Mention of window repair / glazing courses as potentially beneficial
- Home Depot and Kent County cited as examples of similar programs

Community & Youth Support

- Desire for more after-school programs within neighborhoods
- Need for activities that build community connection

Q4. When you think about the next five years, what changes would you hope families and neighborhoods experience because of these federal programs?

Neighborhood-Based Support Models

- Interest in block or neighborhood-level groups that assist residents
- Vision of programs connecting teens to employment opportunities
- Youth helping with tasks like snow removal and minor repairs
- Programs that address real neighborhood needs while creating jobs

Program Structure & Sustainability

- Emphasis that efforts should be well organized and accountable
- Idea that programs may need to operate like a business
- Importance of background checks and legitimacy of workers
- Strong support for partnerships with neighborhood associations

Service Access & Responsiveness

- Desire for a system where residents can request help
- Local teams responding to community needs