

Appendix K

Public Comment Section

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Comment Source	Comment	How Comment was Handled
Agency	<p>The comment was in support of a specific project, an employment training and counseling project on Vashon Island that has been funded with CDBG funds (through Rural WorkSource Connection Project). The commenter described the program and stated that it has been successful – approximately 25% of the participants have found jobs that pay at least \$10 an hour. The commenter stated that it is an important project for the community and urged us to continue funding it.</p>	<p>The Consolidated Plan does not make any decisions about specific projects. Due to the data we have about the sagging local economy, the joblessness rate and large amount of public and stakeholder support for employment training and counseling programs, we adopted a strategy under Goal Three (Community & Economic Development), Objective #3 to “assist low- to moderate-income persons in obtaining living wage jobs through the provision of <u>job training and other employment services.</u>” The adoption of this strategy allows this program to continue to apply for funding during the appropriate funding round (see Citizen Participation Plan).</p>
Agency	<p>The commenter wrote in support of the Rural Connection Project, an employment training and counseling project. The commenter also wrote about the need for supportive services related to employment, especially for those people who need more individual attention and support to be able to use existing resources. The commenter generally like the plan but was concerned that we did not include as much data on jobs and the economy as we included on housing, and was concerned that this would affect the funding of projects like the Rural Connection Project. The commenter asked that we include in the plan an acknowledgment of the need for additional background data before we make any funding decisions that could eliminate any employment training and counseling projects.</p>	<p>The Consortium did include some key data on incomes, and the jobless rate. In addition, the public and stakeholder input concerning the need for employment training and counseling programs was all considered in our decision to adopt Strategy 3.B. under Objective #3 of the Community & Economic Development Goal (see above notes). The Consortium agrees that it is desirable to gather additional data from available sources as well as from stakeholders and the public before making any decisions that would adversely affect funding for any of the strategies, including Strategy 3.B.</p>
Agency	<p>The commenter wrote that the plan is thorough, well laid out, easy to understand and captures the picture of needs in King County, particularly housing needs. The commenter asked to add some additional language to the Key Finding regarding diversity and languages, concerning the need for ESL opportunities for persons who do not speak English.</p>	<p>An additional phrase was added to the finding, as follows: “The increase in diversity and languages in the region indicates a need for greater cultural competency, including the availability of program information in languages other than English, amongst agencies serving the public, as well as adequate opportunities for individuals to learn English as a second language.”</p>