

2022-2026 Goals and Priority Needs

The City of Meridian identified the following goals and priority needs during the planning process while developing the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. For more information, please review the full plan located at <https://meridiacity.org/mayor-s-office/block-grant-program/planning-reporting/>.

Priority Needs

The following priority needs were identified in the City of Meridian’s Consolidated Plan to guide funding allocations during the five-year planning cycle.

Provide Decent Housing

A decent place to live removes the barriers to opportunity, success, and health that have been part of a family's life for years, if not generations. Creating safe and decent places to live can have incredibly positive effects on a family's health, on the study habits of students, and a neighborhood's overall attractiveness and stability. Decent housing includes a spectrum of solutions: new construction, repair, and renovation, housing finance, infrastructure development, secure land tenure, among others.

Create a Suitable Living Environment

A good living environment is essential for good quality of life. A functional and sound living environment allows different people to lead their daily lives and fulfill their basic needs: living, services, working, recreation, hobbies, and rest and privacy.

Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons

Expanding opportunities to low- and moderate-income persons helps to foster local economic development, neighborhood improvement, and individual self-sufficiency.

Goals

To address these needs, the Meridian CDBG Program identified the following goals for the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. These goals will guide the activity selection for the duration of this plan.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements

Public Facilities and Improvements are publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure such as streets, playgrounds, underground utilities, and buildings owned by non-profits open to the general public. Safe and accessible infrastructure is essential to the quality of life and building communities that support community diversity and stability. In general, public facilities and public improvements are interpreted to include all facilities and improvements that are publicly owned or owned by a nonprofit and open to the general public. Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and installation of public facilities and improvements are eligible activities.

Potential projects may include, but are not limited to:

- ADA Improvements
- Senior Centers

- Homeless and Domestic Violence Facilities
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Health Facilities
- Sidewalks

Public Services

Public services are an integral part of a comprehensive community development strategy. Public Service activities provide for a wide range of activities that address needs in the community provided for the target population. Public services can strengthen communities by addressing the needs of specific populations. They can address a range of individual needs and increase CDBG dollars' impact by complementing other activities.

The City of Meridian may allocate up to 15% of CDBG funds to public services programs that provide supportive services to low- to moderate-income persons or prevent homelessness. In general, these services are provided by local non-profit partners. This funding is capped at 15% of the CDBG entitlement plus program income.

Potential projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Employment services
- Crime prevention and public safety
- Child care
- Health services
- Substance use services
- Fair housing counseling
- Education programs
- Energy conservation
- Services for homeless persons
- Services for seniors
- Welfare services (excluding income payments)
- Down payment assistance
- Recreational services

Housing

The City prioritized goals and objectives for using CDBG funding to strategically and effectively benefit low- and moderate-income residents by increasing access to decent housing and creating a suitable living environment while expanding economic opportunities for LMI persons. Meridian is committed to improving and expanding access to safe and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. Affordable and safe housing helps to provide financial stability, reduces the chances of a person becoming homeless, and promotes housing sustainability.

Potential projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Homeownership Assistance
- Rehabilitation (single-unit residential and/or multi-family residential)
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Acquisition
- The administrative cost for rehabilitation activities

- Lead-based paint testing/abatement
- Housing counseling

Program Administration

General Administrative funds will pay reasonable program administrative costs and carrying charges related to the planning and execution of community development activities. Administering federal funds and ensuring compliance is critical for utilizing Federal resources. Meridian is committed to using CDBG entitlement funding for administration to help to continue growing a community development program that is efficient, effective, and resourceful.

Potential projects may include, but are not limited to:

- General management, oversight, and coordination
- Providing local officials and citizens with information about the CDBG program
- Preparing budgets and schedules
- Preparing reports and other HUD-required documents
- Program planning
- Public Information
- Monitoring program activities
- Fair Housing activities
- Indirect costs
- Submission of applications for Federal programs