

Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The City of Akron, Ohio has prepared an Annual Plan for 2013 that includes the budget for the 2013 federal Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Partnership Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. This Consolidated Action Plan addresses the housing needs of low-income families, homeless families and others with special needs that require supportive services. The plan includes a one-year budget for applying available resources to meet identified needs.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

The City of Akron anticipates committing \$6,670,000 in total program funding including \$5,100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds; \$1,100,000 in HOME funds and \$470,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds. Of these funds, approximately \$100,000 is program income.

At least 70% of the Community Development funds are required to be used for activities that principally benefit low-income persons. All HOME funds and ESG funds will be used for activities that benefit low-income persons.

The City continues to support the rehabilitation of existing housing in specific areas through the Neighborhood Revitalization Area program and the Neighborhood Sustainability Area program. The City also purchases and removes deteriorated homes in these areas to eliminate blight. The City offers assistance to low-income homeowners or tenants through the City's Minor Home Repair Program and Lead Abatement Programs. The City is now combining rehabilitation assistance with Lead Abatement Assistance and the Healthy Homes Program in order to maximize productivity and address more items in need of repair in selected homes. Emphasis is also placed on rebuilding neighborhoods with pockets of new housing combined with rehabilitation assistance for properties that do not need to be removed, new streets, new curbs, new sidewalks and new street trees where necessary.

Akron will afford property owners in targeted areas the opportunity to make an investment in each property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems - heating, electrical and plumbing - are in good working order. The City will invest up to \$15,000 in each property that is rehabilitated in the Revitalization and Sustainability Areas and the Lead Abatement areas.

The City will also continue to fund a number of programs that have proven their value such as supporting non-profit housing development, providing a Waiver Demolition program to assist property owners in removing deteriorated structures and Minor Home Repair to offer small-scale assistance (\$4,000) to low-income homeowners or the elderly on a fixed income to correct an emergency problem.

Within the central part of the City, Akron combines housing rehabilitation assistance with lead paint abatement activity. Low-income homeowners with children six years old and under who are at risk for lead poisoning are eligible for this assistance. Rental property owners with tenants with children also qualify for assistance.

Akron received \$1.56 million in October 2011 to undertake preventative measures to address home safety hazards. An average of \$4,000 in grant funding is being used to address safety hazards in qualifying households. The Program will be administered by the Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development. This program will continue through the end of 2014.

The City of Akron anticipates a 2013 Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement of \$470,000. The City of Akron issued a request for proposals in October, 2012 to homeless service providers. Funding priorities are given to homeless shelters requesting rehabilitation assistance. Funds are also available to agencies for operating and essential services. Priority is given to agencies not receiving Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Program funds.

The Akron / Summit County / Barberton community has a Continuum of Care in place to address the immediate needs of families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In 2013, agencies will provide short-term rental assistance, assistance in paying utility bills and food assistance through the Home Again Program. Legal services are available to those at risk of eviction or foreclosure.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The overall goals of the community planning and development programs are to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and to extend economic development opportunities to low and moderate income persons. These are the goals that have been guiding Akron's process for a number of years. While the goals stay the same, the process can fluctuate based on funding levels, housing conditions in specific areas of the city, local needs and a variety of

other factors. Existing conditions and past performance are constantly evaluated to develop the current action plan.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Each year the City of Akron convenes a meeting of interested citizens, community organizers, low-income neighborhood residents and others including affordable housing advocates, providers, social service agencies, homeless housing advocates, lending institutions and the Public Housing Authority to allow citizens an opportunity to present their views on community needs. The 2013 Annual Plan represents the fourth year of the five-year strategy. The public meeting for the 2013 Action Plan was held on August 30, 2012 at the Akron / Summit County Public Library.

Information is disseminated utilizing mailing lists, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets. Presentations are being made to ward meetings and community gatherings.

5. Summary of public comments

The City of Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development conducts an annual meeting associated with the preparation of the next year's Consolidated Action Plan to gain public comment. This meeting was held on August 30, 2012 at the Akron / Summit County Public Library so comments could be incorporated into the 2013 Action Plan. Plan outlines were supported. Specific comments addressed economic development (are funds available to start a restaurant), the possibility of instituting a housing lottery, possible budget cuts, lobbying, lead abatement activities, neighborhood beautification (specifically neighborhood gardens), neighborhood recreation (basketball courts), and the creation of additional beds at emergency shelters.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments were accepted.

7. Summary

Please see above for summary of objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan.

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	AKRON	

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Helen Tomic, City of Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development

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Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources

Introduction

The City of Akron anticipates committing \$6,670,000 in total program funding including \$5,100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds; \$1,100,000 in HOME funds and \$470,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds. Of these funds, approximately \$100,000 is program income.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	5,050,000	50,000	0	5,100,000	0	
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional	0	0	0	0	0	

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
		housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA						
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,050,000	50,000	0	1,100,000	0	

Table 2 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City utilizes CDBG funding to leverage other Federal and State funding, including State of Ohio OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) funds and Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant Program funding. All subrecipients are required to match programs funded with CDBG funds.

Under the HOME program, a 12.5% matching requirement will apply for 2013 funds. The City will utilize local funds (income tax, etc.) from the street improvements program for HOME funded neighborhoods as match. Matching funds from a Primary Jurisdiction (Akron) must be: 1) a permanent contribution to affordable housing; 2) from a non-federal source; and 3) provided by a broad array of public and private donors such

as local and state agencies, charitable organizations/foundations, and private sector organizations.

Emergency Solutions Grants Program and Continuum of Care providers receiving assistance will be required to provide matching funds. These funds will come from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources.

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

The City will work with local non-profits to facilitate the construction of new homes on City-owned lots. The City will also utilize City-owned properties to meet program goals if suitable projects are identified.

Discussion

No discussion.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
Housing Rehabilitation	2013	2013	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$1,015,000 HOME: \$250,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 230 Household Housing Unit
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	2013	2013	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance	CDBG: \$50,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit
Homeless Assistance	2013	2013	Homeless	Housing Program	Homeless Families and Individuals	HOME: \$100,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 25 Households Assisted
Public Services	2013	2013	General Supportive Services to Public	Housing Program	Public Services	CDBG: \$535,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 35000 Persons Assisted
Public Improvements	2013	2013	Infrastructure Improvements	Housing Program	Public Improvements	CDBG: \$500,000	Other: 5000 Other
Single Family New Construction	2013	2013	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	New Housing Construction	CDBG: \$200,000 HOME:	Homeowner Housing Added: 28 Household Housing Unit

Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
Eliminate Slum and Blight	2013	2013	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	\$600,000 CDBG: \$1,200,000	Buildings Demolished: 100 Buildings
Economic Development Opportunities	2013	2013	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$300,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 10 Business

Table 3 – Goals Summary

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b)

It is anticipated that 81 families will be assisted.

Projects

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

Project Name	Target Area	Goals Supported	Needs Addressed	Funding
OWNER OCCUPIED REHABILITATION	Housing Program	Housing Rehabilitation	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$700,000 HOME: \$300,000
RENTAL REHABILITATION GRANTS AND LOANS	Housing Program	Rental Housing Rehabilitation	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance	CDBG: \$20,000
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING ACQUISITION	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$400,000
WAIVER DEMOLITION AND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEARANCE	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$739,999
NEIGHBORHOOD RELOCATION	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$50,000
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION	Housing Program	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Homeless Assistance Public Services Public Improvements Single Family New Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Economic Development Opportunities	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Homeless Families and Individuals Public Services Public Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$1,110,000 HOME: \$50,000

NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS	Housing Program	Public Improvements	Public Improvements	CDBG: \$500,000
COMMUNITY GARDENS	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$65,000
HOMELESS FACILITIES	Housing Program	Homeless Assistance	Homeless Families and Individuals	CDBG: \$20,000
NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS	Housing Program	Economic Development Opportunities	Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$150,000
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	Housing Program	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Homeless Assistance Public Services Public Improvements Single Family New Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Economic Development Opportunities	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Homeless Families and Individuals Public Services Public Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$100,000 HOME: \$50,000
URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (UNDC)	Housing Program	Single Family New Construction	New Housing Construction	CDBG: \$200,000
VARIOUS HOME REPAIR PROGRAMS	Housing Program	Housing Rehabilitation	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$375,000
NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM	Housing Program	Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$70,000
CDC/CHDO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	Housing Program	Single Family New Construction	New Housing Construction	HOME: \$550,000

EXTERIOR PAINT PROGRAM	Housing Program	Housing Rehabilitation	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$25,000
COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM	Housing Program	Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$300,000
DISABILITY MODIFICATIONS	Housing Program	Housing Rehabilitation	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$25,000
FAIR HOUSING	Housing Program	Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$100,000
BUSINESS INCENTIVES	Housing Program	Economic Development Opportunities	Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$150,000
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SUMMIT COUNTY	Housing Program	Single Family New Construction	New Housing Construction	HOME: \$50,000
SECTION 108 LOAN	Housing Program	Economic Development Opportunities	Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$1
HOMELESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE	Housing Program	Homeless Assistance	Homeless Families and Individuals	HOME: \$100,000

Table 4 – Project Summary

AP-35 Projects

Introduction

The City of Akron anticipates undertaking the following projects in 2013.

#	Project Name
1	OWNER OCCUPIED REHABILITATION
2	RENTAL REHABILITATION GRANTS AND LOANS
3	NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING ACQUISITION
4	WAIVER DEMOLITION AND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEARANCE
5	NEIGHBORHOOD RELOCATION
6	PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
7	NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
8	COMMUNITY GARDENS
9	HOMELESS FACILITIES
10	NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS
11	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
12	URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (UNDC)
13	VARIOUS HOME REPAIR PROGRAMS
14	NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
15	CDC/CHDO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
16	EXTERIOR PAINT PROGRAM
17	COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM
18	DISABILITY MODIFICATIONS
19	FAIR HOUSING
20	BUSINESS INCENTIVES
21	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SUMMIT COUNTY

#	Project Name
22	SECTION 108 LOAN
23	HOMELESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Table 5 – Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

The primary obstacle to addressing underserved needs is lack of funding. Allocation priorities are dictated by the reality of addressing many areas of need to a variety of essential programs.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The City provides assistance City-wide with a concentration of spending in City-designated areas. Historically, the City has chosen a targeted-neighborhood approach for housing rehabilitation. The basis for allocating investments geographically is based on income levels, with most of the assistance directed to low-income areas. In order to be able to serve low-income persons City-wide, some programs are directed to middle to outer-ring neighborhoods where residents are income-qualified to receive assistance. The City, in selecting the areas to receive intensive housing treatment, looks to a broad range of criteria including not only the age, value and condition of the housing stock, but also owner occupancy rates, household income and other demographics. By selecting areas which have a relatively high level of households with low incomes, structuring the rehabilitation program to meet the needs of low income households and monitoring this activity, Akron assures that a majority of the rehabilitation activities carried out will assist low income needs. Needs of the handicapped are also addressed by Akron's housing rehabilitation program. Loan and grant funds are available for the alteration of homes within selected areas, enabling these homes to become handicap accessible.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Housing Program	100

Table 6 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The basis for allocating investments geographically is based on income levels, with most of the assistance directed to low-income areas. In order to be able to serve low-income persons City-wide, some programs are directed to middle to outer-ring neighborhoods where residents are income-qualified to receive assistance. The City has found that a targeted approach creates more of a visual impact in a more compact area than spreading out assistance in a less centralized area, but the need for assistance impacts families in all areas of the City, so some assistance programs are individually-qualified on a City-wide application basis.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing

Introduction

The provision of affordable housing in Akron through rehabilitation also can be addressed through local non-profit development corporations in the City of Akron. Assistance is targeted to different income groups including very low-income households (50% of median income or below) and low-income households (80% of median and below). The City supports non-profit housing organizations through CDBG and HOME funds.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	25
Non-Homeless	81
Special-Needs	0
Total	106

Table 7 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	25
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	81
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	106

Table 8 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing

Introduction

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority owns and manages over 4,600 dwelling units in its public housing program. The City of Akron works closely with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority in an ongoing effort to improve public housing in the City of Akron.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority utilizes approximately \$24 million for Section 8 rental assistance each year. This activity is funded through HUD directly and not through the City of Akron. In addition, approximately \$4 million is provided through other types of HUD housing assistance payments or rent subsidy. The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority utilizes around \$10 million each year in HUD funds to rehabilitate their public housing units. The AMHA's future capital improvement plans will be contained in the Five Year Plan and Annual Agency Plan submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

In the Five Year Strategy, the City describes the number, physical condition and restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units operated by the local public housing agency. The City also sets forth the public housing agency's plan for improving the management and operation of such public housing, and the strategy for improving the living environment of public housing residents. The actions and steps to be taken by the AMHA to improve the management and operation of public housing and the living environment of public housing residents over the coming year are as follows:

- a) Maintain the overall occupancy rate (adjusted for units under modernization).
- b) Maintain vacant unit turnaround times.
- c) Continue to convert undesirable efficiency size apartments to marketable one-bedroom dwelling units.
- d) Continue a lead-based paint testing and abatement program.
- e) Reduce total tenant accounts receivables.

f) Continue to modernize senior and family dwelling units in accordance with approved funding schedule.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

N/A

Discussion

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities

Introduction

The City of Akron anticipates a 2013 Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement of \$470,000. The City of Akron issued a request for proposals in November, 2012 to homeless service providers. Funding priorities are given to rapid re-housing programs, emergency shelters and transitional housing providers.

Funds are also available to agencies for rehabilitation, operating and essential services.

The City of Akron is the lead entity for the Continuum of Care planning process. The CoC receives approximately \$4,000,000 annually through the SuperNOFA Continuum of Care process. These funds are primarily used for permanent supportive housing for the disabled, transitional housing and supportive services.

The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care intends to incorporate an eligibility module into the Homeless Management Information System (H.M.I.S.). This new module will allow service providers to access additional community services during the client intake process and assist the client on how to access services. Community organizations have already developed resource manuals to assist individuals and families in locating appropriate services. Street Cards, or "quick guides" that explain available services to people on the street, are available at local agencies and libraries.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City is continuing to work in the Summit County Continuum of Care to identify the causes of homelessness and assist individuals to overcome the hardships that are causing episodes of homelessness. The goal of ending homelessness is ambitious and several approaches are necessary. The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care will focus on the following key elements to reduce homelessness:

- Ø Establish/develop resources within our community to fund homeless prevention;
- Ø Strengthen homeless prevention programs within the community;

- ∅ Expand outreach services to the homeless by creating teams to specifically target subpopulations;
- ∅ Improving coordination and access to services;
- ∅ Expand availability of affordable housing within the community;
- ∅ Improve access to affordable housing for homeless persons;
- ∅ Work with the needs of special sub-populations;
- ∅ Evaluate role of faith-based organizations;
- ∅ Improve job placement linkages.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Akron will use a portion on ESGP funds along with State and HOME funds to continue the Home Again Program. Home Again was initially funded through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds for financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The City will continue to access these funds in 2013 to meet the housing needs of homeless persons currently residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The Home Again program provides assistance to those individuals and families that are already homeless, residing in emergency or transitional shelters and to those on the verge of becoming homeless (due to foreclosure or eviction). The intent of the Home Again Program is to provide temporary financial assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless, or who would be homeless *but for* this assistance. Program focuses on individuals

and families that can remain stably housed after this assistance ends.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

The City of Akron and the Akron/Summit County/Barberton Continuum of Care in place to address the immediate needs of families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless. In 2013, agencies will continue to provide short-term (and in many cases one-time) rental / mortgage assistance, assistance in paying utility bills and food assistance. Legal services are available to those at risk of eviction or foreclosure. These resources are limited and are quickly depleted due to heavy demand, but the community has a strong network of organizations that work closely to maximize assistance available to clients. The Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program will continue to provide short-term benefits and services to low-income families.

Discussion

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing

Introduction

The provision of affordable housing is one of the City's three main priorities for the CDBG program. In its five year strategy, the City of Akron was required to assess the effects of public policies impacting upon the availability of affordable housing, and set forth a plan to remove or ameliorate their negative effects.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The specific actions or reform steps to be taken as part of that plan over the coming year to remove or ameliorate these negative effects are as follows:

- a) Provide adequate land for a variety of housing types through review by Zoning and Land Use and Development Guide Plan updates.
- b) Work to eliminate obsolete and prescriptive building code requirements.
- c) Continue educating the public on the need for affordable housing and promote a diversity of affordable housing programs.
- d) Continue the practice of one-stop permitting.
- e) Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies in implementing programs that support affordable housing (e.g. State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Summit County Land Reutilization program and federal programs such as HOPE VI, etc.).

Discussion

AP-85 Other Actions

Introduction

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is lack of funding. The City is combining CD funding with Lead Hazard Reduction Program funding to provide more assistance to low-income families with children under the age of six at high risk of lead poisoning.

Rehabilitation activities will also be concentrated in Neighborhood Sustainability Areas. Sustainability Areas are targeted to areas of 75-100 homes that are considered "tipping point" areas - neighborhoods that are relatively stable but could decline without intervention. The City received \$1.56 million in Healthy Homes Initiative funding in late 2011 to be utilized over three years to qualified applicants city-wide. This funding helps fill a need for qualified applicants to address safety hazards in their homes. Up to \$4,000 per home is available for issues ranging from leaky roofs to indoor allergens, grab bars, mold, etc.

The City Minor Home Repair Program is offered citywide. A Senior Home Improvement Paint program is offered in the Greater Westside Council of Block Clubs (GWCBC) service areas of Wards 3 and 4. With the initiation of Lead Base Paint Regulations, the program participants must be able to meet all of the regulations necessary to meet lead-safe clearance.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The provision of affordable housing is one of the City's three main priorities for the CDBG program. In its five year strategy, the City of Akron was required to assess the effects of public policies impacting upon the availability of affordable housing, and set forth a plan to remove or ameliorate their negative effects. The specific actions or reform steps to be taken as part of that plan over the coming year to remove or ameliorate these negative effects are as follows:

- a) Provide adequate land for a variety of housing types through review by Zoning and Land Use and Development Guide Plan updates.
- b) Work to eliminate obsolete and prescriptive building code requirements.
- c) Continue educating the public on the need for affordable housing and promote a diversity of

affordable housing programs.

- d) Continue the practice of one-stop permitting.
- e) Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies in implementing programs that support affordable housing (e.g. State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Summit County Land Reutilization program and federal programs such as HOPE VI, etc.).

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Within the central part of the city, Akron will continue to combine housing rehabilitation assistance with lead paint abatement activity. Low-income homeowners with children six years old and under who are at risk for lead poisoning are eligible for this assistance, which is utilizing both CDBG and HOME funds combined with Lead Hazard Reduction Program assistance (awarded to the City of Akron in both 2009 and 2012). Over 90% of the City's homes were constructed before 1980 and, of Akron's 54,000 families, over twenty percent of them have children under the age of 6. City officials have estimated that up to 25 percent of children in some inner-city neighborhoods are threatened and 1 in 10 Akron children are affected by lead base paint.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Akron will continue to implement an antipoverty strategy over the coming year in the following programs. These programs contribute to the removal of households from poverty status through provision of supportive services and transitional housing with support services.

Community Services Program

The City of Akron will use CDBG funds over the next year to offer service programs to residents in the fields of education, health, security, the arts and fair housing. Organizations citywide have submitted proposals in order to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Akron.

Affordable Housing

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) - The City is supportive of the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authorities Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which provides supportive services to participating families to reach their goal of economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's)

The City contributes CDBG funds for operating expenses to non-profit Community Housing Development Corporations. The East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation offers home maintenance and budgeting training for its participants under its HOPE III Program. WENDCO is planning purchase/rehab/resale home projects and new housing in FY 2012.

Crime Prevention

Areas of poverty are often associated with high crime. The City is making a comprehensive effort utilizing federal, state and local funds to undertake community policing. The City encourages and supports neighborhood block watches within our Housing Program.

Transitional Housing

The City of Akron supports the provision of housing for the homeless with CDBG/ESG funds. The City encourages the continuation of existing emergency shelters while also encouraging transitional housing with supportive services as part of the Continuum of Care. The goal is to integrate homeless individuals back into the community. The intent of emergency housing is to serve as a stepping-stone to, first, transitional housing and then on to affordable permanent housing. Organizations applying for funds must commit to participate in the Continuum of Care process.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

In the five-year strategy, the City describes the institutional structure, including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions through which it will carry out the affordable and supportive housing strategy. The City also assesses existing strengths and gaps in that delivery system and sets forth a plan for improvement. The following steps will continue to be implemented over the coming year to eliminate identified gaps and strengthen, coordinate, and integrate the institutions and delivery systems:

- a) Pursue other funding sources for affordable housing as they become available.
- b) Develop an approach to coordinate social services with housing treatment areas.
- c) Hold quarterly meetings with AMHA to help ensure coordination on programs and monitor progress.
- d) Pursue developing and expanding programs with lenders who serve the Akron area.

- e) Continue work with non-profit housing developers.
- f) Serve on committees/boards involved in housing and social service delivery.
- g) Hold public meetings to inform citizens of housing programs.
- h) Conduct meetings with non-profit developers.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

Coordination and communication is ongoing between public and non-profit housing providers and private and public health and social service agencies. The City will continue to schedule regular meetings with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Homebuilders Association, neighborhood organizations, neighborhood residents, business associations and health and social service providers.

The City works hand-in-hand with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and various partners on the Hope VI projects that have received funding (the Cascade Village and Edgewood developments). In turn, the City also works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when preparing the Renewal Plans for the project areas either associated with the Hope VI areas or individually selected (the Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks Redevelopment Area). Where new housing is involved, the City works with both the Homebuilders Association and private builders as necessary.

The Continuum of Care is an extensive network of health and social service agencies, shelter providers and City and County officials working together to combat homelessness. The Continuum of Care adopted a set of committees and sub-committees structure. These committees will meet regularly to network and identify solutions to specific identified needs and assist in the preparation of the annual Continuum of Care application.

Discussion

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220.(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	10,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	10,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	92.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220.(1)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

N/A

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The period of affordability on all purchases assisted with ADDI (with the exception of the Housing Choice Voucher program) is secured by an affordability promissory note and mortgage in the amount of CHDO set aside funds used to subsidize each project completed by the CHDO's under contract with the City. There is no separate recapture mechanism for ADDI.

The Housing Choice Voucher program subsidizes the mortgage for the voucher holder until the voucher holder no longer qualifies for the voucher or the contract ends (usually twenty years). The period of affordability for just ADDI would be five years. Some of the voucher holders who have used ADDI to subsidize the purchase of their home have used Ohio Housing Finance Agency funding for financing. OHFA has affordability and recapture provisions.

For non-profits bringing in buyers OUTSIDE of any City agreement, an affordability lien for five years will be required

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

See above - the Housing Choice Voucher program subsidizes the mortgage for the voucher holder until the voucher holder no longer qualifies for the voucher or the contract ends (usually twenty years). The period of affordability for just ADDI would be five years. Some of the voucher holders who have used ADDI to subsidize the purchase of their home have used Ohio Housing Finance

Agency funding for financing. OHFA has affordability and recapture provisions.

For non-profits bringing in buyers OUTSIDE of any City agreement, an affordability lien for five years will be required

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

If the City uses HOME funds to refinance existing debt for a project involving multi-family housing, the City will follow models and FHA guidelines for refinancing as supplied to the City by HUD. The City will not develop standards of its' own for refinancing.

Discussion