

2023 ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN

FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



May, 2023

**Dan Horrigan, Mayor
City of Akron, Ohio**

**Thomas A. Tatum, Director
Department of Planning and Urban Development
www.akronohio.gov**

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The City of Akron, Ohio has prepared an Annual Plan for 2023 that includes the budget for the 2023 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. Many of these needs have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The City of Akron will commit \$8,275,178 in program funding including \$6,003,795 in Community Development Block Grant funds; \$1,742,494 in HOME funds and \$528,889 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds. The City will program an additional \$300,000 in program income. At least 70% of the Community Development funds are required to be used for activities that principally benefit low-income persons. HOME funds and ESG funds will be used for activities that solely benefit low-income persons.

The City continues to support the rehabilitation of housing through grants and loans on an application basis. City-wide, Akron combines housing rehabilitation assistance with lead paint abatement activity for homes with children under the age of 6. Eligibility is based upon household income. In 2019, Akron received \$4 million in federal Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program funding to undertake lead abatement. This funding is still being utilized in combination with CDBG funds. The City is also using \$600,000 in Healthy Homes funding (secured in 2019) for preventative measures to address home safety hazards. The City established an Emergency Roofing Assistance program to assist low-income homeowners with repairs in order to keep their homes safe, warm and dry. The City has felt the effects of vacant foreclosed homes and is working with area partners to selectively rehabilitate or clear vacant homes as appropriate cases arise. Emphasis is also placed on rebuilding neighborhoods with pockets of new housing combined with rehabilitation assistance. Akron will afford property owners the opportunity to make an investment in their 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 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 to low-income homeowners or the elderly on a fixed income to correct an emergency problem.

The City also allocates funding to a variety of programs primarily benefiting low-income residents including community service programs, community gardens, fair housing and blight removal. The City continues to support businesses by offering matching grants to business owners in Great Streets Akron program areas for assistance in any exterior improvements to their business property. Public improvements in neighborhoods will also continue to be addressed.

The City of Akron will receive a 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement of \$528,889. The City of Akron issued a request for proposals in February, 2023 to homeless service providers. Rapid re-housing is a priority. 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 existing Continuum of Care continues to address needs of homeless and potentially homeless residents. These needs were made more urgent by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

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

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Three public hearings were held for the 2023 Annual Action Plan. One public hearing was held before the City of Akron Planning Commission and two public hearings were held before City Council. The City Planning Commission meeting was on April 14, 2023. Two public hearings before Akron City Council were held on May 8, 2023 (one in the afternoon and one in the evening). The City has an extensive mailing list of area residents, community organizations, agencies and providers that receive notifications for all meetings associated with the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

For the 2023 Annual Action Plan a community survey was distributed to residents and community organizations along with being posted on the City's website. Information was also disseminated utilizing mailing lists, the City website, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets. Presentations are also made at ward meetings and community gatherings.

Broadband Specific: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to mobile workforce and online learning, broadband internet access in Akron and closing the “digital divide,” has become necessary for the success of the City of Akron and its citizens. In late 2022, the City of Akron issued a Request for Information (RFI) for a "Partnership for Broadband Internet" regarding supplier's capabilities and interest for providing broadband internet throughout the City. This initiative includes a City-wide broadband plan, as well as planning investments in broadband infrastructure, securing funding from state, federal, and private partners, and implementing targeted projects with quantifiable and durable benefits to City of Akron residents.

The City of Akron has expanded broadband services to provide service at all community services and will leverage this as part of our Digital Divide plan to better support technology education to our citizens.

Resilience Specific: The City of Akron Engineering Department assists in addressing flood prone areas, public land and water resources in the City. Additionally, the City of Akron is a member of NEFCO (Northeast Ohio Four Regional Planning and Development Organization). The city is located within Summit County and has access to the resources made available by Summit County Emergency Management Agency. The Agency, in times of emergency (i.e. floods, natural disasters, hazard mitigation, etc.) is able to respond and lead the City in addressing the emergencies as needed.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

Numerous agencies spoke in favor of the Consolidated Plan at the public hearings. These included the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, the United Way of Summit County, the Summit County Continuum of Care, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, the Access emergency shelter and Harmony House serving homeless youth. These agencies stressed the importance of this funding to assist in the needs of the community. A community survey was also undertaken as part of the preparation of the Annual Action Plan (see attached survey results under AD-26 Administration).

Members of City Council asked specific questions relating to the Great Streets program and whether grants are still matching grants, the Akron Grows community gardening program, prospective new housing construction in the City, requests to establish relationships between the Akron Public Schools and Youth shelters to assist the 2,000 students in the Akron Public School system who are essentially

homeless (Project RISE), specifics regarding the \$540,000 in CDBG funds to support Public Service programs, whether or not funding for Great Streets projects was on a due date or rolling basis, how many Great Streets façade renovations occurred in 2022 and details on the voluntary Waiver Demolition program where the City assists the property owner in tearing down a blighted structure at the owners request (the property owner retains ownership). A Planning Commission member asked what the process was for determining funding for the programs. A few residents spoke at the public meetings in general support of the programs as long as funds were spent for the intended use.

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

All comments were accepted.

7. Summary

N/A

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

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

Describe the agency/entity 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	
CDBG Administrator		Helen Tomic, Dept, of Planning and Urban Dev.
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		Helen Tomic, Dept. of Planning and Urban Dev.
ESG Administrator		Helen Tomic, Dept. of Planning and Urban Dev.
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Helen Tomic, City of Akron Office of Integrated Development

Dept. of Planning and Urban Development

Long Range Planning Manager

Municipal Building Room 401

166 South High Street

Akron, OH 44308

330-375-2090

htomic@akronohio.gov

AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)

1. Introduction

The City of Akron Office of Integrated Development / Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD), is the lead agency in the coordination and management of the process and preparation of the Annual Action Plan. The City leads and coordinates the consolidated planning, submission and implementation process. The City will continue to be involved in activities over the coming year which enhance coordination between public and non-profit housing providers and private and public health and service agencies.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction’s activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))

As in previous years, 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 (AMHA), the Homebuilders Association, area community development corporations, neighborhood organizations, neighborhood residents, business associations, the Continuum of Care and health and social service providers.

The City works closely with area CDC's and AMHA to facilitate improvements to neighborhoods and public housing. The City engaged in intensive collaboration with AMHA and area residents through the completion of a FY2020 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the Summit Lake neighborhood from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City and AMHA are working together to begin implementing the Transformation Plan and will apply for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for Summit Lake. This follows years of ongoing collaboration for the Reimagining the Civic Commons grant with the community. The City also has facilitated the funding and preparation of neighborhood plans by area CDC's and neighborhood organizations to both guide and spur reinvestment in low and moderate income neighborhoods. The City also works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when preparing Redevelopment Plans for project areas to remove blighting conditions and/or facilitate investment. In the past few years (since 2015), City assistance and collaboration has resulted in substantial new developments for the elderly, homeless and immigrant community. Where new housing is involved, the City works with both the Homebuilders Association and private builders as necessary.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Akron is the collaborative applicant for the Akron / Barberton / Summit County Continuum of Care. The City is the recipient of Continuum of Care (CoC) and local ESGP funds. This role requires the CoC and City to coordinate HEARTH ACT requirements in a seamless process. The City and CoC members meet regularly to review systems of care for the homeless and HUD requirements. The City of Akron consults and collaborates with Continuum of Care Community Committee in developing the policies and procedures for the implementation of ESG program rules. This process includes the development of performance standards for the administration of the ESGP program and all Continuum of Care projects (SHP and S+C). This collaboration will continue as we move forward and continue to collaborate to create a comprehensive policy and procedure manual for the Continuum of Care as a whole. This process has become even more important when dealing with the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The City of Akron and the Continuum of Care recognize the need to develop performance standards for the administration of the ESG program and all Continuum of Care projects. The City of Akron and the Summit Continuum of Care prepare for the full implementation of the HEARTH Act. The City of Akron will continue to coordinate with the CoC to:

- * Maintain a planning process to oversee ESG and CoC policies and procedures for committee structure, meeting guidelines, roles and responsibilities, performance measures, and criteria for poor performers;
- * Investigate gap prioritization within the ESG and CoC and establishing a community process for determining relative priorities;
- * Develop short-and long-term strategic goals in the establishment of permanent supportive housing and determine future of transitional housing programs. Establish ESG performance measures and outcomes.
- * Adopt and maintain a written ESG and CoC plan

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of Summit & Medina
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The United Way of Summit County is the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administrative agency. The City and United Way work closely to provide homeless data to make policy and funding decisions as they apply to Akron's homeless population. The City contracts with the United Way to provide a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. United Way also provides an Information & Referral Program, a twenty-four hour centralized information, referral and follow-up service which serves as a linkage between persons in need of human services and available non-profit and government services.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs

Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Akron regularly consults with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority. AMHA provides annual updates for the Annual Action Plan.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

N/A

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	City of Akron	The City of Akron regularly consults with the Summit County Continuum of Care

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

The City meets regularly with the Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development in the implementation of the plan and planning activities. The City also works closely with the Summit County Continuum of Care to address issues relating to homelessness.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

Three public hearings were held for the 2023 Annual Action Plan. One public hearing was held before the City of Akron Planning Commission and two public hearings were held before City Council. The City Planning Commission meeting was on April 14, 2023. Two public hearings before Akron City Council were held on May 8, 2023 (one in the afternoon before the Planning Committee of City Council and one in the evening before all of Council). The City has an extensive mailing list of area residents, community organizations, agencies and providers that receive notifications for all meetings associated with the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

For the 2023 Annual Action Plan a community survey was distributed to residents and community organizations along with being posted on the City's website. The survey generated nearly 200 responses. Information is also disseminated utilizing mailing lists, the City website, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets. Presentations are also made at ward meetings and community gatherings.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	City of Akron Planning Commission meeting - April 14, 2023	The Director of Housing Services for the United Way of Summit County spoke in favor of the Consolidated Plan. A Planning Commission member questioned what the process was for determining funding for the programs.	N/A	

2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Akron City Council Planning Committee meeting - May 8, 2023	The Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Summit County, the Executive Director of Access emergency shelter, the Executive Director of Harmony House youth shelter and the Real Estate Manager for the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority all attended and spoke in favor of the Consolidated Plan. Committee members asked questions relating to the Great Streets program and whether grants are still matching grants, the Akron Grows community gardening program, prospective new housing construction	N/A	
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				<p>in the City, requests to establish relationships between the Akron Public Schools and Youth shelters to assist the 2,000 students in the Akron Public School system who are essentially homeless (Project RISE), specifics regarding the \$540,000 in CDBG funds to support Public Service programs, whether or not funding for Great Streets projects was on a due date or rolling basis, how many Great Streets facade renovations occurred in 2022 and details on the voluntary Waiver Demolition program in regards to other</p>		
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Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
				vacant and burnt out buildings that take quite a while to get demoed.		

3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Akron City Council meeting - May 8, 2023	<p>The Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Summit County, the Executive Director of Harmony House youth shelter and the Executive Director of the Summit County Continuum of Care all attended and spoke in favor of the Consolidated Plan. Three residents also spoke before Council. One did not believe the funding went far enough in assisting the minority community, one spoke in favor of the funding but only if used correctly and the third speaker spoke in general support of the funding but voiced frustration in not</p>	N/A	
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Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
				being able to utilize the programs that are in place.		
4	Community survey	Non-targeted/broad community	Community survey	The survey generated nearly 200 responses.	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

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	6,003,795	300,000	0	6,303,795	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: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,742,494	0	0	1,742,494	0	
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	528,889	0	0	528,889	0	

Table 5 - 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 Federal funding thru the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant program. All subrecipients are required to match programs funded

with CDBG funds.

Under the HOME program, a 12.5% matching requirement will apply for 2023 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 be focusing attention on redevelopment of City-owned lots in the Summit Lake neighborhood, the Middlebury neighborhood and the North Hill neighborhood. The City will utilize City-owned properties to meet program goals as suitable projects are identified.

Discussion

N/A

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Rehabilitation	2020	2020	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$1,228,795	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 130 Household Housing Unit
2	Rental Housing Rehabilitation	2020	2020	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance	CDBG: \$150,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit
3	Homeless Assistance	2020	2020	Homeless	Housing Program	Homeless Families and Individuals	CDBG: \$40,000 HOME: \$300,000 ESG: \$528,889	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 60 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 1600 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Public Services	2020	2020	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	Housing Program	Public Services	CDBG: \$1,090,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 24750 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 31750 Households Assisted
5	Public Facilities and Improvements	2020	2020	Infrastructure and public facilities improvements	Housing Program	Public Facilities and Public Improvements	CDBG: \$600,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Households Assisted
6	New Housing Construction	2020	2020	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	New Housing Construction	HOME: \$1,437,494	Rental units constructed: 50 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 5 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Eliminate Slum and Blight	2020	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$550,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 30 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 30 Households Assisted Buildings Demolished: 40 Buildings Other: 12 Other
8	Economic Development Opportunities	2020	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$350,000	Businesses assisted: 12 Businesses Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Grants and loans for housing rehabilitation assistance to homeowners
2	Goal Name	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Increase supply of decent, safe and sanitary rental housing by providing property owners with assistance to maintain existing housing to code

3	Goal Name	Homeless Assistance
	Goal Description	Expand housing opportunities for homeless families and individuals
4	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Provide supportive services for low/moderate income individuals
5	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Goal Description	Maintain and repair streets, parks and public facilities vital to the residents of Akron
6	Goal Name	New Housing Construction
	Goal Description	Increase supply of affordable housing through assistance to housing development organizations for new housing construction
7	Goal Name	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Goal Description	Remove vacant, blighted housing that is infeasible to rehabilitate and is a threat to health and safety in order to protect neighborhoods. Use vacant parcels for community gardens where appropriate.
8	Goal Name	Economic Development Opportunities
	Goal Description	Provide financial assistance to businesses

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects and activities will be carried out to meet program goals

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Housing Rehabilitation / Historic Preservation
2	Rental Rehabilitation Grants and Loans
3	Neighborhood Property Acquisition
4	Waiver Demolition and Neighborhood Clearance
5	Neighborhood Relocation
6	Program Implementation
7	Public Facilities and Neighborhood Public Improvements
8	Community Gardens
9	Homeless Facilities
10	Great Streets Akron Business Districts
11	General Administration
12	Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation
13	Various Home Repair Projects
14	Beyond the Table Program
15	CDC / CHDO Housing Development
16	Exterior Paint Project
17	Community Services Program
18	Disability Modifications
19	Fair Housing
20	Business Incentives
21	Habitat for Humanity of Summit County
22	Section 108 Loan Projects
23	Homeless Rental Assistance
24	Homebuyer Assistance
25	Development of CDC's

Table 7 - Project Information

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

needs

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation / Historic Preservation
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	Funding	CDBG: \$828,795
	Description	Provision of grants, loans and technical assistance for rehabilitation assistance to eligible households or in eligible areas. Support of historic preservation to generate housing opportunities and economic development.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 60 households will benefit including low to moderate income families applying for lead abatement assistance, emergency roof repairs and property owners within target areas.
	Location Description	City-wide assistance qualified by income for lead abatement. Identified target areas.
	Planned Activities	Provision of grants, loans and technical assistance for rehabilitation assistance to eligible households or in eligible areas. Support of historic preservation to generate housing opportunities and economic development.
2	Project Name	Rental Rehabilitation Grants and Loans
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	Provision of grants and low-interest loans for rehabilitation assistance to owners of rental properties located in eligible areas
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10 families will benefit from the proposed activity

	Location Description	City-wide for rental owners who participate in the lead abatement program. Eligible target areas.
	Planned Activities	Provision of grants and low-interest loans for rehabilitation assistance to owners of rental properties located in eligible areas
3	Project Name	Neighborhood Property Acquisition
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Funding	CDBG: \$60,000
	Description	Acquisition of blighted properties or vacant structures
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program is targeted to vacant lots or blighted structures acquired in voluntary sales
	Location Description	Housing program areas
	Planned Activities	Acquisition of blighted properties or vacant structures
4	Project Name	Waiver Demolition and Neighborhood Clearance
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Funding	CDBG: \$420,000
	Description	Demolition of privately-owned blighted properties by owner request and demolition of City-acquired properties in selected areas
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 40 owners of blighted property will benefit. The City tears down properties based on the request of the property owner.
	Location Description	City-wide based on eligibility

	Planned Activities	Demolition of privately-owned blighted properties by owner request and demolition of City-acquired properties in selected areas
5	Project Name	Neighborhood Relocation
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Relocation assistance for persons displaced due to the acquisition and demolition of blighted structures
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	One family could receive relocation assistance in 2023.
	Location Description	Housing program areas / project specific
	Planned Activities	Relocation assistance for persons displaced due to the acquisition and demolition of blighted structures
6	Project Name	Program Implementation
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Homeless Assistance Public Services Public Facilities and Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Economic Development Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Homeless Families and Individuals Public Services Public Facilities and Public Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Provide Economic Development Opportunities

	Funding	CDBG: \$2,120,000
	Description	Administration expenses related to rehabilitation and development activities. Additional costs are associated with meeting Lead-Based Paint (LBP) regulations; costs include training, technical assistance, assisting contractors toward meeting lead-safe rehabilitation standards and LBP assessment, rehab and clearance. Costs also include normal processing costs associated with credit reports, title reports, recording fees, duplication and equipment purchase.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	Administration expenses related to rehabilitation and development activities. Additional costs are associated with meeting Lead-Based Paint (LBP) regulations; costs include training, technical assistance, assisting contractors toward meeting lead-safe rehabilitation standards and LBP assessment, rehab and clearance. Costs also include normal processing costs associated with credit reports, title reports, recording fees, duplication and equipment purchase.
7	Project Name	Public Facilities and Neighborhood Public Improvements
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Public Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$600,000
	Description	Capital improvements to upgrade streets, sewers, curbs, sidewalks, parks, street trees and public facilities where necessary
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 500 low/moderate income families and 500 non-low/moderate income families will benefit.

	Location Description	Various parks and streets city-wide and in Great Streets Akron program areas
	Planned Activities	Capital improvements to upgrade streets, sewers, curbs, sidewalks, parks, street trees and public facilities where necessary
8	Project Name	Community Gardens
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Supporting community garden initiatives in the City of Akron
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 60 families will benefit
	Location Description	The gardens are located on 7 city-owned lots located in low to moderate income neighborhoods
	Planned Activities	Supporting community garden initiatives in the City of Akron
9	Project Name	Homeless Facilities
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Families and Individuals
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000 ESG: \$528,889
	Description	Assist individuals and families at risk of homelessness.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 1600 persons will be assisted with emergency shelter
	Location Description	Emergency shelters city-wide

	Planned Activities	Assist individuals and families at risk of homelessness. Support existing homeless prevention and/or rapid re-housing programs that meet local needs. Resources targeted and prioritized to serve the population most in need of temporary assistance.
10	Project Name	Great Streets Akron Business Districts
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Economic Development Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	Assist business/property owners with exterior improvements to their businesses for the overall benefit of the surrounding low/moderate income neighborhood
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10 owners of business properties will be assisted with making exterior improvements
	Location Description	Great Streets Akron program areas in qualified neighborhoods
	Planned Activities	Assist business/property owners with exterior improvements to their businesses for the overall benefit of the surrounding low/moderate income neighborhood
11	Project Name	General Administration
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Homeless Assistance Public Services Public Facilities and Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Economic Development Opportunities

	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Homeless Families and Individuals Public Services Public Facilities and Public Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$175,000 HOME: \$5,000
	Description	Planning and Administration activities in order to provide the most efficient service to the community. This includes program planning, design, policy development and implementation, organization of financial functions, trouble shooting, program evaluation and modification as needed to efficiently deliver the services and assistance programmed in the Consolidated Plan.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	Planning and Administration activities in order to provide the most efficient service to the community. This includes program planning, design, policy development and implementation, organization of financial functions, trouble shooting, program evaluation and modification as needed to efficiently deliver the services and assistance programmed in the Consolidated Plan.
12	Project Name	Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	New Housing Construction
	Needs Addressed	New Housing Construction
	Funding	:
	Description	Construction of new single-family homes by a community-based development organization

	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will not receive funding in 2023
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	This activity will not receive funding in 2023
13	Project Name	Various Home Repair Projects
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	Minor home repair programs to address health and safety for elderly and disabled very-low income homeowners. Eligible repair items include roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, porches, gutters and downspouts and safety items (handrails, guardrails, etc.).
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 70 low-income, senior homeowners will receive assistance
	Location Description	City-wide based on program eligibility
	Planned Activities	Minor home repair programs to address health and safety for elderly and disabled very-low income homeowners. Eligible repair items include roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, porches, gutters and downspouts and safety items (handrails, guardrails, etc.).
14	Project Name	Beyond the Table Program
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	:

	Description	Matching grants used by community and neighborhood organizations for community-based programs and projects
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program will not receive funding in 2023
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	This program will not receive funding in 2023
15	Project Name	CDC / CHDO Housing Development
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation New Housing Construction
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households New Housing Construction
	Funding	HOME: \$1,067,494
	Description	Non-profit development of housing. Participants include the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC), Mustard Seed Development Center, Nazareth Housing Development Corporation, the Well Community Development Corporation, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance, the Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation (WENDCO) and others.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 55 families will benefit
	Location Description	Housing program areas
	Planned Activities	Non-profit development of housing. Participants include the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC), Mustard Seed Development Center, Nazareth Housing Development Corporation, the Well Community Development Corporation, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance, the Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation (WENDCO) and others.

16	Project Name	Exterior Paint Project
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	Funding	:
	Description	Non-profit organization performs exterior paint program utilizing volunteers
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program will not receive funding in 2023
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	This program will not receive funding in 2023
17	Project Name	Community Services Program
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$540,000
	Description	Various programs to benefit low and moderate income persons (infant mortality, financial empowerment, fair housing, information and referral)
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 45,000 families will benefit from a variety of programs
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Various programs to benefit low and moderate income persons (infant mortality, financial empowerment, fair housing, information and referral)

18	Project Name	Disability Modifications
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	Funding	:
	Description	Provide housing modifications for people with a disability
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program will not receive funding in 2023
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	This program will not receive funding in 2023
19	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,000
	Description	Support fair housing activities and the Fair Housing Contact Service in dealing with issues such as housing discrimination, tenant / landlord disputes, housing counseling, education and outreach
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10,000 people should be assisted with issues such as housing discrimination, tenant / landlord disputes, housing counseling, education and outreach
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Support fair housing activities and the Fair Housing Contact Service in dealing with issues such as housing discrimination, tenant / landlord disputes, housing counseling, education and outreach
	Project Name	Business Incentives

20	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Economic Development Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Business assistance based on job creation
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately two owners of business property will receive assistance
	Location Description	Target areas
	Planned Activities	Business assistance based on job creation
21	Project Name	Habitat for Humanity of Summit County
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	New Housing Construction
	Needs Addressed	New Housing Construction
	Funding	HOME: \$370,000
	Description	Non-profit development of housing for low-income families
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 4 families will purchase newly constructed homes
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Non-profit development of housing for low-income families
22	Project Name	Section 108 Loan Projects
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Economic Development Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	Funding	:

	Description	Projects utilizing HUD Section 108 Loans and repayment of Section 108 Loans
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	Projects utilizing HUD Section 108 Loans and repayment of Section 108 Loans
23	Project Name	Homeless Rental Assistance
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Homeless Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Families and Individuals
	Funding	HOME: \$300,000
	Description	Rental assistance to prevent families from becoming homeless
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 60 families will be assisted to prevent homelessness
	Location Description	City-wide based on eligibility
	Planned Activities	Rental assistance to prevent families from becoming homeless
24	Project Name	Homebuyer Assistance
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	Funding	:
	Description	Matching grants for downpayment assistance to homebuyers in eligible areas
	Target Date	12/31/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will not receive funding in 2023
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	This activity will not receive funding in 2023
25	Project Name	Development of CDC's
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	Assistance to Community Development Corporations to promote their development
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Neighborhood residents where CDC's operate will benefit from CDC activities.
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	Assistance to Community Development Corporations to promote their development

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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. Areas are chosen based on both income levels and existing conditions. This includes not only the age, value and condition of the housing stock, but also owner occupancy rates, household income and other demographics.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Housing Program	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City has found that a targeted approach creates more of an impact than spreading out assistance in a less centralized area. Akron will offer a variety of targeted assistance to assist property owners in keeping properties safe, warm and dry. Emergency assistance will be available City-wide for urgent needs such as leaking roofs based on income levels. Minor home repair will be offered to low-income seniors. Lead abatement will be combined with rehabilitation assistance in the most distressed households with children. While the City has felt the effects of vacant foreclosed homes and is working to selectively rehabilitate or clear vacant homes as appropriate cases arise, 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.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

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 extremely low-income households (30% of median income or below), 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	60
Non-Homeless	195
Special-Needs	0
Total	255

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	60
The Production of New Units	55
Rehab of Existing Units	140
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	255

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) provides affordable housing options to approximately 10,000 households throughout Summit County. AMHA's public housing program consists of over 4,300 apartments and single-family homes that receive federal rental subsidies for low income families as well as disabled and elderly individuals. AMHA also owns and/or manages over 500 apartments that are federally subsidized and/or financed with low-income housing tax credits or tax-exempt bonds. In addition, AMHA administers rental subsidy to over 5,300 households through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The City of Akron works closely with the AMHA 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 \$33 million for Housing Choice Voucher 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. AMHA utilizes over \$14 million each year in HUD funds to rehabilitate their public housing units.

In 2023, AMHA is considering the following actions:

AMHA may pursue repositioning the AMHA Public Housing portfolio through a variety of HUD repositioning tools including applying for a portfolio wide application for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program and Section 18 Disposition to address the significant Public Housing Capital Fund backlog.

AMHA completed a FY2020 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant process in late 2022 for Summit Lake Apartments and the surrounding neighborhood and will begin to implement the Transformation Plan and pursue a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for Summit Lake.

AMHA will apply for additional Housing Choice Vouchers through various Notice of Funding Opportunity Grants (NOFO) like Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing, Family Unification Program and Mainstream as they become available.

AMHA was selected to participate in the second cohort of the Moving to Work (MTW) Program Expansion with HUD which will calculate different ways of calibrating participants rent portions. The study will compare AMHA's current method of rent calculation to a new method which will group households by their income into tiers and all households within each tier will pay the same amount of rent for that prospective tier. Tiered rent households will pay approximately 28% of their gross income towards rent and utilities and will be eligible for hardships if their rent decreases. The study is being

conducted by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research and MDRC. It will evaluate the new rent calculation method's impact on households economic self-sufficiency and the costs and administrative burden to the housing authority.

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

Resident Councils are formed in the majority of the elderly/disabled buildings and in one of the family developments. Service Coordinators encourage the participation in resident councils and leadership opportunities. A limited amount of Tenant Participation Funds (HUD dollars) may be used to allow resident council leaders to attend various leadership trainings and provide programming for the residents of their building. Other uses of funds can be used to market and form resident councils at buildings where there is not a council present. Property Managers typically attend their respective resident council meetings. The AMHA Community Action Network (joint resident council) is involved in the AMHA Annual and 5 Year Plan process, in the revisions of the Admission and Occupancy Plan and the HCVP Administrative Plan revisions and in reviewing and approving the 5 Year Capital Plan.

Although homeownership participation is not a focus of AMHA as it had been in previous years, public housing residents are encouraged to apply for and enroll in the Family Self Sufficiency Program (HUD program) to establish goals, accrue an escrow balance, attend and complete financial management and homeownership classes and eventually obtain homeownership. Through that program however, there are only a certain number of slots available; therefore, AMHA as part of its strategic plan is exploring extending self-sufficiency elements to all residents living in AMHA housing.

In 2021, AMHA was awarded the Jobs Plus grant that focuses on public housing residents living at Summit Lake Apartments, Lakeshore, Dorothy Jackson, Roulhac Circle and Lakeshore Duplexes. Through this, program residents establish goals, participate in the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard (JPEID), have the opportunity to be employed by the program, and attend and complete programs that support their education, employment and financial goals. As public housing residents' employment income increases, residents are not charged additional rent based upon that increase for the length of the grant (four years) thus encouraging savings and budgeting for future rent increases or homeownership opportunities. As residents become stably employed and begin earning a living wage, Success Life Coaches support their goals, which could include homeownership.

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 – 91.220(i)

Introduction

The City of Akron is receiving a 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement of \$528,889. The City of Akron issued a request for proposals in February, 2023 to homeless service providers for distribution of 2023 funding. Funding priorities are given to rapid re-housing programs and emergency shelters. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for assistance to prevent homelessness more acute.

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 \$6 million annually through the SuperNOFA Continuum of Care process. These funds are primarily used for permanent supportive housing for the disabled and rapid rehousing.

The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care has incorporated an eligibility module into the Homeless Management Information System (H.M.I.S.). This new module allows 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.

The City of Akron and the Continuum of Care have adapted the Housing First model. Select organizations have applied for and received funding for several permanent supportive housing programs for chronically homeless single men and women following the traditional "housing first" model. Future housing projects will adopt the housing first model as determined by program capacity. The City of Akron and the Continuum of Care have effectively ended veteran homelessness by achieving the federal benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness. The Continuum of Care will continue to collaborate to make sure every veteran is housed.

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

As in the previous year, 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. In 2023, the City of Akron and Continuum of Care will operate a Housing Mitigation Fund that is responsible for housing outreach working collaboratively with area landlords and housing case management staff to identify housing opportunities for clients, both families and singles. The Housing Mitigation Fund will provide to pay for damages to rental units incurred by CoC

tenants. Additionally, the City will pay a signing bonus to landlords renting to CoC clients (homeless families and individuals). The CoC will hire a housing locator who will be required to actively seek out, obtain and maintain relationships with private and non-profit landlords to increase housing availability within the CoC system. The goal of ending homelessness is ambitious and several approaches are necessary. The Summit County Continuum of Care will continue to focus on the following key elements to reduce homelessness:

Establish/develop resources within our community to fund homeless prevention;

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 issues an annual RFP to all homeless prevention and rapid re-housing providers. emergency and transitional housing providers. The City's first priority is rapid re-housing and homeless prevention. At the same time, the City is still committed to assuring that the community's facilities for the homeless provide decent, safe and sanitary residence. Due to the pandemic, rental assistance to prevent homelessness has been increased and quarantine sites for the homeless have been established. This assistance will continue in 2023.

The City of Akron will use a portion of 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 2023 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 Continuum of Care network has created discharge planning policies for youth, health institutions, mental health facilities and corrections institutions to reduce the risk of homelessness. The Rapid Re-housing program (Home Again) is available for all occupants of 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 Summit County Continuum of Care have a system in place to address the immediate needs of families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless. As in the previous year, in 2023 agencies will continue to provide short-term (and in many cases one-time) rental / mortgage assistance, assistance in paying utility bills and food assistance. These services have increased due to the pandemic. 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

Discussion

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

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 City is reviewing it's Zoning Code for revisions. As in the previous year, specific actions or reform steps to be taken over the coming year to remove or ameliorate 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).

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The following actions will be undertaken in 2023:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

As in the previous years, the City again 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. The City also initiated an emergency roofing assistance program based on identified needs in the community.

The City Minor Home Repair Program is offered citywide.

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 of the Zoning code.
- 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, etc.).

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Akron will continue to combine housing rehabilitation assistance with lead paint abatement activity. The greatest incidence of lead-based paint is found in housing built prior to 1978. The greatest at risk population for lead based paint poisoning (or elevated blood lead levels) are children under the age of 6. Low-income homeowners with children six years old and under who are at risk for lead poisoning are eligible for Lead Grant assistance. The City of Akron utilizes both CDBG and HOME funds combined with

Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program assistance (awarded to the City of Akron in 2009, 2012, 2015 and again in 2019). 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 40 percent of children in some inner-city neighborhoods are threatened and 1 in 10 Akron children are affected by lead based paint. The Summit County Health Department continues to promote screening and intervention to children less than six years old to identify elevated blood levels. Screening initiatives are performed by the Health Department, WIC Clinics, Children's Hospital Medical Center and other area health care providers.

The City of Akron has incorporated the Environmental protection Agency's (EPA) Lead –Based paint Renovation, Repair, and painting program (RRP) requirements and the HUD Title X Lead Rule into their Housing Rehabilitation program. EPA's 2010 Lead Rule requirements apply to anyone who is paid to perform work that disturbs paint in housing and child-occupied facilities built before 1978. The RRP mandates pre-renovation educational requirements and requires the following:

- Firms must be certified
- Renovators must be trained
- Lead-safe work practices must be followed

The City of Akron maintains a list of active contractors working in Akron's housing rehabilitation program and/or other HUD funded programs such as the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program, and ensures that all current State lead licenses are maintained. The City of Akron holds an annual meeting to ensure that active contractors qualify for participation in the competitive bidding process and have all necessary up to date licenses. The City of Akron will continue to provide local training opportunities to contractors to ensure certifications and licenses are current. The City of Akron maintains XRF equipment for the Housing rehabilitation staff to perform the mandatory testing of Lead Based paint; also known as LIRA (Lead inspection/ Risk Assessment). The City of Akron conducts Lead clearances of property rehabilitated, to ensure the property meets clearance requirements. Currently our program staff includes 5 certified lead abatement risk assessors and lead abatement contractors. All contractors that work on City funded jobs are EPA certified ; their company's firms are registered with EPA. If undertaking lead abatement work, contractors and workers have the appropriate licenses. Akron has actively pursued grants to assist in the reduction of lead-based paint in Akron homes built before 1978, and which are occupied by low income households who have children under the age of 6 living in the property or who visit on a frequent basis (as defined by HUD). Akron currently operates the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program. This program provides , on average, \$10,000 in lead grant funds to assist the property in the reduction of lead hazards. In addition, federal Community Development Block Grant funds are also made available to assist in lead remediation.

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 mortality, Fair Housing Programs, financial empowerment centers and information and referral. 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 is active in planning and constructing low-income housing tax credit projects and offers home maintenance and budgeting training for its participants. Nazareth Dev. Corp. and WENDCO are planning purchase/rehab/resale home projects in 2019.

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 closely with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) and various partners. In turn, the City also works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when preparing Renewal and Redevelopment Plans. 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 – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

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	300,000
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:	300,000

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.	70.01%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(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 City of Akron operates HOME funded Purchase, Rehab, Resale program. The City may provide a developer's subsidy to participating non-profit CHDOs (Provider) to effectively reduce the homebuyer's monthly housing costs. The non-profit Provider secures from the homebuyer a mortgage in the lesser amount of the original purchase price of the property or a fixed amount. Depending on the period of affordability, the mortgage is reduced by a fixed percent (%) for each year of occupancy of the property by the homebuyer. The percentage (%) the mortgage is prorated is directly related to the affordability period. The mortgagee is the Provider. In the event of mortgage default by the homebuyer, within the effective duration of the mortgage, funds recovered are regarded as program income. This option also allows the seller to sell to any willing buyer at any price; participating jurisdictions can decide what proportion of net proceeds from sale, if any, will go to the homebuyer and what proceeds will go to the participating jurisdiction. Once the HOME funds are repaid, the property is no longer subject to any HOME restrictions.

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:

The City of Akron funds CHDO Housing development (purchase, rehab, resale) and new construction or rehabilitation of rental properties (lease/purchase) in conjunction with Low Income Housing Tax Credits with HOME funds.

All units receiving HOME Program subsidies are required to comply with a designated affordability period as required in §92.254(a)(4). The affordability period of any project is contingent upon the amount of per unit subsidy received and may be five, ten, or fifteen years long.

Recapture Provision for Owner Rehabilitation

The City of Akron currently operates a HOME funded owner rehabilitation program. The City provides grants and deferred loans to each eligible homeowner to assist with the rehabilitation. The deferred loan assistance amount must be repaid immediately upon the occurrence of any transfer of any interest, right or title in the property, or refinance of said property, or upon any default of the mortgage of the same date on the real property first written above, by which a note is secured. This option allows the seller to sell to any willing buyer at any price; participating jurisdictions can decide what proportion of net proceeds from sale, if any, will go to the homebuyer and what proceeds will go to the participating jurisdiction. Once the HOME funds are repaid, the property is no longer

subject to any HOME restrictions.

Recapture Provision for non-profit CHDO/ Homebuyer Purchase, Rehab, Resale

The City of Akron operates HOME funded Purchase, Rehab, Resale program. The City may provide a developer's subsidy to participating non-profit CHDOs (Provider) to effectively reduce the homebuyer's monthly housing costs. The non-profit Provider secures from the homebuyer a mortgage in the lesser amount of the original purchase price of the property or a fixed amount. Depending on the period of affordability, the mortgage is reduced by a fixed percent (%) for each year of occupancy of the property by the homebuyer. The percentage (%) the mortgage is prorated is directly related to the affordability period. The mortgagee is the Provider. In the event of mortgage default by the homebuyer, within the effective duration of the mortgage, funds recovered are regarded as program income. This option also allows the seller to sell to any willing buyer at any price; participating jurisdictions can decide what proportion of net proceeds from sale, if any, will go to the homebuyer and what proceeds will go to the participating jurisdiction. Once the HOME funds are repaid, the property is no longer subject to any HOME restrictions.

Resale Provisions for Rental

The City uses HOME dollars to develop new and rehabilitate existing rental properties through nonprofit developers usually in conjunction with Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Under a resale option, by contrast, an owner is obligated to resell the home to another income-eligible homebuyer. The sale must be at a price affordable to the purchaser, although the owner is also allowed to realize a fair return on the sale.

Our non-profit partner agencies are required to place deed restrictions as required under the HOME Program and delineated in 24 CFR Part 92 regarding the maintenance of affordability to convey fee title to any subsequent buyer within the prescribed period of affordability. The deed restrictions name the Director of the Department of Planning and Urban Development, City of Akron, Ohio or his/her agent, as the responsible party in determining conformance with the deed.

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.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).
6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).
7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(l)(4)**

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

See Akron / Barberton / Summit County Continuum of Care Regional Homeless Services Coordination Plan (attached)

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

All homeless related calls are now received at a centralized phone bank (United Way - previously Info Line but they merged) and then a referral procedure is used to forward the client and documentation directly to the homeless agency.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

The City solicits proposals from all interested parties and allows approximately 60 days to return proposals. The City follows several policies in its review of ESGP proposals - the City will provide assistance to a wide variety of shelters. Priority is given to homeless prevention and rapid re-housing programs. A second consideration will be given to emergency and transitional shelters. An emphasis is also placed on rehabilitation of structures and the purchase of furniture and equipment along with the support of existing shelters which continue to meet documented need over the funding of new shelters. Consideration is also given to agencies achieving established local performance measures. Nonprofit organizations receiving assistance will be required to provide matching funds. These funds will come from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR

576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

Akron continues to meet homeless participation requirements. The Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care continues to engage homeless/formerly homeless individuals to participate in the point-in-time count to serve on agency boards and other critical CoC events/processes so we may address the changing needs of our homeless individuals/families. One homeless/formerly homeless individual works with each team on the unsheltered count of homeless persons.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The City of Akron and the Continuum of Care recognize the need to develop performance standards for the administration of the ESGP program and all Continuum of Care projects (SHP and S+C). Listed below are basic performance standards identified by the City of Akron and the Continuum of Care that are consistent with previous years. The City of Akron and CoC will continue to their collaboration to further developing these standards.

For Emergency Shelters the following are required; households served, new households served, 90% of clients will meet with a case manager within 48 hours of their intake, 90% of clients will meet with case manager weekly to discuss housing goals, life skills goals, job readiness goals and referrals, 70% of the clients entering emergency shelters and who have successfully completed the program will attain safe housing following their stay, 50% of clients will maintain or increase total income (all adults) and 50% of clients will maintain or increase earned income (all adults aged 16 to 61).

For Transitional Housing the following are required; households served, new households served, increase the percentage of homeless persons moving from transitional housing to permanent housing to at least 78%, increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 51%, 90% of clients will meet with the case manager within 48 hours of intake, 90% of clients will complete a comprehensive service plan within two weeks of their intake, 50% of clients will maintain or increase total income (all adults) and 50% of clients will maintain or increase earned income (all adults aged 18-61).

For Rapid Re-Housing the following are required; households served, new households served, 75% of households will maintain housing for at least 6 months, 90% of clients will meet with case manager within two weeks of referral from central intake, 90% of clients will meet with case manager twice a month, 50% of clients will maintain or increase total income (all adults), 50% of clients will maintain or increase earned income (all adults aged 18-61).

For Homeless Prevention the following are required; households served, new households served, at least 75% will maintain or obtain housing for at least 6 months and <5% of those who obtain housing

will return to shelter.

For Permanent Supportive Housing the following are required, households served, new households served, increase the percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent housing for at least 6 months to at 78% and increase the percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 20%.

For Central Intake the following are required; at least 30% of those contacting the central point of access will be directed to other community resources, at least 80% of those referred to and qualify for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing will be housed, and 100% of clients will be assessed for housing options.

H.M.I.S. Performance Standards apply to all agencies receiving the following: Emergency Solutions Grant Program, Supportive Housing Program (Continuum of Care) and Shelter Plus Care (Continuum of Care) unless exempt by Federal or State law. Live data is entered into H.M.I.S. as part of the normal intake process within a 2-day period of time and all HUD-required data elements will not exceed five percent (5%) null responses.

