

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

In 2023, the City of Akron continued to move forward with activities to stabilize neighborhoods and assist residents in keeping a safe, warm and dry home while providing assistance to activities and organizations providing services for low income residents and seniors. CARES Act funding continues to be utilized to mitigate the impact of the COVID pandemic on residents, businesses and the homeless. CDBG-CV funds continue to be used for loans to businesses in a Revolving Loan Fund, business assistance and contractor assistance. In 2023, 34 loans were processed. ESG totals reflect ESG-CV expenditures in the totals. As in past years, the City combined rehabilitation assistance with Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program funding and Healthy Homes funding to maximize the efficient use of available resources and manpower. The City is also continuing to provide assistance to low-income residents urgently needing a new roof, but this program is winding down. In 2023, 70 homes received lead abatement assistance combined with necessary home repairs. 8 homes received a new roof. An additional 35 homes received both lead abatement assistance and a roof. Businesses continued to receive assistance for exterior facade repairs through the Great Streets Akron Program. 18 grants were processed in 2023. The Business Assistance Program continued to assist job creation and retention. Three projects assisted with Section 108 loans continue to make payments on 20 years terms (\$2,000,000 for the development of the new Middlebury Grocery Store in 2003, \$3.8 million for the Highland Square Grocery development in 2012 and \$1.85 million for the Whitelaw Building Redevelopment in 2018). In 2023, persons at risk of homelessness continued to be assisted with tenant based rental assistance.

Public service activities continue to benefit thousands of low-income residents. The Fair Housing Contact Service continues to provide assistance for fair housing issues. The City of Akron Community Service Program (CSP) provides lower income residents a range of public social services concentrating on mortality, public safety, the judicial system, fair housing, financial empowerment centers and information and referral. The City continues to move forward with eliminating blight by removing vacant homes and commercial structures. All homes are deconstructed prior to demolition thru a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The City continues to move forward with the repaving of City streets and improvements to public parks. Approximately 200 residents participated in gardening on City-owned lots.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual

outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Economic Development Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	35	62	177.14%	0	20	
Economic Development Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	22		0	3	
Economic Development Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	55	68	123.64%	12	21	175.00%
Eliminate Slum and Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	120	407	339.17%	30	60	200.00%
Eliminate Slum and Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	120	157	130.83%	30	60	200.00%
Eliminate Slum and Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	170	128	75.29%	40	18	45.00%

Eliminate Slum and Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	30	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%
Homeless Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / ESG: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	340	503	147.94%	60	94	156.67%
Homeless Assistance	Homeless	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / ESG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	6400	4899	76.55%	1600	1600	100.00%
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	495	338	68.28%	130	84	64.62%
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Housing for Homeless added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	
Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	

New Housing Construction	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	201	80	39.80%	50	0	0.00%
New Housing Construction	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	23	19	82.61%	5	5	100.00%
Public Facilities and Improvements	Infrastructure and public facilities improvements	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2000	307882	15,394.10%	500	0	0.00%
Public Facilities and Improvements	Infrastructure and public facilities improvements	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	2000	123068	6,153.40%	500	0	0.00%
Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		0	0	

Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	99030	403910	407.87%	24750	8033	32.46%
Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	119850	102354	85.40%	31750	353	1.11%
Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	0	0				
Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	

Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	0				
Public Services	Provide supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	0				
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	41	510	1,243.90%	10	29	290.00%
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	0	4		0	0	
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Housing for Homeless added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		0	0	

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The City's use of funds is consistent with the City's overall housing strategy as defined in Akron's Consolidated Action Plan and Strategy and CARES Funding Substantial Amendment. The City of Akron's housing strategy is to maintain and conserve Akron's affordable housing stock and neighborhoods, expand home ownership opportunities and address housing needs of lower income persons including the homeless and special needs populations. 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. The three broad strategy goals identified in the Five-year Plan are to provide decent housing, provide a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunity. In order to achieve these goals, priority activities are identified as assisting low income owner households, assisting low income renter households, assisting homeless families and individuals and assisting non-homeless special needs persons. Activities include neighborhood rehabilitation, new housing construction, acquisition and removal of blighted properties, rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing, homebuyer assistance, support facilities and public services and assistance to homeless individuals and families. The progress reports and IDIS activity sheets demonstrate the synchronization between spending and the activities and goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan. Each CDBG-assisted activity undertaken by the City of Akron, with the exception of Planning and Program Administration, meets one of two national objectives - benefit to low and moderate income persons or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Three projects assisted with Section 108 loans continue to improve the quality of life for Akron residents while increasing opportunities for employment. In 2003, the City supported the development of a grocery store / retail plaza in the Middlebury neighborhood. Anchored by a Dave's Supermarket, the plaza employs approximately 55 people. In 2012, the City supported the development of a grocery store in the Highland Square neighborhood. The Mustard Seed Market in Highland Square has 60 full time employees and 25 part time employees. In 2018, the City supported the redevelopment of the Whitelaw Building in a blighted row of storefronts in the heart of downtown Akron on S. Main Street. The Knight Stage at the Civic (in the Whitelaw Building) created a new concert / meeting venue to supplement the historic Akron Civic Theatre located immediately next door. Other storefronts are available for restaurants and retail. A new restaurant moved into the ground floor retail space in the Landmark Building on the corner (the northernmost building in the row of storefronts) that formerly housed a bank. A minimum of 53 full time equivalent jobs will be created in the entire development. Rehabilitation program outcomes have been influenced by lead abatement activities. Costs continued to increase in 2023.

Business assistance programs in Great Streets Akron Program areas offer investment opportunities in low and moderate income neighborhoods. CARES funding provided additional support to businesses and contractors. CDBG-CV funds and ESG-CV funds are being utilized

to help mitigate the impacts of covid on the City.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	2,307	4
Black or African American	3,084	2
Asian	50	0
American Indian or American Native	9	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	0
Total	5,454	6
Hispanic	444	0
Not Hispanic	5,010	6

Describe the clients assisted (including the racial and/or ethnicity of clients assisted with ESG)

	HESG
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	3
Asian or Asian American	8
Black, African American, or African	717
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	42
Middle Eastern or North African	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8
White	457
Multiracial	78
Client doesn't know	0
Client prefers not to answer	0
Data not collected	0
Total	1,313

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

The above charts for CDBG and HOME do not include many races including the Other Multi-Racial category, so the Total category is actually short of the total numbers of beneficiaries. Emergency Solutions Grant beneficiaries had not been tabulated as of the publication of this draft so 2022 numbers have been carried over.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	6,303,795	
HOME	public - federal	1,742,494	
ESG	public - federal	528,889	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Final expenditures were not available at the time of this draft. These will be finalized by mid-March, 2024 for the final report.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Housing Program	100	100	Housing Program

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

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. In the last ten years, lead abatement activities have taken precedence over targeted areas. Participants qualify based on household income. This continued in 2023. Emergency roof repairs are also based on household income. CARES funding assistance is based on applications.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City utilizes CDBG funding to leverage other Federal and State funding, including Federal lead abatement funding, State of Ohio OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) funds and Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant funding. All subrecipients are required to match program funds with CDBG funds. The City also encourages the leveraging of private funds for neighborhood development and community projects. Homeowners are eligible for deferred loans for housing rehabilitation. At sale or vacation of the property, the owner repays the funds, the lien is released and funds are recycled. In the City's Great Streets Facade Improvement Program, the owner is eligible to receive up to \$30,000 in assistance for exterior improvements to their business property in selected business districts. Costs exceeding \$30,000 are paid by the property owner.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
0	0	0	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	60	94
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	195	148
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	255	242

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	60	94
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	55	8
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	140	148
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	255	250

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

Final data has not been compiled for 2023 - the above chart is a carryover from 2022. This will be updated by the submission of the final CAPER. 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 taken as part of that plan include providing adequate land for a variety of housing types through review by Zoning and

Land Use and Development Guide Plan updates, working to eliminate obsolete and prescriptive building code requirements, continuing to educate the public on the need for affordable housing and promoting a diversity of affordable housing programs, continuing the practice of one-stop permitting and coordinating 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.). The impact of the COVID pandemic on employment, stability of housing and affordability has been significant and continued in 2023. A shortage of affordable housing still persists.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City will continue to assess affordability and adjust assistance accordingly. For sale housing continues to be in limited supply, but the market has cooled from 2021. The City's ongoing relationship with area Community Development Corporations, the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and involvement with the Continuum of Care Network has been important in achieving progress.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	108	79
Low-income	22	23
Moderate-income	6	0
Total	136	102

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Final numbers for the breakout of households served by income level has not yet been finalized for this Draft CAPER. The above chart is carryover from 2022.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

CARES funding continued to assist in increasing outreach and engagement. The City of Akron and the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care continue to expand outreach services with the addition of the VA funded CRRC (Community Referral and Resource Center) and two SSVF grants (Supportive Services for Veteran Families). This allows all the programs to operate more efficiently and increases the overall capacity of individuals served. The PATH funded Outreach Center continues to actively engage homeless individuals by offering free showers, hot drinks, phone access, and linkage to community resources. The PATH team provides daily outreach to homeless shelters, libraries, and meal sites. The PATH team works closely with all the programs who provide street outreach these include the VA funded CRRC, SSVF programs, and Safe Landing. Individuals identified as homeless are then referred to the appropriate CoC agency. The CoC agencies have a good working relationship and remain committed to ending homelessness in Summit County. Safe Landing Street Outreach Services (SOS) works with youth between the ages of 16 and 21 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Akron is the recipient of ESGP funding and provides oversight and management for the program. The City issues an annual RFP to all rapid re-housing providers, and emergency providers. The City's first priority is rapid rehousing. The City's second priority is the rehabilitation of emergency and transitional facilities. The City is committed to assuring that the community's facilities for the homeless provide decent, safe and sanitary residence. Because of the transient nature of shelter operations, these facilities incur significant wear and tear. It is important that the physical condition of these facilities remain high to provide good living conditions for the residents and maintain a standard of quality acceptable to surrounding properties and the community. CARES funding allowed the City to assist in establishing quarantine sites for homeless persons testing positive for COVID.

The City's third funding priority is for operating costs of shelter activities with an emphasis on the purchase of furniture and equipment. Again, the City is concerned with maintaining a quality living environment for residents and to respond to the inevitable wear and tear on facilities. Normal facility operating costs are also eligible for funding.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The COVID pandemic increased the need for immediate proactive steps to be taken to meet the needs of residents at risk of homelessness. Financial assistance includes short-term and medium-term rental assistance for at-risk families, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance and motel and hotel vouchers. CoC agencies currently use an HMIS generated report to track recidivism for all persons served by Rapid Re-housing dollars. Our community's Centralized Intake for CoC funded beds, RRH, SSVF and Homeless Prevention accesses information on prior service provision as a method of tracking recidivism. Centralized intake utilizes diversion practices and prevention assessments which help to identify alternatives to entering the shelter system for all who present at the front door.

The CoC continues to expand collaborations to prevent and end homelessness. Efforts within the CoC focuses on assessment and training to enhance prevention and diversion tools to close the front door. Rapid re-housing and homeless prevention data will be reviewed to determine best practices and coordination within the system to further enhance our delivery systems. The CoC, through the review of data, has identified all TH projects that may lend themselves to successful conversion to PSH. All TH programs have successfully converted from TH to RRH or the new TH-RRH model to efficiently move consumers into their own units and shorten the length of time that a consumer is homeless before receiving housing assistance. Partnerships with the VA and Housing Authority have begun work to increase the # of vouchers available to the CH population. In an effort to increase income levels for our consumers, the CoC continues to seek active involvement from non-profit CHDO's and workforce development.

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

Individuals who are homeless access services by calling 211 where they receive a screening and are referred to the appropriate CoC organization for follow up. Those individuals who represent a specialized sub-population like Chronically homeless, Veteran, or youth are tracked using the by name list. Individuals are assigned to specific service providers and progress is tracked during the monthly by name meeting and monitored by the CoC Board of Directors. The CoC, in collaboration with CSB and AMHA, has 40 beds designated specifically for homeless youth and former foster care youth upon discharge from the foster care system. Additionally, the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) has 12 permanent supportive housing units designated for youth (ages 18-24) who are disabled and experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Community Support Services and CSB have partnered with AMHA to make supportive services available for these individuals. Also, AMHA

continues to offer preference points to youths that have aged out of the foster care system. Case management services are provided to youths to assist them during transition. Community Support Services works closely with youths with a mental illness to stabilize them and locate housing. The City of Akron and the CoC continues to monitor the homeless system for gaps in outreach and services in an effort to shorten the time spent homeless and improve long term outcomes.

In 2022, Summit County Children Services decided to opt out of the CoC program. Two housing programs, previously operated bySCCSB were successfully transferred to Shelter Care and Harmony House. Both programs have been converted to RRH which can provide assistance. The young adults must have documented homelessness verifying homeless category 1 as defined by HUD.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

As in past years, the City of Akron meets throughout the year with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) to coordinate programs, monitor progress and discuss issues of mutual concern. In the past fifteen years, the City supported the Housing Authority in the construction of two HOPE VI projects by designating surrounding areas as Neighborhood Development Areas enabling the City to purchase surrounding blighted properties and offer rehabilitation assistance to property owners. The second of these projects was completed in 2012. The City programmed CDBG/HOME funds to support both projects, both within the new developments and in surrounding neighborhoods. The City is currently working with AMHA on planning for possible redevelopment in the Summit Lake neighborhood of the Summit Lake Apartments. An application is currently being prepared to apply for a Choice Neighborhood grant for the Summit Lake Apartments. In 2023, the City continued to work with Reimagining the Civic Commons and AMHA to form partnerships to strengthen amenities associated with the Summit Lake AMHA development and surrounding neighborhood.

Actions taken 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. Funds can also 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 and AMHA's Community Action Network (joint resident council) is involved in AMHA's Annual and 5 Year Plan, in the revisions of the Admission and Occupancy Plan and HCVP's Administrative Plan revisions.

The Reimagining the Civic Commons project in Akron is involving participation of residents of public housing. The City of Akron and Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority are active participants in the process.

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.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

N/A

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

As in past years, specific actions taken to remove or ameliorate negative effects of public policies include providing adequate land for a variety of housing types through review by Zoning and Land Use and Development Guide Plan updates, working to eliminate obsolete and prescriptive building code requirements, continuing to educate the public on the need for affordable housing and promoting a diversity of affordable housing programs, continuing the practice of one-stop permitting and coordinating 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.). The City Zoning Division is continuing to revise the Zoning Code to eliminate what may be overly restrictive requirements.

In addition to the above actions, 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. Information is disseminated utilizing mailing lists, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets. Presentations are also made at ward meetings and community gatherings.

Additionally, the Zoning Division is adopting and implementing form-based zoning in specific instances, which is generally less restrictive in terms of development and regulations.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City of Akron continues to educate the public on the need for affordable housing and promotes a variety of affordable housing programs. The City meets with lenders who serve the Akron area and holds public meetings to inform citizens of housing programs. The City takes action to eliminate identified gaps and to strengthen, coordinate and integrate the institutions and delivery system. These include one-stop permitting, coordinating social services within housing treatment areas and participating on committees/boards involved in housing and social service delivery.

One of the primary obstacles to meeting underserved needs is lack of funding. By applying for additional funding, the City can combine 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. In late 2019, the City was awarded a fourth round of Lead Abatement funding, along with additional funding thru the Healthy Homes Program. Additional lead funding was received in

2023. Additionally, in 2016 the City initiated a roofing assistance program to provide emergency assistance to homeowners with leaking roofs who had little means to afford repairs that was ongoing thru 2023. CARES funding and ongoing relief assistance continue to have a dramatic impact.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Akron Health Department and the Summit County Health Department merged effective January 1, 2011. The Department continues to provide extensive screening and intervention to children less than six years of age to identify elevated blood lead levels. Screening initiatives are performed by the Health Department, WIC Clinics, Children’s Hospital Medical Center and other area health care providers. The City has also received additional funding through the HUD Office of Healthy Homes Lead Demonstration Grant Program in 2009, 2012, 2015 and again in late 2019 to address lead hazards. More lead funding was received in 2023. In order to qualify for the Lead Demonstration Grant funding, applicants must income qualify and have children under the age of 6 residing in the home. The program is coordinated through the City's Housing Rehabilitation Division.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Akron continues to fund public service programs to assist those emerging from poverty. These include consumer credit counseling, family development services and information and referral. The City also works with AMHA, CHDOs and CDCs to support their efforts to train and uplift people in poverty. Akron partners with area agencies on economic development programs for low income, inner city neighborhoods. Akron citizens have opportunities in meetings throughout the year to offer suggestions on ways to reduce poverty. Copies of correspondence, newspaper ads, recordings of meetings, etc. are on file with the Department of Planning and Urban Development.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

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 assessed existing strengths and gaps in that delivery system and set forth a plan for improvement. The City aims to eliminate identified gaps and strengthen, coordinate, and integrate the institutions and delivery systems by pursuing other funding sources for affordable housing as they become available, holding regular meetings with AMHA to help ensure coordination on programs and monitor progress, expanding programs with lenders who serve the Akron area, continuing to work with non-profit housing developers, serving on committees and boards involved in housing and social service delivery and holding public meetings to inform citizens of housing programs.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Coordination and communication are 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 also works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when preparing the Renewal Plans for specified project areas. 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. An extensive network of collaborators has been established as part of the Reimagining the Civic Commons project in Akron including many representatives of the Housing Authority as well as the City of Akron.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

In addition to ongoing efforts to increase awareness of fair housing and fair lending issues, the City continues to work thru the Fair Housing Contact Service and the Fair Housing Task Force to address impediments identified in the Analysis of Impediments. To increase accessibility, the City is advocating accessibility language in the zoning code and increasing accessible units to ten percent of new units constructed (it is now five percent). Education on fair housing will be targeted to specific census tracts where redlining appears to be prevalent; the City will propose meetings with area banks regarding this topic. Many of these same areas are negatively impacted by slum landlords. Continuing efforts will be made to reach renters and make them aware of their rights while enforcing code regulations against landlords. Efforts will also be made to minimize displacement of residents during new construction or renovation activities by advocating projects to offer a range of housing types. The City will continue to promote fair housing in Akron for all classes and household types.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

As in previous years, a site visit is undertaken for each subrecipient at least once a year to assure that program goals are being met and activities are being carried out in accordance with written agreements. An annual audit is also required to be submitted to the City.

The City of Akron continues to take steps to engage minority business. The City continues to promote the hiring of minority businesses as part of the multi-year, combined sewer overflow construction project with costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The City continues to conduct training for CDL CSO equipment operators as part of this project.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care has a variety of committees that meet regularly throughout the year. Approximately 20 meetings were scheduled in 2023, averaging about a meeting every two weeks. This was consistent with the meeting schedule in 2022. Homeless service agencies and residents are invited for input and feedback. Additionally, throughout the year members of City Council and the City of Akron convene meetings open to 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. Information is disseminated utilizing mailing lists, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets. Comments are encouraged. The CAPERS report is published annually online and in the Akron Beacon Journal accepting comments for the annual submission.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction’s program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

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. The COVID pandemic did not alter the City's fundamental objectives in terms of housing and racial equity, but the ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic on both business and housing will continue to be evaluated.

In 2023, Akron continued to provide additional services to benefit business owners and contractors in order to help mitigate the economic impact of the COVID pandemic. This included the continued utilization of a Revolving Loan Fund for businesses established in 2020, a Small Business Resiliency Fund and the establishment of a Diversified Contractors Acceleration program (DCAP). These activities remain ongoing.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

All HOME assisted units are inspected at the time of completion of rehabilitation or new construction. Any issues are addressed. In 2023, there were no significant issues observed from on-site inspections.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

The City continues to utilize the Fair Housing Contact Service (FHCS) to promote the policy and practice of equal housing opportunity. FHCS activities are broken down into three major divisions: client services, research and public/industry education.

Client Services Division – provides direct advisory and referral services to residents with investigation, housing counseling and requests for information, tests the housing delivery system for discriminatory patterns and practices and investigates reported incidents of housing discrimination and harassment.

Research Division – staff review, investigate and monitor the local lending industry for compliance under fair housing laws and conduct research of local housing markets, housing providers and communities to assess the effectiveness of fair housing programs.

Public/Industry Education – combines the outreach and affirmative marketing activities of the agency. This division also provides for education of real estate professionals, lenders, public officials and community groups and offers various speaking engagements and community events to promote awareness of fair housing.

The City of Akron continues to follow established procedures of the marketing of HOME units in order to meet affirmative marketing requirements for the HOME program. Housing funded by the City of Akron's HOME program will not involve discrimination against any individual or family. Housing is made available without regard to race, disabilities, sex, age, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion or national origin. Developers participating with the City in the HOME program must comply with affirmative marketing requirements or risk removal from the program.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects,

including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

The expenditures of program income was not yet itemized at the time of this draft report, but program income was drawn in 2023 (no program income was drawn in 2022).

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

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.

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	3	1	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0	0			
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0			
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0			

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes,preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative