

# **2015-2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2015 ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**



**April, 2015**

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City of Akron, Ohio**

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[www.akronohio.gov](http://www.akronohio.gov)**

## **Executive Summary**

### **ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)**

#### **1. Introduction**

This 5-Year Consolidated Plan for the City of Akron, Ohio outlines the process and planning for the allocation of future formula program funding thru the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. Comments and concerns from residents, organizations and community leaders were used to help develop this Plan.

The goal of the Consolidated Strategy and Plan is to provide a single three to five year strategic plan to serve as a working guide for the application of resources to address local housing, quality of living environment and economic needs. The National Affordable Housing Act requires that for certain federal housing and urban development programs, the City must have an approved Consolidated Strategy and Plan. A strategic plan is a specific course of action for revitalization. It analyzes the full local context and linkages to the larger region. It builds on local assets and responds to the needs of the community. It integrates economic, physical, environmental, community and human development in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion so that families and communities can thrive. A strategic plan also sets forth goals, objectives and performance benchmarks for measuring progress.

An approved Consolidated Plan satisfies the statutory requirements for Akron's three community Planning and Development formula programs: CDBG, HOME and ESG. The statutes for the housing and community development grant programs set forth basic goals that relate to the major commitments and priorities of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Each of these goals must primarily benefit low and very-low income persons.

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

There are three broad strategy goals - to provide decent housing, to provide a suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunity. At least 70% of the Community Development funds are required to be used for activities that principally benefit low-income persons. All HOME funds and ESG funds will be used for activities that benefit low-income persons.

Objectives include assisting homeless persons to obtain affordable housing, retaining affordable housing, increasing the availability of permanent housing that is affordable to low-income people without discrimination and increasing supportive housing with features and services that enable persons with special needs to live in dignity. Outcomes include improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality facilities and services and creating jobs accessible to low and very-low income persons.

The City continues to support the rehabilitation of existing housing by combining rehabilitation assistance with Lead Abatement Assistance in order to maximize productivity and address more items in need of repair in selected homes. 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. Akron will afford property owners in these areas the opportunity to make an investment in each property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems - heating, electrical and plumbing - are in good working order.

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

The City allocates funding to a variety of programs primarily benefiting low-income residents including community service programs, community gardens, fair housing, support of neighborhood-based initiatives, blight removal, new construction and assisting neighborhood businesses to improve their exterior appearance.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

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

### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

Each year the City of Akron convenes a meeting of interested citizens, community organizers, low-income neighborhood residents and others including affordable housing advocates, providers, social

service agencies, homeless housing advocates, lending institutions and the Public Housing Authority to allow citizens an opportunity to present their views on community needs. The 2015 Annual Plan represents the first year of the new five-year strategy for 2015-2019. The public meeting for the 2015 Action Plan was held on August 27, 2014 at the Akron / Summit County Public Library.

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

## **5. Summary of public comments**

The City of Akron Department of Planning and Urban Development conducts an annual meeting associated with the preparation of the next year's Consolidated Action Plan to gain public comment. This meeting was held on August 27, 2014 at the Akron / Summit County Public Library. Plan outlines were supported.

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

N/A

## **7. Summary**



## The Process

### PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

**1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source**

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	AKRON	
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

#### Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Helen Tomic, City of Akron Dept. of Planning and Urban Development

Comprehensive Planning Administrator

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166 South High Street

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## **PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)**

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD), is the lead agency in the coordination and management of the process and preparation of the Plan. The City will lead and coordinate the consolidated planning, submission and implementation process. The City will continue to be involved in activities over the coming year which enhances 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, the Homebuilders Association, neighborhood organizations, neighborhood residents, business associations and health and social service providers.

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

**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 serves a dual role in the community. The City is the Collaborative Applicant for the Continuum of Care competition as well as the recipient of local ESGP funds. This role allows 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 consulted and collaborated with Continuum of Care Community Committee in developing the policies and procedures for the implementation of the new ESGP program rules. This process also included 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.

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

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. The City of Akron and the Akron/Barberton/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:

- \* Establish a planning process to develop a ESG and CoC policies and procedures manual that that will identify a committee structure, meeting guidelines, roles and responsibilities, refine performance measures, and criteria for poor performers and
- \* 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 ESGP performance measures and outcomes.
- \* Adopt a written ESG and CoC plan

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

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	INFOLINE, INC
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-homeless Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs HMIS
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Info Line, Inc. is a CoC partner agency. Info Line, Inc. is the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administrative agency. The City and Info Line work closely to provide homeless data as to make policy and funding decisions as they apply to our homeless population. The City contracts with Info Line to provide a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. Info Line provides a Lifeline Program, a electronic telephone emergency alarm response system for seniors and disabled living alone; 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; and provides a Community Voice Mail Program, which provides a consistent telephone number and free access to a 24-hour, local, personalized voice mail service which directly links persons in crisis and transition to jobs, housing, healthcare and stability.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Battered Women's Shelter
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Battered Women's Shelter (BWS) is in the process of consolidating operations and is renovating a new site to better serve victims of domestic violence. The City of Akron is working closely with BWS to facilitate this transition. The move will increase opportunities for life skills, self-sufficiency, and self-care programming for clients, greater opportunities for volunteers, and additional space for community involvement, while offering an improved space to operate a welcoming, safe haven for victims of abuse, and senior victims and children of victims regardless of their sex or age. The Battered Women's Shelter is also providing non-residential counseling to children who witness violence in an effort to break the cycle of violence and abuse and help promote peace in every family.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	HUMILITY OF MARY HOUSING, INC.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Families with children
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	H.M. Life Opportunity Services provides transitional services for homeless women and children. H.M. Life continues to support traditional transitional housing programs for women and children and may not be suited for rapid re-housing programs. H.M. Life advocates for the continuation of supportive services as clients move to independent living to include assistance with furnishings, household items, and car repairs.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Aids Network
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Community Aids Network provides transitional housing to HIV/AIDS homeless adult individuals. Agency was consulted to determine homeless housing needs of the HIV/AIDS population.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	ACCESS, INC.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	ACCESS provides an emergency shelter and services to homeless single adult women and to homeless women with children. ACCESS also provides homeless women and children. Agency was consulted to determine the homeless emergency housing needs of women and children.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	FAMILY PROMISE OF SUMMIT COUNTY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Family Promise of Summit County provides an emergency shelter for families with children. Agency was consulted to determine homeless emergency housing needs of homeless families.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Legacy III, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Legacy III provides transitional housing to single women recovering from chronic substance abuse.

8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	The Salvation Army
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Salvation Army provides an emergency shelter serving single-parent and two-parent families; which allows families to stay together.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Shelter Care, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Shelter Care Inc. provides emergency shelter to runaway or homeless youth and provides non-residential counseling to youth and families. Shelter Care was consulted to determine homeless housing needs of the homeless youth in Akron.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Akron Community Service Center and Urban League
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Akron Community Service Center & Urban League provides a Summer Enrichment Day Camp program which provides an opportunity for low income, inner city, and predominately minority children to attend a structured educational and recreational camp, that extends academic, social, and cultural education in addition to the traditional recreational activities.
11	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Legal Aid Services, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Community Legal Aid Services, Inc. provides a Financial Information and Legal Education program to low-income residents. The City of Akron reached out to Community Legal Aid to assess the legal needs of out low and moderate income residents.
12	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	FAIR HOUSING CONTACT SERVICE
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Fair Housing Contact Service provides activities that further Fair Housing within the City of Akron, including handling discrimination complaints, conducting systemic tests of the housing market, provide informational and resolution services to tenants and landlords, and provide homebuyer counseling to low and moderate income residents.
13	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	GREENLEAF FAMILY CENTERS
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Greenleaf Family Center provides Financial Services for Families program to teach financial literacy and money management to individuals and families who have great difficulty in dealing with financial issues, and help families move toward financial self-sufficiency and retain employment.
14	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AKRON, INC.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Education Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs



	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The International Institute of Akron, Inc. provides Cross-Cultural Counseling services (intervention, counseling and referral services) to immigrants, refugees, and foreign born new U. S. citizens in the Akron Community assisting them to access services, to maximize self-support and achieve their goals of self-sufficiency. Cross Cultural Counseling provides immigrant and refugee families with support, helps them avoid abuse and assists with resolving personal issues which can interfere with achieving self-sufficiency and successfully integrating into American culture.
15	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	MATURE SERVICES, INC.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Mature Services, Inc. provides Senior Activities Program of Homecare, Chore, Outreach and Volunteer Services to senior citizens and disabled residents of Akron. The Homecare services involve light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation and personal care. Chore services involve heavy cleaning and trash removal. Outreach services consist of assessing and reassessing client eligibility for services. Volunteer services means the placement of volunteers in Community Development and Emergency Solutions Grant funded programs.
16	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Victim Assistance Program, Inc. provides a Community Victim Advocacy Program to provide crisis intervention, counseling services, information and referral, individual support, personal advocacy, support group referrals and other victim related services to residents immediately and directly affected by major crimes including domestic violence, sexual assault, homicide, elder abuse, and trauma situations.
17	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	EAST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORP
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Neighborhood Organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City of Akron met with the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation to discuss the 2015 and 2019 Consolidated Plan and 2015 Action Plan as they pertain developing a housing strategy for low and moderate income residents.
18	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Nazareth Housing Development Corporation
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City of Akron met with the Nazareth Housing Development Corporation to discuss the 2015 and 2019 Consolidated Plan and 2015 Action Plan as they pertain developing a housing strategy for low and moderate income residents. Targeting the rehabilitation of existing housing.

**Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting**

## 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	Goals of the Continuum of Care are consistent with the Consolidated Plan

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

### Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

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 Akron / Barberton / Summit County Continuum of Care to address issues relating to homelessness.

#### Narrative (optional):

## PR-15 Citizen Participation

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

Every 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. These views based on comments are incorporated into the plan as necessary. Information will be disseminated utilizing mailing lists, neighborhood based groups, block clubs, City Council newsletters and various print media outlets.

### 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)
2	Continuum of Care Steering Committee	Homeless	Approximately 25 housing and homeless service providers attended the CoC Steering Committee Meeting.	Comments included individual homeless needs such as transportation, employment opportunities, job skills, counseling services, addiction services, life skills, education, parenting skills, and child care services.	N/A	
3	Continuum of Care Steering Committee	Public Services	Approximately 20 social services agency representatives attended the meeting to discuss social services needs of our low income individuals and families.	N/A	N/A	

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)
4	Continuum of Care Steering Committee	Non-Profit: CHDO/CDC	The City of Akron met with four local non-profit CHDO/CDC's to further examine housing needs within our community. Obviously lack of funding is a factor in addressing those needs. discussion were held to determine other state and local funding options.	N/A	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

# Needs Assessment

## NA-05 Overview

### Needs Assessment Overview

Approximately one of every five households in the City earns less than 30% of the HUD Area Median Income (approximately 17,590 households City-wide). While the majority of these households are in lower-income census tracts, the need for assistance to maintain safe, warm and dry housing can be found City-wide. Households with small children (under the age of 6) are even more financially burdened, with one in every three of these households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income. While 34% of the City's total households earn more than the HUD area median income, only 16% of households with children under the age of six fall into this category. Small family households, often with more than one person earning income, are the least financially burdened income group, but 18% of these households still earn less than 30% of area median income. Households containing at least one person aged 75 or older are also excessively cost-burdened.

Housing in need of maintenance is most prevalent in low-income neighborhoods, but no area of the City is immune to this. Foreclosures are still a problem in all areas of the City. For many residents, maintenance of their home has become problematic. Nearly half of Akron's homes were constructed before 1950, so maintenance needs are widespread. It is becoming apparent that many homes are suffering neglect upon being passed down to the next generation upon the passing or retirement of their parents. In many instances, the children who inherit the properties do not seem to want the homes, leading to vacancies and neglect. Vacant and abandoned homes are still a problem in certain areas of the City.

Access to community service programs in the fields of education, health, security, the arts, fair housing, etc. is sometimes difficult for lower-income residents and seniors. The City attempts to target programs to low-income areas to increase residents' access to these beneficial programs. The City's Neighborhood Partnership Program also supports neighborhood-based projects.

Combating homelessness and conditions that lead to homelessness are ongoing priorities. The Akron / Barberton / Summit County Continuum of Care meets regularly to both establish and monitor programming targeted to in-need populations.

## NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

### Summary of Housing Needs

Housing in need of maintenance is most prevalent in low-income neighborhoods, but no area of the City is immune to this. Foreclosures are still a problem in all areas of the City. For many residents, maintenance of their home has become problematic. Nearly half of Akron's homes were constructed before 1950, so maintenance needs are widespread. It is becoming apparent that many homes are suffering neglect upon being passed down to the next generation upon the passing or retirement of their parents. In many instances, the children who inherit the properties do not want the burden of maintaining the homes, leading to vacancies and neglect. Vacant and abandoned homes are a reality the City will continue to address and as the housing stock continues to age, the maintenance of the housing stock in Akron neighborhoods will continue to be a priority.

Demographics	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Population	217,074	201,111	-7%
Households	90,143	84,080	-7%
Median Income	\$31,835.00	\$34,190.00	7%

**Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics**

**Data Source:** 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

### Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households *	17,590	12,890	16,300	8,800	28,500
Small Family Households *	6,030	3,690	5,835	3,155	14,605
Large Family Households *	1,100	915	1,275	630	1,710
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	2,155	2,345	2,690	1,700	4,820
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	1,380	2,530	2,415	885	2,395
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger *	3,710	2,100	2,815	1,000	1,900

\* the highest income category for these family types is >80% HAMFI

**Table 6 - Total Households Table**

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 CHAS



## Housing Needs Summary Tables

### 1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	375	110	90	0	575	25	15	50	45	135
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	30	20	60	25	135	0	0	15	0	15
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	330	155	145	60	690	15	30	110	35	190
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	8,240	2,060	130	0	10,430	2,285	1,675	1,045	130	5,135
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,615	3,635	2,900	190	8,340	445	1,640	2,815	1,430	6,330

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	1,150	0	0	0	1,150	380	0	0	0	380

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Data 2007-2011 CHAS  
Source:

## 2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	8,975	2,345	425	85	11,830	2,325	1,720	1,220	210	5,475
Having none of four housing problems	3,895	5,310	6,750	3,265	19,220	865	3,520	7,905	5,240	17,530
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	1,150	0	0	0	1,150	380	0	0	0	380

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Data 2007-2011 CHAS  
Source:

## 3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	4,135	2,060	1,435	7,630	710	840	1,410	2,960
Large Related	895	490	65	1,450	60	220	355	635
Elderly	1,340	945	395	2,680	1,135	1,475	960	3,570

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Other	4,020	2,355	1,160	7,535	850	805	1,175	2,830
Total need by income	10,390	5,850	3,055	19,295	2,755	3,340	3,900	9,995

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data 2007-2011 CHAS  
Source:

#### 4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	3,495	810	35	4,340	645	400	315	1,360
Large Related	765	180	10	955	45	150	40	235
Elderly	905	375	35	1,315	825	655	340	1,820
Other	3,530	720	55	4,305	790	490	350	1,630
Total need by income	8,695	2,085	135	10,915	2,305	1,695	1,045	5,045

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2007-2011 CHAS  
Source:

#### 5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	360	110	175	60	705	15	4	95	35	149
Multiple, unrelated family households	10	65	15	10	100	0	25	30	0	55
Other, non-family households	24	0	15	15	54	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	394	175	205	85	859	15	29	125	35	204

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data 2007-2011 CHAS  
Source:

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Data Source  
Comments:

### **Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.**

Housing repair needs consistently increase at lower-income levels in both owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing. Seniors and families with small children are the most cost burdened income groups.

### **Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.**

Since 1977 the Battered Women’s Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties (BWS) has provided the emergency, transitional and rapid rehousing services needed by persons and families who are homeless due to domestic violence. In 2005, the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) legally affiliated with BWS and is the primary organization meeting the needs of victims of stalking and sexual assault. Together these two organizations lead our County in maintaining and advocating on behalf of these vulnerable pockets of crime victims. In 2013, BWS in Summit County provided 35,536 to 428 adults and children who presented themselves as being homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse.

Additionally, in that same year, the Rape Crisis Center was contacted by 1,007 victims of rape, sexual assault or stalking. While providing crisis and trauma services to the victims of these sexual crimes, the staff ensured that each person had safe housing on an immediate and ongoing basis. Any survivor needing shelter would have been immediately transported to the BWS and provided with identical supportive services.

These statistics, provided by each agency are consistent with those they have recorded in previous years, therefore we are estimating that approximately 2,250 persons will receive some form of housing support over the next 5 years. The agency is prepared to handle and provide services to as many as 124 persons per night. The domestic violence / sexual assault housing programs (shelters) can accommodate as many as 124 people on any given night. NO PERSON is ever turned away due to a lack of space. There have been some nights when the shelter beds are full and the agency has accommodated people on fold out couches and/or used area hotels for immediate and safe housing. The facility is capable of supporting victims of all age (senior living spaces), male victims, as well as persons with physical or mental disabilities.

### **What are the most common housing problems?**

In consultation with the City of Akron Housing Rehabilitation, local CHDO's and CDC's, we have determined that the most common housing repair problems confronting our residents (in order of need) consist of:

leaking roofs

windows

furnaces

hot water tanks

foundation issues

sewer and water lines

painting

siding.

Lead based paint in pre-1978 housing is an additional problem.

### **Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?**

The need for housing improvements is widespread at lower-income levels where housing maintenance costs exceed the capacity to save for necessary maintenance. Families with children under the age of six are especially cost burdened.

Senior citizens are one household type in need of home repair assistance. For example, Rebuilding Together, an agency which serves elderly with housing repair needs, provides repair services for senior low income homeowners through a contract with the City of Akron. Each year, the City provides funding to serve approximately 90 low income senior households. These households receive funding to do one minor home repair item up to \$5,000. The program always has a waiting list of seniors requiring assistance. Rebuilding Together has been operating this program in Akron since 1996.

A recent trend is the arrival of refugees from southeast Asia, who are in need of housing. The International institute, Asian Services and local churches help place the refugee population in safe and sanitary housing. AMHA (Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority) has a wait list of over 10,000 low income families seeking housing.

**Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance**

Vulnerable households are precariously housed throughout the City. Many are one paycheck away from evictions without the financial means to find other housing thus leading them homelessness. Others live in substandard housing conditions with little opportunities to attain better housing opportunities due to limited income.

Home Again, formerly the ARRA funded HPRP program, is a collaboration between the City and three social service providers located in Summit County. Infoline Inc., The Salvation Army and H.M. Life Opportunity Services coordinate and implement the homeless prevention rapid re-housing program for the CoC. The Home Again program is available to all individuals and families residing within Akron who are currently homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless but for this assistance.

Decreases in homeless prevention and rapid re-housing funds at the federal level significantly decreased the number of clients served. The CoC has worked to maintain HPRP services at lower funding levels. Home Again, the local HPRP program, has collaborated with the City to obtain ESGP and HOME funds, State of Ohio funds, and County TANF funds. The CoC will continue to pursue other funding sources to assist client needs. The CoC has in place a housing locator system providing assistance to clients and case managers in locating affordable, safe, and decent housing. To date over 1,600 units are in the database with over 300 landlords participating. At any given time, over 200 rentals are available. To date over 40,000 unique searches have been conducted. Case managers work closely with clients to access the Benefit Bank to determine eligibility for mainstream resources. Home Again outreach is ongoing with all providers and distributed a various seminars.

**If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:**

**Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness**

Several factors can be linked to housing instability and pose an increased risk factor to homelessness.

As the economy continues its slow recovery, the demand for affordable, safe, and decent housing continues to increase. In many instances, individuals have major barriers employment, this in turn impacts their ability to attain and retain housing.

Employment opportunities for homeless individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including substance abuse, criminal histories and psychiatric diagnoses, is difficult in today's economy. Although the CoC continues to coordinate with area job training programs, obtaining employment in the private job market continues to be an issue for our clients.

Additionally, the lack of decent and affordable housing in the City creates housing instability and poses an increased risk of homelessness for those households with a high cost burden or severe cost burden. In many instances, households in extremely low and low-income categories, predominantly renters, are at the greatest risk of homelessness. The data above indicates that over 98% of the low and extremely low-income renters, including the elderly, experience a cost burden that is greater than 50 percent of their income to meet their housing needs.

## **Discussion**

## NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

### Introduction

#### 0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	14,605	3,245	1,485
White	7,115	1,665	685
Black / African American	6,740	1,505	740
Asian	195	15	15
American Indian, Alaska Native	100	0	4
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	225	15	35

**Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI**

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

#### 30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	9,180	4,085	0
White	5,590	2,965	0
Black / African American	3,210	980	0
Asian	115	70	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	65	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	110	55	0

**Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI**



Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

#### 50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	7,315	11,195	0
White	4,725	7,430	0
Black / African American	2,350	3,350	0
Asian	65	155	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	25	25	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	65	150	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

#### 80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,535	8,220	0
White	1,110	5,740	0
Black / African American	364	2,290	0
Asian	0	80	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	55	45	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

## **Discussion**

## NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205

### (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

### Introduction

#### 0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	11,970	5,875	1,485
White	5,630	3,150	685
Black / African American	5,715	2,535	740
Asian	185	25	15
American Indian, Alaska Native	100	0	4
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	175	65	35

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

#### 30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,450	9,820	0
White	2,105	6,450	0
Black / African American	1,255	2,945	0
Asian	65	120	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	55	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	4	170	0

**Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI**

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

**50%-80% of Area Median Income**

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,500	17,015	0
White	915	11,245	0
Black / African American	510	5,185	0
Asian	25	195	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	50	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	10	210	0

**Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI**

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

**80%-100% of Area Median Income**

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	150	9,605	0
White	75	6,775	0
Black / African American	50	2,605	0
Asian	0	80	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	30	70	0

**Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI**

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

\*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

## **Discussion**

## NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

### Introduction:

### Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	53,020	17,020	16,170	1,670
White	39,340	10,855	8,290	745
Black / African American	11,940	5,510	7,185	805
Asian	725	110	185	75
American Indian, Alaska Native	45	80	110	4
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	620	265	175	35

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

### Discussion:

### **NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)**

**Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?**

**If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?**

**Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?**

# NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

## Introduction

### Totals in Use

	Program Type						
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Disabled *
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	
# of units vouchers in use	0	8	3,996	4,818	176	4,574	5
							0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type  
 \*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

### Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type						
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	
Average Annual Income	0	5,871	9,871	9,233	12,018	9,136	6,790
Average length of stay	0	5	6	5	3	5	15
Average Household size	0	3	2	2	1	2	1



Program Type										
	Certificate	Mod- Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total					Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	1	1,006	651	89	559		2		1
# of Disabled Families	0	1	1,028	1,227	44	1,151		25		3
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	8	3,996	4,818	176	4,574		48		5
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

## Race of Residents

Program Type											
Race	Certificate	Mod- Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total					Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	1,675	1,717	93	1,587			28	4	0
Black/African American	0	8	2,260	3,079	83	2,965			20	1	0
Asian	0	0	55	15	0	15			0	0	0

Race	Program Type						
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	5	6	0	6	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition							

Table 24 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

## Ethnicity of Residents

Ethnicity	Program Type						
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	
Hispanic	0	1	27	39	2	37	0
Not Hispanic	0	7	3,969	4,779	174	4,537	5
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition							

Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

## **Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:**

There are approximately 10,000+ households on AMHA's public housing waitlist and 14,000+ households on AMHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program ("HCVP") waitlist. The following households on the waitlist have indicated the need for an accessible unit:

Public housing family: 0.06%

Public housing senior: 1.83%

HCVP: 0.24%

It is important to note that younger disabled tenants are increasingly living in senior housing. Some AMHA senior buildings have a population of 50% younger disabled tenants.

### **Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders**

Requests for physical modifications of rental units, transfer to accessible units and requests for an additional bedroom for a live-in aide or medical equipment are common. Of the requests for physical modifications, walk-in or roll-in showers, grab bars in the bathrooms, lower countertops in the kitchen/bath and no-stair living are the most frequent. The average wait for an accessible unit in the past 12 months was 171 days for a prospective tenant on the AMHA waitlist.

### **How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large**

AMHA can only speak about its population, and has encouraged the COC to seek a consultant to determine the housing needs of the county's population.

### **Discussion**

## **NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)**

### **Introduction:**

The City of Akron and the Akron/Barborton/Summit County Continuum of Care represent a broad collaborative effort to provide housing and supportive service to homeless clients creating the CoC system network. Homeless providers meet on a regular basis to develop strategies to further enhance the local CoC system thru review and collaboration by providing homeless prevention, emergency, transitional, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing to homeless individuals, families, and special needs populations.

The CoC Committee evaluates the needs in the community and identifies existing gaps. The Continuum of Care system provides the homeless with not only shelter, but supportive services to equip them with the tools necessary to assist them in overcoming this difficult period in their lives. CoC agencies are working closely to develop a communitywide central intake to encompass all homeless assistance systems. As part of this process, the City of Akron and the CoC will develop and utilize a system-wide common assessment tool for all homeless assistance systems and entry-points. The implementation of a centralized intake system will streamline the entry process and open doors for homeless clients. With an established centralized intake system the CoC can identify system-wide barriers to entry in the CoC and work CoC partners to address common barriers homeless face when entering the system.

Screening tools are also in place to make determinations on client needs. The use of screening tools allows case managers to establish the immediate needs of the client, available resources, and housing options. This process allows case managers to make referrals to the appropriate service providers as determined by the initial screening. As the CoC develops a coordinated central intake system for our clients, members will develop a common screening tool for all front door and non-front door agencies.

For homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services the CoC has developed and utilizes a common screening tool during intake. The Home Again Housing Resource Specialists determines client eligibility for homeless prevention or rapid re-housing services. Clients are then referred to the appropriate service providing agency. Home Again partner agencies have established working relationships with area agencies that serve the homeless and clients at imminent risk of losing their housing.

## Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	19	278	1,077	983	474	81
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	11	150	150	136	10
Persons in Households with Only Adults	149	396	3,045	2,582	134	50
Chronically Homeless Individuals	95	19	406	330	67	36
Chronically Homeless Families	0	1	0	13	13	116
Veterans	35	62	262	93	29	76
Unaccompanied Child	0	11	150	150	136	10
Persons with HIV	2	9	16	15	3	70

Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Data Source Comments:

Proj. Type	Organization Name	Project Name	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children	Beds HH only Children	Youth Beds	Overflow Beds	Total Beds	Utilization Rate
ES	ACCESS Inc.	ACCESS Shelter	22	8	0	0	5	35	100%
ES	Battered Women's Shelter	Crisis Center	12	4	0	0	0	16	69%
ES	Family & Community Services	Valor Home - IOP Beds	0	6	0	0	0	6	100%

ES	Family Promise	Interfaith Hospitality Network	14	0	0	0	0	14	79%
ES	Haven of Rest Ministries	Harvest Home	27	2	0	0	0	29	100%
ES	Haven of Rest Ministries	Harvest Homes - Women's Day Room	0	20	0	0	4	24	100%
ES	Haven of Rest Ministries	Haven of Rest	0	100	0	0	62	162	100%
ES	Salvation Army	Booth Manor	20	0	0	0	0	20	100%
ES	Shelter Care	Safe Landing	0	0	21	21	0	21	33%
ES	Tarry House	Tarry House Respite	0	12	0	0	0	12	92%
		TOTAL	95	152	21	21	71	339	

Table 27 - Emergency Shelters - eHIC 2014

Organization Name	Project Name	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children	Veteran Beds	Youth Beds	Total Beds	Utilization Rate
ACCESS Inc.	Step II	0	8	0	0	8	100%
Battered Women's Shelter	Step II	30	5	0	0	35	100%
Battered Women's Shelter	Step III	45	5	0	0	50	100%
Community AIDS Network	Micah House	0	5	0	0	5	100%
Community Health Center	HOPE I	0	4	0	0	4	100%
Community Health Center	HOPE II	0	7	0	0	7	100%
Community Health Center	Horizon House	0	5	0	0	5	100%
Community Health Center	Horizon House II	0	7	0	0	7	100%
Community Health Center	Peachtree Estates	23	0	0	0	23	100%

Community Health Center	Sherman & Burton Street	0	6	0	0	0	6	100%
Community Support Services	Rent Subsidy	2	51	0	0	0	53	100%
Family & Community Services	Valor Home	0	30	30	0	0	30	87%
H.M. Life Opportunity Services	Copley Rd. Treeside Northfiled Broadway	87	0	0	0	0	87	91%
Haven of Rest Ministries	Men's Residential Program	0	28	0	0	0	28	100%
Haven of Rest Legacy III	Emerging Women	0	4	0	0	0	4	100%
Legacy III	Emerging Women	0	6	0	0	0	6	83%
Summit County Children Services Board	Transition to Independence	0	10	0	0	0	10	60%
Summit County Children Services Board	Transition to Independence II	0	10	0	0	0	10	90%
	TOTAL	187	191	0	0	0	378	

Table 28 - Transitional Housing - eHIC 2014

#### eHIC

The City of Akron and the CoC have reviewed Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness as the local CoC coordinates the adoption of local priorities to end homelessness.

The CoC continues to support local emergency and transitional shelters. Since 1996, the City has been a strong supporter of such programs. Above is a comprehensive list of housing options throughout the City of Akron and the County.

As an alternative to emergency and transitional housing options, the City is a strong proponent of homeless prevention and rapid re-housing opportunities. The City along with partner agencies provide:

#### Rental Assistance:

- Home Again (Infoline) Homeless Prevention: The Salvation ArmyThe Battered Women's Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing: H.M. Life Opportunity Services

**Utility Assistance:** Department of Job and Family Services

Employment opportunities for homeless individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including substance abuse, criminal histories and psychiatric diagnoses, are difficult in today's economy. Although the CoC continues to coordinate with area job training programs, obtaining employment in the private job market continues to be an concern for individuals with barriers and is an obstacle to housing.

The availability of safe, decent, affordable housing is an additional concern for this population. In many instances, landlords are unwilling to rent to clients that have an eviction or a record. Attaining and retaining housing is a concern without viable employment opportunities for housing sustainability.

The City of Akron and the CoC believe that the community has a sufficient number of emergency shelter beds and transitional housing beds to meet the needs of our residents. Within the City of Akron, 339 emergency beds and 378 transitional housing beds are available.

The CoC anticipates that HUD will continue to support funding for rapid re-housing thus moving our clients out of shelter and into a stable housing option.



After years of permanent supportive housing development, the CoC continues to identify the need for more permanent supportive housing beds. Although the CoC has over 500 permanent supportive housing beds available, the 2014 Housing Inventory Chart indicated a gap of 379 beds. The CoC and the City of Akron will continue to work with HUD and community partners to develop additional permanent supportive housing beds for the chronically homeless and special needs populations.

Proj. Type	Organization Name	Project Name	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children	CH Beds	Veteran Beds	Total Beds	Utilization Rate
PSH	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority - Community AIDS Network	Shelter Plus Care (G Grant)	9	24	0	0	33	91%
PSH	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority - Community AIDS Network	Shelter Plus Care (Q Grant)	5	10	0	0	15	100%
PSH	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority - Community Support Services	Shelter Plus Care (D Grant)	16	55	4	0	71	97%
PSH	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority - Community Support Services	Shelter Plus Care (J Grant)	4	33	0	0	37	89%
PSH	Akron MHA	HUD-VASH	33	55	60	88	88	97%
PSH	Community AIDS Network	Harmony Place	7	16	0	0	23	100%
PSH	Community Health Center	Fox II	0	3	3	0	3	100%
PSH	Community Health Center	McTaggart Court I	0	15	15	0	15	100%
PSH	Community Health Center	Peachtree II	9	0	0	00	9	100%
PSH	Community Health Center	Peachtree III	16	0	0	0	16	100%
PSH	Community Health Center	Renew I	0	3	3	0	3	100%
PSH	Community Health Center	Summit Terrace	0	21	0	0	21	100%
PSH	Community Support Services	Madaline Place	0	60	30	6	60	

PSH	Legacy III	Brubaker Program	0	14	4	0	14	100%
PSH	Legacy III	Humble Beginnings	0	11	0	0	11	100%
PSH	North Coast Community Homes	322 E. South St.	0	9	9	0	9	100%
PSH	North Coast Community Homes	Safe Haven Waterloo	0	8	0	0	8	100%
TOTAL			99	337	128	94	436	

Table 29 - Permanent Supportive Housing - eHIC 2014 part a

Proj. Type	Organization Name	Project Name	Beds HH w/ Children	Beds HH w/o Children	CH Beds	Veteran Beds	Total Beds	Utilization Rate
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	ACCESS Home	23	0	0	0	23	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Blackbird Landing	0	7	7	0	7	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Blue Heron	0	8	8	0	8	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Blue Heron II	0	8	8	0	8	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Brambling Path	0	8	0	0	8	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Cardinal's Peak	0	14	14	0	14	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Pheasant's Run	0	4	0	0	4	100%
PSH	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Quail's Nest	0	4	0	0	4	100%
PSH	Oriana House	Project Beginnings	0	11	0	0	11	100%

	TOTAL	23	64	37	0	87
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Table 30 - Permanent Supportive Housing - e HIC part b

Indicate if the homeless population is:    Has No Rural Homeless

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

### Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	1,133	0
Black or African American	1,759	0
Asian	30	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	30	0
Pacific Islander	30	0
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	60	0
Not Hispanic	2,921	0

Data Source

Comments:

### Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

The City of Akron and the Continuum of Care conducted point-in-time counts in January 22, 2013 and January 28, 2014. The need for emergency shelter and transitional housing appears to have remained stagnant between 2013 and 2014. There were 88 households (278 total persons) staying in emergency/transitional housing during the 2013 point in time count. During the 2014 point in time count, 87 families (272 total persons) were in need of emergency/transitional housing.

The 2014 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count estimated that there were a total of 693 total persons in shelters or on the streets on January 28, 2014. Of those, 39% or 272 of the homeless in Akron were members of a homeless family comprised of both adults and children. Of the 272 persons in a homeless family, 65% (178) were sheltered in transitional housing programs, and about 35% (94) were sheltered at local emergency shelters.

The number decreased minimally as the City and the CoC continue to divert clients from homeless through the Home Again program. Clients entering the emergency shelter system are rapidly re-housed and diverting them from the transitional housing system if they qualify for rapid re-housing.

### Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

### Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

The 2013 Point-in-Time Count (the last full street/shelter count completed) indicated that there were a total of 545 homeless individuals in Akron/Summit County. Of those, 396 (73%) were sheltered in either emergency or transitional housing units. The remaining 149 (27%) were unsheltered, residing on the streets.

Of the 94 homeless households, 6 (6%) were unsheltered or on the streets. Furthermore, 19 households with at least one child were on the streets during the 2013 point-in-time count. The remaining 88 households were in emergency or transitional housing units.

**Discussion:**

## **NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)**

### **Introduction:**

There are certain segments in the populations that may require “Special Needs”. Persons meeting one of the following criteria are classified as special needs populations:

- Mentally ill
- Handicapped
- Elderly and frail elderly
- Developmentally disabled
- Drug/alcohol abusers
- AIDS
- Veterans

### **Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:**

The City of Akron is working with our partner agencies to identify and to provide appropriate affordable housing options for non-homeless special needs populations, many who are at risk of being homeless. The Non-Homeless Special Needs population includes elderly and frail elderly, persons with severe mental illness, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, alcohol and drug addicted, and persons with AIDS and related diseases, and veterans.

### **What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?**

Mental Health – Akron, the CoC, and the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority continue to administer Shelter Plus Care and HUD-VASH vouchers to clients with mental health concerns, which allow mental health clients to live in the community. However, such assistance must be coupled with the necessary mental health support services. Supportive service needs are in part met by local levy funding. However, other federal, State and local funds are also available often through competitive grant applications. The need for additional vouchers remains high if we are to meet our needs.

Physically Disabled - There is relatively little accessible housing for people with physical disabilities. The Dorothy Jackson Apartments (28 units) was designed for the handicapped. The Public Housing authority has units to accommodate some handicapped persons. The Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc., an organization representing persons with disabilities, indicates that over the past several years there has been an overwhelming number of requests for affordable accessible housing, and home modification for supportive housing. Federal funds may be available to develop such housing. The City of

Akron sets aside funds for retrofitting homes of disabled individuals living in the City. As the population becomes older and living longer, there will be a need to modify homes to allow residents to remain in their homes. Future homes should take into account modifications such as one, no step entryway, electrical outlets 18 inches from the floor for those in wheelchairs.

**Elderly and Frail Elderly** – As the City continues to partner with local developers for the creation of new senior housing options, the need continues as our population continues to age. Vacancy rates for elderly housing have in the past demonstrated that there are currently enough standard units. However, programs tailored to frail elderly (for both seniors in public housing and for seniors residing in apartments or their own homes) could be a cost effective alternative to nursing home care. Programs which promote shared living among the elderly would result in less of a strain on the housing budget of the elderly and could address the problem of "over-housing" (elderly households living in large housing units which they often cannot maintain). **Developmentally Disabled** - The Summit Housing Development Corporation is charged with obtaining housing for its clients. Its goal is to purchase, using private State funds, single family homes with 3 to 4 bedrooms. These homes are to be purchased throughout Akron. Up to four developmentally disabled individuals will live together and if needed, a couple or individual in residence will provide supervision. In addition, levy funds help provide supportive services and the a workshop for individuals living in "family" homes as well as those living with parents/relatives.

**Persons with Alcohol/Drug Addiction** - The Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM Board) is the local government authority responsible for planning, funding and evaluating alcohol and drug services along with mental health services. The ADM Board contracts with treatment agencies to provide needed services. The services array includes outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, drop-in-observation services, non-medical residential services, medically supervised detox, case management, and medication assistance maintenance. The public substance abuse system in Summit County has agencies designed to serve special populations with culturally specific programs as well as programs to target the elderly and teens. There is a waiting list for residential services. The need for more affordable housing exists for persons in this category.

### **Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:**

**Persons with AIDS and Related Diseases** - More affordable housing is needed county-wide for persons with AIDS. By the end of 2008, there were estimated to be 949 persons diagnosed with AIDS living in Summit County. Over 100 additional individuals living in Akron have AIDS. Some of these individuals also fall into other categories of special needs such as those with drug addiction. Persons with AIDS often need progressively more intensive medical care due to the nature of the disease. Therefore, affordable housing options must be attainable as clients seek medical care.

### **Discussion:**

Administrative fees, i.e. the funds available to operate the primary Housing Choice Voucher Program, have been cut to historically low levels over the past several years. As a result, staffing for the program was cut through attrition and reassignment in 2014 reducing capacity to serve special needs populations through new project-basing of vouchers. While the housing authority considers the use of project-based vouchers to support permanent supportive housing a critical strategy, and in fact, project-based vouchers for 100% of the units at 2 new developments serving chronically homeless and veteran populations in 2014 and a 3rd under development, regulatory requirements and reduced staffing have put that option on hold for new proposals.

Likewise, the reduced administrative fees have caused the housing authority to decline invitations to expand the 60-voucher HUD-VASH program. Akron MHA's HUD-VASH maintains a strong track record as a successful program in large part due to the efforts by staff to collaborate with Veterans Affairs staff, VASH clients, and participating property owners. With administrative fees in the 60/70% range, the agency cannot increase the program size and manage it well.

AMHA administers the Shelter Plus Care grants through the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care which provide a maximum of 126 vouchers for individuals who are homeless, have either a mental health disability or HIV/AIDS- related disability, and need supportive services with one of our partner agencies, Community Support Services or the Community AIDS Network. The administrative funds awarded over the past two years have ranged from 6.4% – 10%. All additional funds needed to administer Shelter Plus Care have been covered by HCVP administrative funds, continuing to deplete agency funds due to consistent underfunding of the program. (Current administrative fees are prorated at 74%.)



## **NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)**

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:**

#### Public Facility Needs

The City of Akron operates 129 parks and recreation areas, encompassing over 2,100 acres. Approximately 66 of the parks are developed, active parks. Three are partially developed and 60 are categorized as national or passive parks.

The City of Akron is preparing a Bicycle Plan to establish a vision for cycling in Akron that establishes a baseline policy document from which a bikeway planning program can be implemented. This Plan is meant to integrate bicycle education and planning through all departments, engage community involvement and guide the funding of activities and projects that foster a safe and friendly environment for bicyclists and motorists throughout the city and region. The Akron Bicycle Plan identifies principles, goals, objectives and recommendations regarding the establishment of a comprehensive bikeway network and related infrastructure, safety, educational and promotional programs to create a bicycle friendly community. The City has started to undertake improvements to enhance conditions for cycling in Akron including the striping of bike lanes and the marking of sharrows (share the road arrows) directly on the street. Bicycle signage is also being erected. Bike racks are being installed within existing right-of-ways throughout the City. Bicycle accommodations will be addressed as part of the routine preparation, planning and engineering of all street improvement projects.

Neighborhood-school Parks Plan. This plan involves the development of neighborhood parks near the neighborhood elementary school. The goal is to have parks located within 1/2 mile of most Akron residents.

In the identified neighborhoods, the City has invested with partner organizations such as the Akron Public Schools, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and non-profit developers. The City's primary goals are to reduce vandalism, maintenance requirements and non-staff operating costs and to improve recreational opportunities and user safety. The City also seeks to increase/improve police and fire protection and increase the efficiency of garbage collection, public health services and snow removal.

### **How were these needs determined?**

Consultation with the City's Engineering Division, Public Service Division and Planning staff.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:**

The 5 year Capital Investment Program is a schedule of capital improvements in the City of Akron that are programmed to meet the following objective

- To maintain and repair facilities vital to the residents of Akron.
- To reduce long-term operating costs.
- To encourage private investment.
- To match Federal, State and private funds.
- To provide for the orderly growth of the City.

When the budget is adopted, it represents the priorities of Akron's citizens. Each year, a list of requested capital investments is compiled from suggestions made at periodic meetings with all members of Council, request forms completed by City personnel, cabinet meetings, and citizens. The Department of Planning assembles all of the requests and prepares a preliminary capital budget based on available revenues and the five objectives listed.

### **How were these needs determined?**

The Planning Department consulted with the Engineering Division and the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

Akron's aging infrastructure requires constant repair. The City of Akron owns and operates a very complex water and sewer system that serves the residents of Akron as well as the majority of Summit County. It requires constant improvements to meet increasingly stringent EPA standards. Akron's water and sewer system needs improvements to both the Water Treatment Plant and Water Pollution Control Facility and water and sewer distribution system to maintain water quality and public health and safety. A recent estimate for repairs to the water infrastructure is approximately \$500 million, (per Akron Beacon Journal Article). In addition the City is implementing its \$1.4 billion combined sewer overflow (CSO) program. There are significant concerns regarding the affordability of the CSO program for this community.

The City has used the following strategies to establish infrastructure needs and ways to address those needs:

- Programming of Federal Funds - To be eligible for U.S. Department of Transportation funding, major highway and public transportation improvements in the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) area must be reviewed and approved by AMATS. This is done to insure that projects are coordinated between communities and support area-wide goals and objectives.
- Transportation Planning - Major transportation projects must be included in the AMATS Regional Transportation Plan to be eligible for federal funding. This Plan includes recommendations for highways, bridges, major transit capital and operating improvements, park and carpool lots and bikeways. In addition, recommendations are included for carpool

matching assistance, improved transportation for elderly and handicapped persons and contingency transportation actions in the event of a major energy crisis.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:**

The City's Community Services Program (CSP) enhances neighborhood stability by funding activities undertaken by area non-profits to assist Akron residents in obtaining a variety of necessary services.

Access to community service programs in the fields of education, health, security, the arts, fair housing, etc. is sometimes difficult for lower-income residents and seniors. The City attempts to target programs to low-income areas to increase residents' access to these beneficial programs. The City's Neighborhood Partnership Program also supports neighborhood-based projects.

Working with community partners, we have reduced duplication and overlapping program initiatives.

### **How were these needs determined?**

Consultation with supportive service providers in the City of Akron.

# Housing Market Analysis

## MA-05 Overview

### Housing Market Analysis Overview:

The City of Akron is fortunate to have a variety of homes available at a range of prices that are affordable to many income brackets. However, housing for persons earning at or below 50% of area median income is still a need. Affordable, safe and secure apartments are also a continued need. The City will continue to work with non-profit housing developers to pursue strategies for providing affordable new housing within the City, including the Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation, Habitat for Humanity, WENDCO, Nazareth Housing Development Corporation, Mustard Seed Development Center and East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation. The City will participate, when possible, with private developers to ensure that low-income persons in Akron are served. The City has encouraged non-profit providers to continue to pursue other funding entities to continue their services in their neighborhoods.

Housing developers have impacted the new housing market by building new single-family homes. Yet, many of these homes in the \$80,000-\$150,000 range in Akron have not been affordable to lower income persons. The need for new low-income housing should be balanced by the need for higher value housing in revitalized areas of the City resulting in economic integration and revitalization.

The City of Akron has assisted in the training of non-profit housing providers in partnership with the U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and Ohio Capital Corporation. Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects have been constructed since 1995. These homes provide low-moderate income families with single-family homes on a lease-purchase basis. The lease is for 15 years. Nearly 100 of these structures have been built throughout the City over the past five years.

## MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

### Introduction

#### All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	65,635	67%
1-unit, attached structure	3,228	3%
2-4 units	11,218	11%
5-19 units	9,358	10%
20 or more units	7,826	8%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	449	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,714</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 31 – Residential Properties by Unit Number**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

#### Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	26	0%	1,075	3%
1 bedroom	792	2%	8,964	24%
2 bedrooms	10,803	23%	14,185	38%
3 or more bedrooms	35,269	75%	12,966	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,890</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>37,190</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 32 – Unit Size by Tenure**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

**Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.**

Akron has identified the primary barrier to affordable housing as the lack of resources to maintain the existing housing stock, and the lack of personal income. Cities need targeted resources which will help maintain affordable housing. The City will continue to invest resources into its neighborhoods to help residents remain in decent, safe and sanitary housing.

The City of Akron strongly supports the provision of affordable housing in the City through the use of various funding sources, both private and public. Regulatory barriers to affordable housing can take many forms and may impede the production of affordable housing. However, there are rational and valid reasons for many regulations which impact affordable housing in cities such as Akron. Of greater

importance is the lack of personal income and Federal dollars to support and maintain affordable housing.

For example, the City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development, operates a comprehensive housing strategy designed to strengthen neighborhoods and maintain housing affordability. The strategy includes a wide range of activities: individual housing rehabilitation, emergency repairs, new construction, code enforcement, demolition and homeless shelter assistance. City housing programs are funded by: Federal Community Development Block Grants, HOME, the Emergency Shelter Grant program and local bank lending. Local income tax also assists the public improvements to neighborhoods.

**Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.**

There are assisted units which will be nearing the 20 year subsidy limit and which may return to the private market, thereby being lost from the assisted housing inventory. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be providing this data.

**Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?**

The primary issue concerning the LIHTC program is the availability of land for new construction of single-family structures. The City will continue to seek partnerships with local developers and non-profits to increase the availability of affordable housing units. The Planning Department will review and recommendations for prospective new lots currently owned by the City. The Department of Planning and Urban Development and Akron City Council has provided letters of support and Council resolutions to support viable programs.

**Describe the need for specific types of housing:**

Affordable rentals for all age ranges is a continued need, as is senior housing. At the same time, the City recognizes the importance of maintaining high owner-occupancy rates in neighborhoods to aid in the stability of the housing stock and property values.

**Discussion**

# MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

## Introduction

### Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Median Home Value	76,800	89,800	17%
Median Contract Rent	413	525	27%

Table 33 – Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	17,141	46.1%
\$500-999	19,221	51.7%
\$1,000-1,499	640	1.7%
\$1,500-1,999	82	0.2%
\$2,000 or more	106	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,190</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 34 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

### Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	4,445	No Data
50% HAMFI	15,590	7,235
80% HAMFI	30,135	17,225
100% HAMFI	No Data	22,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,170</b>	<b>47,380</b>

Table 35 – Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

### Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	501	582	787	1,013	1,052
High HOME Rent	501	585	787	1,013	1,052

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Low HOME Rent	501	585	748	865	965

**Table 36 – Monthly Rent**

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

### **Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?**

The City is still short on housing for persons earning at or below 50% of area median income. The City is partnering with area non-profits to create more housing thru lease-purchase low income housing tax credit projects and purchase / rehab projects.

### **How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?**

The City strongly supports the provision of affordable housing in the City through the use of both private and public funding sources. Regulatory barriers to affordable housing can take many forms. However, there are rational and valid reasons for many regulations which impact affordable housing. Of greater importance are insufficient personal income and Federal dollars to support and maintain affordable housing.

Many employers in the area are unwilling to take a risk of hiring individuals with a poor job. The job market for low income unskilled individuals has been dismal. Most of the jobs they are qualified for may be taken by people with less legal background, less disability and more skills.

The City's median contract rent (rent asked) was \$736 in 2013. Fair market rents in Akron in 2015 range from \$494 for an efficiency to \$776 for a two-bedroom unit. However, for rents to be affordable for families which are very low income (50% of MFI), actual rents must be lower than the fair market rents.

As the housing market slowly rebounds, an apprehension by citizens to incur any additional debt until the economy and employment stabilizes is a concern. Many homeowners continue to be underwater in their existing home as values remain low. In many instances values are below mortgages, making the sale of the home infeasible.

Lending institutions continue to maintain a high standard for lending requirements for those seeking credit, especially homeownership.

### **How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?**

Continued partnerships with the PHA, CHDO's, and developers willing to build LIHTC units are the key to providing and maintaining safe and affordable housing units. Supporting current HAP landlords in their



efforts to rehabilitate existing affordable rental units is essential to the maintenance of our current rental housing availability.

Establishing and maintaining relationships with private landlords is key to the rental housing market. Working with landlords to establish a willingness to take a risk and rent to at-risk clients with a poor rental history is essential to maintain affordable housing units.

An increase to the Housing Choice Voucher Program is important to allow clients the means to rent in safe and decent housing and lower their housing burden.

## **Discussion**

## MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

### Introduction

### Definitions

### Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	13,149	28%	19,585	53%
With two selected Conditions	127	0%	618	2%
With three selected Conditions	49	0%	112	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	33,565	72%	16,875	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,890</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>37,190</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 37 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

### Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	1,538	3%	1,692	5%
1980-1999	3,920	8%	5,520	15%
1950-1979	18,252	39%	15,816	43%
Before 1950	23,180	49%	14,162	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,890</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>37,190</b>	<b>101%</b>

Table 38 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

### Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	41,432	88%	29,978	81%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	675	1%	1,755	5%

Table 39 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Total Units) 2007-2011 CHAS (Units with Children present)

## Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	0	0	0
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 40 - Vacant Units

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

## Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

The City has identified the needs of renter and owner households in all income categories. The special needs of large and elderly households have also been identified.

Programs are in place to assist homeowners with the maintenance of their homes, permitting them to bring those homes to local health and housing codes.

The City continues to work closely with AMHA, CHDO's and other social service agencies to meet the needs of rental households. In certain neighborhoods, programs are available to investment property owners to maintain their properties.

## Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards

There are 83,818 housing units in Akron built prior to 1978, as referenced by the 2010 Census and ACS. Homes built prior to 1978 could contain lead based paint, which can be hazardous to children; and specifically those children under the age of 6. Of Akron's population, 55.6% are at or below 80 % of the median income or low /moderate income. It is estimated that 30.5% of Akron's population under the age of 6, or 4,821 children residing in low/moderate income households in Akron, have elevated blood lead levels.

A study on the prediction of zip codes with the probability of Elevated Blood Lead Levels was undertaken for Summit County by the Ohio State University, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning prevention. This study indicates that 27 zip codes in Akron (which are all of Akron) are high risk or "hot". (A "hot" zip code is one in which at least 12% of the children are predicted to have blood lead levels of 5 ug/dl or greater.) A 2012 survey for Summit County showed that of 5768 children tested for Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBL's) (who were less than 6 years of age), 5548 children had elevated blood lead levels and 214 had EBL's over 5 ug/dl. Within Summit County there are 200 children yearly who are diagnosed with Elevated Blood lead levels of 5 ug/dl or greater. Many more children do not have a diagnosis. Almost all elevated blood lead levels are reported in older

neighborhoods with homes built prior to 1978, such as those within Akron. Census Tract 505200 which is located in central Akron, has the greatest predicted probability of blood lead levels of 5 ug/dl or greater in all of Summit County. The prediction is that 40.25% of children less than 6 years of age, have these elevated blood lead levels.

The evidence of lead paint in Akron's older housing stock necessitates the need to address the lead paint for the safety of the current occupants as well as the safety for future occupants (and specifically young children).

## **Discussion**

## MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing -- 91.210(b)

### Introduction

#### Totals Number of Units

Program Type										
				Vouchers						
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Total		Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher		
								Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0	8	4,285	4,975	204	4,771	229	45	0	
# of accessible units										
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition										
Totals Number of Units by Program Type										

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

#### Describe the supply of public housing developments:

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

AMHA owns and operates well-maintained family and senior developments throughout the City of Akron and Summit County.

There are approximately 1200 senior rental units and 1700 family rental units in the City of Akron. These units are in high-rise elevator buildings, midrise buildings, townhomes and single-family homes. The units are well-maintained and consistently receive high scores from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's ("HUD") Real Estate Assessment Center. However, there is an approximately \$50M backlog of unmet capital needs as of 2014 due to federal funding limitations.

## Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score

Table 42 - Public Housing Condition

### Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

Kitchen and bathroom refurbishment, roofing and infrastructure modernization are the primary needs of AMHA's aging portfolio.

### Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

AMHA Resident Services has developed a Strategic Plan to focus on 5 specific areas that will improve the living environment for residents living in affordable housing with AMHA.

Goal 1: Maintain a stable community within AMHA developments.

Goal 2: Encourage economic independence of residents by extending self-sufficiency program elements to all residents, create partnerships to provide a program to develop general works skills and job placement, and provide a transition program to support the advancement of public housing.

Goal 3: Support AMHA residents' educational achievement.

Goal 4: Enhanced quality of life for residents by targeting health education and services in relation to residents' needs, provide immediate referral to those with mental health issues and develop a program to maintain seniors in their apartments.

Goal 5: Develop adequate resources to support Resident Services initiatives.

### Discussion:

# MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

## Introduction

### Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds Current & New	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds		Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	95	5	187	113	0
Households with Only Adults	138	64	130	251	40
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	165	10
Veterans	6	0	30	94	20
Unaccompanied Youth	24	0	5	0	0

Table 43 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source Comments:

**Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons**

The ultimate goal for all homeless clients exiting homeless programs is employment. Mainstream service providers coordinate with clients to increase the percentage of clients improving their access to non-employment income sources. Partner agency case managers increase referrals to the One-Stop Facility, a mainstream resource workforce development system. Benefit Bank Counselors are able to assist with FAFSA application and SSI/ SSDI applications as well as completion of State and Federal Income Taxes. Once a determination of eligibility is made, a list is compiled of possible agencies and referrals that can be utilized. Both clients and case managers can access 211 24 hours a day with a data base of 1400 agencies and services including all mainstream resources. 211 Specialists also proactively inquire about mainstream resources if the caller's initial inquiry indicated they are low income and may be eligible for these benefits.

Summit County Department of Job and Family Services will provide training sessions to local homeless shelters on the availability and requirements for enrolling clients in mainstream resource programs. Info Line's 211 Information and Referral service screens approximately 85,000 inquirers yearly seeking benefits and services. Through direct inquiry and automated messaging callers are informed about the State's Medicaid expansion and insurance options under the Affordable Care Act.

The 211 Call Center, Where to Turn directory, listing thousands of community agencies and the services and benefits they offer, is a referral tool that case managers use. As the client becomes eligible for other opportunities the case manager will assist/advocate for each client in their application and eligibility process through their case management meetings. Recent changes in Medicaid will allow expanded eligibility options providing additional opportunities for Medicaid enrollment homeless clients and low income earners.

**List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.**

The City of Akron, in partnership with Continuum of Care, has in place a system of services and housing options that address the immediate needs of families and individuals that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Community organizations have developed resource manuals to assist individuals and families in locating appropriate services. Project R.I.S.E, in collaboration with the City of Akron, annually develops Street Cards, or "quick guides" that explain available services to people on the street.

**Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing**

Home Again, formerly the ARRA funded HPRP program, is collaboration between the City and three social service providers located in Summit County. Infoline Inc., The Salvation Army and H.M. Life Opportunity Services coordinate and implement the homeless prevention rapid re-housing program for



the CoC. The Home Again program is available to all individuals and families residing within the CoC Services Area who are currently homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless but for this assistance.

### **Veterans**

AMHA received 60 permanent housing certificates designated specifically for homeless veterans (HUD-VASH). The VA provides case management services to homeless Veterans. All 60 HUD-VASH vouchers are fully utilized. The Commons at Madaline Park, a permanent supportive housing project, will designate 6 units to veterans. In 2013, Valor Home opened its doors providing a 30-bed GPD facility for homeless veterans. CSS received a grant to open a Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) Project to outreach to homeless veterans.

### **Chronically Homeless**

The local CoC has a one-time capital fund to CoC's to assist with ending homelessness in our community. The CoC is assessing local housing inventory to determine where the greatest needs are. Our CoC will continue to work with the VA and Housing Authority to increase the number of vouchers available to the chronically homeless population. HMIS client data will be analyzed to determine housing status and eligibility for classification as chronically homeless. PSH providers will prioritize housing needs/availability to those identified and meeting eligibility criteria as chronically homeless. Partnerships with local developers and supportive service providers will continue to provide housing needs. A key component to any housing project is funding. Creation of PSH beds is only part of the solution. CoC's must commit to providing coordinated case management services to ensure that clients remain stable and able to maintain housing.

### **Youth**

The Youth Emancipation Task Force, a collaboration between social service agencies and non-profits, focuses on improving the quality of life for youth and young adults. YETF concentrates on housing, employment/education, and health/mental health to develop programs to help young adult's access resources. Youth Resource Guides are available for emancipated or homeless young adults to access resources. OMCDC and CSB operate housing programs to address homelessness in the 16-21 year old population. Both offer supportive services designed to empower and assist the youth in obtaining employment, continuing their education, and finding perm. housing. OMCDC's Horizon House offers 16 units of group housing while CSB has a capacity of 20 one-bedroom units for young adults previously in CSB custody. Safe Landing Shelter operates a Street Outreach program providing supportive case management services to youth between the ages of 18-22 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

## **MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)**

### **Introduction**

**Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs**

Housing accessibility, security deposit assistance, job training and education are all supportive housing priorities. Other needs including accessibility to transportation, access to tobacco-free living and other active living initiatives, down payment assistance for public housing residents moving towards homeownership, funds to help eliminate or expunge criminal history preventing them from receiving housing (funds to cover Certificate of Qualified Employment filing), community building opportunities to help residents connect with neighbors and other community initiatives to address various issues to stabilize the community such as United Way's Neighborhood Leadership Institute.

**Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing**

Community Support Services (CSS) works with jails, hospitals, and other institutions to prevent discharge from mental health setting into homelessness. CSS employs 2 recovery specialists to work with individuals with an identified mental health issue being discharged from jail. Staff is able to assist with medications, linking individuals to service providers, linking individuals to housing opportunities, and mainstream resources. Services are provided until they have established services with an appropriate service provider. In many instances, caseworkers are actively involved with the discharge planning process. Individuals ready for discharge from a psychiatric institution who are not engaged in services and will be homeless at discharge are referred to the PATH funded Homeless Outreach team. This team works with the individual to engage them in services and identify appropriate housing opportunities.

Very few individuals are discharged into homelessness from an institution in Summit County. The largest gap in this area is individuals being discharged from a state or federal institution. Many of these institutions fail to provide notification that someone with identified needs will be discharged to Summit County. In some instances individuals are unwilling to accept any assistance from a service provider and refuse all attempts at assistance. The lead mental health agency continues outreach to these individuals.

The Summit County ADM Board plays a key role in ensuring that individuals with a mental illness are not discharged into homelessness. They fund Access to Recovery which provides housing to homeless individuals with a history of legal issues and current substance abuse.

AMHA can only speak about its population, and has encouraged the COC to seek a consultant to determine the housing needs of the county's population. AMHA has aligned its Project-Based Voucher ("PBV") priorities with those developers that provide permanent supportive housing ("PSH").

Once someone becomes an AMHA tenant, AMHA receives "Request for Services" referral forms to coordinate services for and with the resident and linking them with community resources including agencies specializing in mental/physical health issues. AMHA Resident Services is very active in community initiatives such as Senior Independent Living Coalition, County of Summit ADM Board, Area on Agency (Direction Home Akron Canton Area on Aging waiver program).

**Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)**

The City has sought input from AMHA to address the housing and supportive services needs of special needs populations.

AMHA has aligned its PBV priorities with PSH development. AMHA resources are too limited to focus on non-homelessness, but it does provide a HCVP preference for emancipated youth.

Recently, the City has successfully partnered with a local housing developer to create 120 one bedroom housing units for the homeless and non-homeless special needs populations. Handicapped accessible units are available. Additionally, units for veterans with special needs are also available. Furthermore, a local mental health provider has on-site services available to provide necessary services.

Additional housing opportunities are available to Akron's increasing diverse immigrant population as they settle into the United States and choose Akron as their home. Akron has partnered with the International Institute to continue to provide supportive services to our immigrant population.

Partnerships with local non-profit supportive service providers and housing developers continue are necessary to continue to create housing opportunities for special needs populations. These partnerships allow for the access of other housing financing opportunities such as low-income housing tax credits and the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Furthermore, the need to maintain our existing rental housing stock serving our low-income special needs residents remains a priority. As opportunities and funds become available to provide assistance to not for profit agencies serving the special needs population, the City of Akron will explore opportunities to provide assistance to maintain our aging rental housing stock.

**For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs**

**identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))**

See above

## **MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)**

### **Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment**

The City of Akron has established Building and Zoning Codes that dictate how and where development is allowed to occur. While this is in no way intended to restrict affordable housing or residential investment, new construction is reviewed for compliance with the existing Zoning Code. An appeals process is in place to issue variances upon review and approval by Akron City Council.

# MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

## Introduction

## Economic Development Market Analysis

### Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	127	22	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	7,518	6,568	12	8	-4
Construction	2,110	2,589	3	3	0
Education and Health Care Services	14,406	22,560	24	29	5
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	3,429	3,449	6	4	-2
Information	1,067	1,855	2	2	0
Manufacturing	8,410	8,757	14	11	-3
Other Services	2,456	2,691	4	3	-1
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	6,787	16,038	11	21	10
Public Administration	1	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	9,067	7,386	15	9	-6
Transportation and Warehousing	2,019	1,898	3	2	-1
Wholesale Trade	3,158	3,985	5	5	0
Total	60,555	77,798	--	--	--

**Table 44 - Business Activity**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Workers), 2011 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

## Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	102,244
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	87,966
Unemployment Rate	13.96
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	34.47
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	9.34

Table 45 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	15,025
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	4,153
Service	11,966
Sales and office	22,919
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	6,604
Production, transportation and material moving	5,789

Table 46 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

## Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	64,406	76%
30-59 Minutes	16,087	19%
60 or More Minutes	3,761	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,254</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 47 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

## Education:

### Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	5,095	1,939	5,624
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	24,065	3,537	9,179
Some college or Associate's degree	23,607	3,291	6,150

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Bachelor's degree or higher	17,511	955	3,148

**Table 48 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

### Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	409	762	563	1,326	2,072
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,136	2,766	2,109	5,132	4,796
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	6,597	7,471	9,113	20,197	9,323
Some college, no degree	9,533	7,231	5,731	10,746	4,055
Associate's degree	1,689	2,811	2,318	4,211	909
Bachelor's degree	1,647	4,938	3,639	5,763	2,562
Graduate or professional degree	124	1,748	1,702	3,824	1,696

**Table 49 - Educational Attainment by Age**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

### Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	17,936
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	25,590
Some college or Associate's degree	28,427
Bachelor's degree	39,415
Graduate or professional degree	50,989

**Table 50 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

**Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?**

Based on the Business Activity Table above, the major employment sectors in the City of Akron include (in order) Education and Health Care Service, Retail Trade, Manufacturing, Arts and Entertainment, Professional and Scientific Services, Finance / Insurance and Real Estate, Wholesale Trade, Construction and Transportation / Warehousing.



## **Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:**

Workforce needs exist at all skill and income levels. Based on discussions with representatives with "Ohio Means Jobs Summit County" the manufacturing sector is in need of people with the soft skills necessary to keep a job (dependability, work ethic, communication skills, etc.). Training is available for candidates. The City Biomedical Corridor, established in 2006, is promoting high tech jobs in biomedical fields, polymers, biotechnologies and life sciences that require higher education, along with health care jobs at hospitals in the Biomedical corridor. Goodyear and Firestone have made major investments in the City and continue to attract talent to the region. Demand also exists for construction laborers, operators, pipefitters, carpenters, electrical workers and truck drivers and training is available.

Infrastructure needs are constant and include maintenance of local roads and streets, access roads, bridges, sidewalks, waste disposal systems, water and sewer line extensions, water distribution and purification facilities, sewage treatment facilities and gas and electric utility extensions.

## **Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.**

The City of Akron Biomedical Corridor, established in 2006, promotes growth in a wide variety of high tech fields including biomedical fields, polymers, biotechnologies, life sciences and health care. The City is also planning on removing the Innerbelt Freeway bordering downtown to free up space near downtown for development. It is anticipated that this will result in new housing, retail and commercial development. The State of Ohio is planning to reconfigure the Main and Broadway Street / Interstate 76 Interchange south of downtown Akron. The City and State are working with impacted businesses to relocate them within the City.

Two multi-phase projects already underway have had a significant economic impact on the City. In December 2007, the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company affirmed its long-term commitment to the City and announced plans to establish new facilities for its global and North American headquarters adjacent to its existing Akron Technical Center. Plans called for the developer, Industrial Real Estate Group (IRG), to construct new state-of-the-art facilities and enter into a long-term lease with the company. The City, the County, the State, and other governmental entities have provided approximately \$200 million towards the \$900 million redevelopment cost. The company officially broke ground in spring of 2011 and construction of the new headquarters was completed in December, 2012. Employees have relocated to the new building and a dedication was held May 9, 2013. The Company currently employs 3,100 people at this location.

Redevelopment has begun on other buildings of the Goodyear campus and infrastructure improvements have continued to move forward: the City reconstructed a major sewer line in the project area at a cost of \$2.8 million. The city has four consultants under contract and has started design on the roadway

improvements. The design of Martha Avenue was completed in 2008 and is under construction. Funding applications were awarded for Archwood chemical assessment and for the removal of Building # 116 and this work has been completed. The City has pending applications to assist in various cleanup projects at the Riverwalk location. IRG completed construction on a \$18 million new hotel in the East End district in November 2014, and continues renovation of Goodyear Hall (which is expected to be converted to apartments and retail space by 2015).

Bridgestone/Firestone completed its new 246,500 square-foot technical center at the corner of South Main Street and Firestone Boulevard in 2014. In addition, a new 400-space parking deck was constructed on land currently owned by the City near the Firestone Stadium, with a skywalk over South Main Street connecting the two structures. The total project will result in retention of 1,000 jobs and an approximate \$100 million investment, including \$10 million budgeted by the City for the implementation of the Firestone Park Redevelopment Plan and South Main-Wilbeth Urban Renewal Area Plan.

The City has begun work on a massive undertaking to reduce combined sewer overflow into the Cuyahoga River. This \$1.4 billion project will have a significant economic impact, both in terms of hiring the necessary crews to undertake the improvements and the increased rates to residents to help pay for the costs of improvements.

### **How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?**

As the City continues to promote the Biomedical Corridor it is anticipated that more high tech firms will be located in Akron. The City is a leader in polymer research and the mix of innovation required in high tech firms servicing the polymer and health care industries requires an educated workforce to fill these positions. The City is establishing an environment that will attract these workers to Akron. At the same time, manufacturing jobs are available for residents who might not have as much education, but have the soft skills necessary to be employable (work ethic, dependability, etc.). Advanced technical training is always a need.

### **Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.**

The City of Akron has a number of workforce training initiatives available including the OJT On the Job Training Program administered by the Ohio Dept. of Jobs and Family Services in cooperation with local OhioMeansJobsCenters, the OhioMeansJob Center Summit County (Map Your Career and other programs) and Akron Urban League Adult Employment Programs administered by their Workforce Development Department. All of these programs assist residents in choosing career paths and guiding them toward training. The City of Akron conducted two meetings to provide workforce training information in late 2014 and early 2015 in conjunction with the City's federally mandated sewer project

or a career in the trades. 16 local trade unions participated in the meetings the ultimate goal of which was to identify, prepare and train residents for work opportunities in sectors including heating and cooling, bricklayers, carpenters, metal and glass workers, roofers, plumbers, etc. Providing workforce training and steering residents toward reliable employment opportunities in good-paying jobs is consistent with goals in the Consolidated Plan.

**Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?**

No

**If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.**

N/A

**Discussion**

## **MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion**

**Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated?  
(include a definition of "concentration")**

**Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")**

**What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?**

**Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?**

**Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?**

# Strategic Plan

## SP-05 Overview

### Strategic Plan Overview

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

The City continues to support the rehabilitation of existing housing in specific areas. The City is combining rehabilitation assistance with Lead Abatement Assistance (where possible) in order to maximize productivity and address more items in need of repair in selected homes. 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. Akron will afford property owners in these areas the opportunity to make an investment in each property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems - heating, electrical and plumbing - are in good working order. The City will invest up to \$15,000 in each property that is rehabilitated.

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

The City also allocates funding to a variety of programs primarily benefiting low-income residents including community service programs, community gardens, fair housing, the Neighborhood Partnership Program (matching grant funding for neighborhood-based initiatives), blight removal, new construction and assisting neighborhood businesses to improve their exterior appearance.

Each year the City of Akron issues a request for proposals to homeless service providers. Funding priorities are given to homeless shelters requesting rehabilitation assistance. Funds are also available to agencies for operating and essential services. Priority is given to agencies not receiving Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Program funds. The existing Continuum of Care continues to address needs of homeless and potentially homeless residents.

## SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

### Geographic Area

Table 51 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	Housing Program
	Area Type:	Housing Program
	Other Target Area Description:	Housing Program
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Currently programming is available to residents across the City on an application and qualification basis. The City is planning a demonstration program in a targeted area at a later date. The demonstration area has not been selected.
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	
	Identify the needs in this target area.	
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	

### General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

Due to both financial constraints and staffing constraints, the City is now serving residents on more of an application basis than a strict targeted approach. This allows the City to serve residents in need throughout the City. The City continues to support the rehabilitation of existing housing by combining rehabilitation assistance with Lead Abatement Assistance in order to maximize productivity and address more items in need of repair in selected homes. 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. The City is planning a demonstration program in a targeted area that will include acquisition of blighted properties, clearance, new housing construction and housing rehabilitation. Akron will afford property owners in this area the opportunity to make an investment in each property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems - heating, electrical and plumbing - are in good working order.

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

## SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

### Priority Needs

Table 52 – Priority Needs Summary

1	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Description</b>	Low-income homeowners are disproportionately burdened by costs of housing maintenance
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Housing assistance for housing repairs is an ongoing need to maintain the stability of neighborhoods and keep homes safe, warm and dry.
2	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Description</b>	Undertaking rehabilitation for rental properties



	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Based on the number of rental units that are substandard and in need of improvement, rehabilitation of rental units is a priority activity in the maintenance of Akron's housing stock.
3	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Homeless Families and Individuals
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Homeless Assistance
	<b>Description</b>	Address prevention, assessment, emergency, transitional and permanent housing programs for the homeless.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Homeless assistance is an ongoing priority need.
4	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Priority Level</b>	Low

	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Services
	<b>Description</b>	Supportive / public services for low and moderate income individuals
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	
5	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Public Improvements
	<b>Priority Level</b>	Low
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Improvements
	<b>Description</b>	Expand public improvements in the City of Akron
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	The City's priority non-housing community development needs continue to include infrastructure improvements, transportation projects and improving public facilities.
6	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	New Housing Construction
	<b>Priority Level</b>	Low

	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Single-family New Construction
	<b>Description</b>	Emphasis is placed on a combination of targeted acquisition to remove blight and assemble lots for new construction with rehabilitation assistance and infrastructure improvements.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	New housing construction is necessary in order to maintain the housing stock and support surrounding neighborhoods.
7	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Description</b>	The City undertakes programs that support economic revitalization within neighborhoods and addresses slum and blight conditions in lower-income neighborhoods.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Slum and blight removal is necessary to increase public safety, eliminate nuisance properties and improve living conditions.

8	<b>Priority Need Name</b>	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	
	<b>Description</b>	Expand economic opportunity.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Support economic development activities to expand economic opportunity, including support of the City's Biomedical Corridor, support of developing neighborhood grocery stores, business assistance programs in City-designated Neighborhood Business Districts, recapture of brownfields and support of the City's Industrial Incubator.

#### Narrative (Optional)

## SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

### Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	
New Unit Production	An "Akron Vacant Property Report" prepared by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities Institute in January 2015 identified over 4,600 vacant structures in the City of Akron. Dealing with these properties will inhibit the amount of funding identified for new construction.
Rehabilitation	Nearly 50% of the homes in Akron were constructed prior to 1950. Rehabilitation will remain a priority need.
Acquisition, including preservation	Over 4,600 vacant structures have been identified in the City of Akron. Acquisition for either demolition or rehabilitation and resale will remain an ongoing need.

Table 53 – Influence of Market Conditions

## SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

### Introduction

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	5,612,300	0	0	5,612,300	0	
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,125,829	0	0	1,125,829	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: \$	
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	506,207	0	0	506,207	0

Table 54 - Anticipated Resources

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

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

Under the HOME program, a 12.5% matching requirement will apply for 2015 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.

## **HOMELESS PROGRAMS**

Ohio Housing Finance Agency and Ohio Department Services Assistance have made available a one-time capital fund to CoC's in Ohio to assist with ending homelessness. The Akron/Barberton/Cuyahoga Falls CoC will receive approximately \$3.0M. The CoC is assessing local housing inventory to determine where the greatest needs are. The Review and Ranking Committee have prioritized the following needs:

Project Conversion – converting existing transitional housing to permanent supportive housing

- Renovation or repair of an existing agency-owned permanent supportive housing facility, transitional housing facility serving youths, battered women, chronically homeless and substance abuse, and emergency shelters
- New Permanent Supportive Housing

The CoC providers will continue to leverage services offered by the PATH funded Homeless Outreach program, the Community Referral and Resource Center operated by the Veterans Administration, and Supportive Service Outreach Staff. Additionally, CoC providers will seek matching and leveraging funds from the Ohio Department Services Agency – Office of Homeless and Supportive Housing Programs. Furthermore, funds will be sought from the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services and local foundations.

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

N/A

## **Discussion**



## SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
ACCESS, INC.	Continuum of care	Homelessness	Jurisdiction

Table 55 - Institutional Delivery Structure

### Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The City partners with non-profit community housing development organizations to assist the City with meeting the goals of the Consolidated Plan. These long-time partners assist the City with the development of affordable housing and providing a variety of community service programs to benefit Akron residents. The City has also developed relationships with private developers who partner with the City on many low-income housing developments.

### Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
<b>Homelessness Prevention Services</b>			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance	X		
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	X
<b>Street Outreach Services</b>			
Law Enforcement	X		
Mobile Clinics	X	X	X
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	X
<b>Supportive Services</b>			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care		X	X
Education	X	X	X
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	X
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS	X	X	X
Life Skills	X	X	X

Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	X
<b>Other</b>			
	X	X	X

**Table 56 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary**

**Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)**

Meeting the needs of our homeless populations must include a comprehensive assessment to determine client need and more importantly barriers. The barrier assessment will prioritize issues to assist shelters and social workers in developing a housing plan, determining the most appropriate intervention, and other services such as child care, transportation, and healthcare. A comprehensive approach to client needs will lead to a more stable housing outcome once clients exit the system.

The City will continue to work with and coordinate services with all Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program housing and service providers to direct service delivery to homeless clients.

In collaboration with the CoC, the City of Akron will continue to expand partnerships with local providers to prevent and end homelessness. Efforts within the CoC will focus on assessment tools 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 within the community.

**Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above**

**Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs**

## SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Rehabilitation	2015	2015	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$1,180,000 HOME: \$100,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 160 Household Housing Unit
2	Rental Housing Rehabilitation	2015	2015	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance	CDBG: \$20,000 HOME: \$40,000	Rental units constructed: 0 Household Housing Unit  Rental units rehabilitated: 8 Household Housing Unit
3	Homeless Assistance	2015	2015	Homeless	Housing Program	Homeless Families and Individuals	CDBG: \$20,000 HOME: \$150,000 ESG: \$505,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 35 Households Assisted  Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 1500 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Public Services	2015	2015	general supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	Housing Program	Public Services	CDBG: \$530,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 40160 Persons Assisted  Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 13500 Households Assisted
5	Public Improvements	2015	2015	Infrastructure improvements	Housing Program	Public Improvements	CDBG: \$175,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1200 Persons Assisted
6	Single-family New Construction	2015	2015	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	New Housing Construction	CDBG: \$200,000 HOME: \$785,000	Rental units constructed: 25 Household Housing Unit  Homeowner Housing Added: 32 Household Housing Unit
7	Eliminate Slum and Blight	2015	2015	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$1,660,000	Buildings Demolished: 120 Buildings  Other: 37 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Economic Development Opportunities	2015	2015	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program		CDBG: \$375,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 10 Business
								Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted

Table 57 – Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Grants and loans for housing rehabilitation to homeowners
2	Goal Name	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Increase supply of decent, safe, 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 to low / moderate income individuals

5	Goal Name	Public Improvements
	Goal Description	Maintain and repair streets and facilities vital to the residents of Akron
6	Goal Name	Single-family New Construction
	Goal Description	Increase supply of affordable ownership 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 which represents a threat to health and safety in order to preserve and protect property values and improve living conditions.
8	Goal Name	Economic Development Opportunities
	Goal Description	Provide financial incentives to businesses to improve property conditions and facades.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

## **SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)**

### **Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)**

#### **Activities to Increase Resident Involvements**

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 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.

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.

#### **Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?**

No

#### **Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation**

N/A

## **SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)**

### **Barriers to Affordable Housing**

The City of Akron has established Building and Zoning Codes that dictate how and where development is allowed to occur. While this is in no way intended to restrict affordable housing or residential investment, new construction is reviewed for compliance with the existing Zoning Code. An appeals process is in place to issue variances upon review and approval by Akron City Council.

### **Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing**

The specific actions taken to remove or ameliorate these negative effects 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.).

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.



## **SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)**

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

An assessment of client needs is conducted at initial intake. Referrals are made, potential services are explained to the clients, and assistance is provided with completing application. Case Managers do an initial assessment with the client to determine needs and develop client service plans. Individual needs vary, however, housing, transportation, employment opportunities, job skills, counseling services, addiction services, education, parenting / child care skills are common needs and barriers that homeless face on a daily basis.

The Akron/Summit County/Barberton is in the process of developing a local strategic plan. Through the CoC system and Consolidated Plan, the City of Akron and the CoC work with area providers to coordinate the need for and implementation of housing and service system for the homeless. As the CoC moves toward the full implementation of the HEARTH Act we will work to further develop the current systems in place and work toward ending chronic homelessness and assisting families and individuals to move to permanent housing and self sufficiency.

### **Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The City of Akron is the recipient of ESGP and provides oversight and management for the program. The City issues an annual RFP to all homeless prevention and rapid re-housing providers, emergency and TH providers. The City's 1st priority is rapid rehousing and homeless prevention. Over 48% of the 2012 HESG allocation was dedicated to rapid re-housing and homeless prevention activities. The 2013 HESG award to the City of Akron was cut by 25%. This cut was unexpected at the local level. Had the cut been passed on to local ES and TH providers, significant programmatic changes would have been made and the City believes there would have been an increase in homelessness. The City of Akron made the decision to cut HPRP ESGP funding to 31% and seek other funding opportunities. Emergency and TH ESGP recipients have been informed that ESGP funding will be restored to HPRP programming in 2014 and need to plan accordingly should FY14 ESGP not increase.

**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 City of Akron and the CoC continue to seek local, state, and federal dollars to support the Home Again program. Home Again was created with HPRP funds to prevent homelessness and quickly re-house those in the homeless system. Home Again partner agencies have established working

relationships with area agencies that serve the homeless and clients at imminent risk of losing their housing. During the screening process, each Home Again applicant is assessed by a Benefit Bank Counselor who ensures that eligible households are receiving all entitlement benefits that they are eligible for. In partnership with the CoC, the City of Akron continues to evaluate diversion tactics as part of the centralized intake process.

The City and CoC have adopted the following steps to prevent homelessness:

- Screen for eligibility
- Refer to homeless prevention or rapid re-housing
- Complete Assessment
- Provide Housing Assistance
- Provide Case Management
- Refer to Mainstream Providers

In an effort to facilitate the access to affordable housing, the City and the CoC have in place a housing locator system providing assistance to clients and case managers in locating affordable, safe, and decent housing. To date over 2,712 units are in the database with over 336 landlords participating. At any given time, over 155 rentals are available. To date over 61,893 unique searches have been conducted. Case managers work closely with clients to access the Benefit Bank to determine eligibility for mainstream resources. AMHA encourages Housing Choice Voucher landlords to list properties on the housing locator indicating their willingness to accept vouchers. Home Again outreach is ongoing with all providers and distributed a various seminars.

**Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs**

The City of Akron and the CoC continue to seek local, state, and federal dollars to support the Home Again program. Home Again was created with HPRP funds to prevent homelessness and quickly re-house those in the homeless system. Home Again partner agencies have established working relationships with area agencies that serve the homeless and clients at imminent risk of losing their housing. During the screening process, each Home Again applicant is assessed by a Benefit Bank Counselor who ensures that eligible households are receiving all entitlement benefits that they are

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## **SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)**

### **Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards**

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, effective April 22, 2010 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 2012-2015 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.

### **How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?**

A study on the prediction of zip codes with the probability of Elevated Blood Lead Levels was undertaken for Summit County by the Ohio State University, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning prevention. This study indicates that 27 zip codes in Akron (which are all of Akron) are high risk or "hot". (A "hot" zip code is one in which at least 12% of the children are predicted to have blood lead levels of 5 ug/dl or greater.) A 2012 survey for Summit County showed that of 5768 children tested for Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBL's) (who were less than 6 years of age), 5548 children had elevated blood lead levels and 214 had EBL's over 5 ug/dl. Within Summit County there are 200

children yearly who are diagnosed with Elevated Blood lead levels of 5 ug/dl or greater. Many more children do not have a diagnosis. Almost all elevated blood lead levels are reported in older neighborhoods with homes built prior to 1978, such as those within Akron. Census Tract 505200 which is located in central Akron, has the greatest predicted probability of blood lead levels of 5 ug/dl or greater in all of Summit County. The prediction is that 40.25% of children less than 6 years of age, have these elevated blood lead levels.

The evidence of lead paint in Akron's older housing stock necessitates the need to address the lead paint for the safety of the current occupants as well as the safety for future occupants (and specifically young children).

### **How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?**

For homes with small children, lead testing and abatement are now part of the rehabilitation process.

## **SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)**

### **Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families**

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.

### **How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan**

The City's participation with the Akron / Barberton / Summit County Continuum of Care and ongoing relationships with area non-profits and CHDO's assist the City in implementing poverty reducing goals, programs and policies that are put in place.

## **SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230**

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

All applicants who receive CDBG/HOME/ESGP funds from the City are responsible for complying with the CDBG/HOM/HEARTH regulations and other federal requirements as they pertain to the monitoring of projects and the project records to be maintained. Federal funds will not be awarded unless there is evidence that the successful applicant has the capacity to administer the monitoring and recordkeeping requirements of the CDBG/HOME/ESGP program. The City will work to ensure that the successful applicant understands its annual and long-term monitoring and recordkeeping duties prior to execution of an agreement.

In 2012, the City and CoC Steering Committee met extensively to develop performance standards for HUD funded homeless programs, including the Emergency Solution Grant Program, to evaluate program effectiveness. Standards were refined in 2013 to reflect adjustments in performance elements. Performance standards will be reviewed periodically as HUD provides further performance measure guidance to CoC's. City staff conducts annual monitoring visits for all CoC recipients. During the monitoring visits, City utilizes APR's, HMIS data, and the Point-in-time count as assessment tools. Performance elements include: HMIS completeness and timeliness, CoC meeting participation, % of homeless persons moving from TH to PSH, % of homeless persons staying in PSH, cash/non-cash benefits at program exit, bed utilization, and timely expenditure of funds. Program outcomes are assessed and scored to determine ranking. The City receives monthly HMIS data completeness reports for review.

The City of Akron conducts an annual monitoring review of all sub recipients. The monitoring visit includes a review of agency application, case files, financial records, and procedural intake. All sub recipients are required to submit annual audits during the monitoring visits.

Monitoring requirements for all units are included in the CDBG/HOME/ESGP agreement executed between the City and the sub recipient agency.

## 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	5,612,300	0	0	5,612,300	0
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,125,829	0	0	1,125,829	0



Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	506,207	0	0	506,207	0	

Table 58 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

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

Under the HOME program, a 12.5% matching requirement will apply for 2015 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.

#### HOMELESS PROGRAMS

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Ohio Housing Finance Agency and Ohio Department Services Assistance have made available a one-time capital fund to CoC's in Ohio to assist with ending homelessness. The Akron/Barberton/Cuyahoga Falls CoC will receive approximately \$3.0M. The CoC is assessing local housing inventory to determine where the greatest needs are. The Review and Ranking Committee have prioritized the following needs:

Project Conversion – converting existing transitional housing to permanent supportive housing

- Renovation or repair of an existing agency-owned permanent supportive housing facility, transitional housing facility serving youths, battered women, chronically homeless and substance abuse, and emergency shelters
- New Permanent Supportive Housing

The CoC providers will continue to leverage services offered by the PATH funded Homeless Outreach program, the Community Referral and Resource Center operated by the Veterans Administration, and Supportive Service Outreach Staff. Additionally, CoC providers will seek matching and leveraging funds from the Ohio Department Services Agency – Office of Homeless and Supportive Housing Programs. Furthermore, funds will be sought from the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services and local foundations.

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

N/A

## **Discussion**

## 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	2015	2015	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Housing Assistance Owner Households	CDBG: \$1,180,000 HOME: \$100,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 160 Household Housing Unit
2	Rental Housing Rehabilitation	2015	2015	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance	CDBG: \$20,000 HOME: \$40,000	Rental units constructed: 0 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 8 Household Housing Unit
3	Homeless Assistance	2015	2015	Homeless	Housing Program	Homeless Families and Individuals	CDBG: \$20,000 HOME: \$150,000 ESG: \$505,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 35 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 1500 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 0 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Public Services	2015	2015	general supportive services to benefit low / moderate income individuals	Housing Program	Public Services	CDBG: \$530,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 40160 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 13500 Households Assisted
5	Public Improvements	2015	2015	Infrastructure improvements	Housing Program	Public Improvements	CDBG: \$175,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1200 Persons Assisted
6	Single-family New Construction	2015	2015	Affordable Housing	Housing Program	New Housing Construction	CDBG: \$200,000 HOME: \$780,000	Rental units constructed: 25 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 32 Household Housing Unit
7	Eliminate Slum and Blight	2015	2015	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Eliminate Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$1,660,000	Buildings Demolished: 120 Buildings Other: 37 Other
8	Economic Development Opportunities	2015	2015	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Program	Provide Economic Development Opportunities	CDBG: \$375,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 10 Business Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted

Table 59 – Goals Summary

## Goal Descriptions

Consolidated Plan

AKRON

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Grants and loans for housing rehabilitation to homeowners
2	Goal Name	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Increase supply of decent, safe, 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 to low / moderate income individuals
5	Goal Name	Public Improvements
	Goal Description	Maintain and repair streets and facilities vital to the residents of Akron
6	Goal Name	Single-family New Construction
	Goal Description	Increase supply of affordable ownership 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 which represents a threat to health and safety in order to preserve and protect property values and improve living conditions.

8	Goal Name	Economic Development Opportunities	
	Goal	Provide financial incentives to businesses to improve property conditions and facades.	
	Description		

## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

OK

#### Projects

#	Project Name
1	Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
2	Rental Rehabilitation Grants and Loans
3	Neighborhood Housing Acquisition
4	Waiver Demolition and Neighborhood Clearance
5	Neighborhood Relocation
6	Program Implementation
7	Neighborhood Public Improvements
8	Community Gardens
9	Homeless Facilities
10	Neighborhood Business Districts
11	General Administration
12	Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation (UNDC)
13	Various Home Repair Programs
14	Neighborhood Partnership Program
15	CDC / CHDO Housing Development
16	Exterior Paint Program
17	Community Services Program
18	Disability Modifications
19	Fair Housing
20	Business Incentives
21	Habitat for Humanity of Summit County
22	Section 108 Loan Projects
23	Homeless Rental Assistance

Table 60 – Project Information

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

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



**AP-38 Project Summary**  
**Project Summary Information**

Consolidated Plan

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

AKRON

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$730,000 HOME: \$100,000
	<b>Description</b>	Provision of grants, loans and technical assistance to owner-occupants of property for rehabilitation assistance in eligible areas.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Aproximately 80 low-moderate income households
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing Program area based on qualified applicants.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Grants, loans and technical assistance to owner-occupants
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Rental Rehabilitation Grants and Loans
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Rental Rehabilitation Assistance
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$20,000
	<b>Description</b>	Provision of grants and low-interest loans for rehabilitation to owners of rental properties located in eligible areas.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	3 low-moderate income households
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing Program area based on qualified applicants
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Grants, loans and technical assistance to owners of rental property.
3	<b>Project Name</b>	Neighborhood Housing Acquisition
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight

	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$415,000
	<b>Description</b>	Acquisition of blighted structures or vacant properties
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Acquisition of approximately 35 parcels (this includes vacant lots and structures)
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing program area
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Acquisition of blighted structures or vacant parcels
4	<b>Project Name</b>	Waiver Demolition and Neighborhood Clearance
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$1,210,000
	<b>Description</b>	Asbestos assessment, asbestos abatement and demolition of blighted structures
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	120 properties will be demolished based on property owners requests
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing Program area
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Removal of deteriorated homes, garages or businesses by owner request
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Neighborhood Relocation
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$35,000
	<b>Description</b>	Relocation assistance for persons displaced due to the acquisition and demolition of blighted structures
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015

	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Families in target areas whose homes are identified for purchase in order to eliminate blight.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing Program area
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Relocation assistance for persons displaced due to the acquisition and demolition of blighted housing
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Program Implementation
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Homeless Assistance Public Services Public Improvements Single-family New Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Homeless Families and Individuals Public Services Public Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$1,240,000
	<b>Description</b>	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.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
7	Project Name	Neighborhood Public Improvements
	Target Area	Housing Program
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$175,000
	Description	Capital improvements to upgrade sewers, curbs, sidewalks, street trees and street repair or replacement where necessary
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Families in target areas will be positively impacted by infrastructure improvements.
	Location Description	Housing Program areas
	Planned Activities	Completion of activities that are already underway.
8	Project Name	Community Gardens
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Supporting community gardening initiatives in the City of Akron
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 60 applicants will participate in gardening on City-owned lots on assigned parcels. Most participants are either renters or own property with limited sunlight, poor soils, etc.
	Location Description	6 designated City-owned lots in low mod areas.
	Planned Activities	City-owned lots are utilized as gardens for individual or family use.
9	Project Name	Homeless Facilities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homeless Assistance

	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeless Families and Individuals
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$20,000 ESG: \$505,000
	<b>Description</b>	Expenses related to homeless-based housing facilities in Akron. Funds to be used for the provision of rehabilitation, operating expenses, essential services and the implementation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Benefit approximately 1,500 homeless individuals or families seeking shelter
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Provision of shelter and assistance for homeless persons
<b>10</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Neighborhood Business Districts
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$200,000
	<b>Description</b>	Property / business owners make facade and exterior improvements to their properties for the overall upgrade of the low/moderate income neighborhood
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	10 property owners seeking matching grant assistance with exterior improvements to their business property
	<b>Location Description</b>	Previously designated Neighborhood Business District program areas
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Offer matching grant assistance to businesses in qualified area for exterior improvements.
<b>11</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	General Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	

	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Homeless Assistance Public Services Public Improvements Single-family New Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Homeless Families and Individuals Public Services Public Improvements New Housing Construction Eliminate Slum and Blight Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$215,000 HOME: \$50,000
	<b>Description</b>	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.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	
12	<b>Project Name</b>	Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation (UNDC)
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Single-family New Construction
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	New Housing Construction
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$200,000

	<b>Description</b>	Construction of new single-family homes by a community-based development organization
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	6 families seeking affordable, new single-family homes
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing program areas
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Construction of 6 new, affordable single-family homes by a community-based development organization
13	<b>Project Name</b>	Various Home Repair Programs
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$400,000
	<b>Description</b>	Minor Home Repair programs address health and safety for elderly and disabled very-low income homeowners. Eligible repair items include roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, porches, gutters and downspouts.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Approximately 70 very low income individuals or families or elderly persons receive assistance in maintenance of safe, dry and warm housing.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing Program areas
14	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Minor Home Repair programs address health and safety for elderly and disabled very low-income homeowners. Eligible repair items include roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, porches, gutters and downspouts.
	<b>Project Name</b>	Neighborhood Partnership Program
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$60,000



	<b>Description</b>	Matching grants utilized by community and neighborhood organizations for small projects which build neighborhood collaboration
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	80 persons including children will benefit from neighborhood sponsored activities
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Grants for neighborhood groups for after-school programs, mentoring programs, beautification programs, etc. based on applications and ideas submitted by neighborhood organizations.
15	<b>Project Name</b>	CDC / CHDO Housing Development
	<b>Target Area</b>	Housing Program
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation Rental Housing Rehabilitation Single-family New Construction
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households Rental Rehabilitation Assistance New Housing Construction
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$650,000
	<b>Description</b>	Non-profit development of housing. Participants include the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC), the Mustard Seed Development Center, Nazareth Housing Development Corporation and the Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation (WENDCO).
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Develop 20 new units of housing for homeownership, 25 new rental units and rehabilitate 5 units of rental housing to provide affordable housing.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Housing program areas
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Non-profit development of housing
16	<b>Project Name</b>	Exterior Paint Program
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households

	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$25,000
	<b>Description</b>	Non-profit organization performs exterior paint program utilizing volunteers
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Five families will have their homes painted by volunteers.
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Exterior paint program for five homes.
17	<b>Project Name</b>	Community Services Program
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$350,000
	<b>Description</b>	Various service programs to benefit low and moderate income clientele (education, health, security, the arts and fair housing)
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Assist approximately 47,000 residents with a wide range of community service programs.
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Provide community service programs in the fields of education, health, security, the arts and fair housing to benefit Akron residents
18	<b>Project Name</b>	Disability Modifications
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing Assistance Owner Households
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$25,000
	<b>Description</b>	Provide housing modifications for people with a disability
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	5 disabled homeowners will receive housing assistance.
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Provide housing modifications for people with a disability.
19	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,000
	Description	To support fair housing activities
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Assist approximately 6,500 persons with fair housing services
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Provision of fair housing services
20	Project Name	Business Incentives
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$175,000
	Description	Business assistance based on job creation
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Assistance to 5 business owners resulting in job creation.
	Location Description	City-wide
21	Project Name	Habitat for Humanity of Summit County

	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Single-family New Construction
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	New Housing Construction
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$175,000
	<b>Description</b>	Non-profit development of housing for low-income families
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	6 low-income families will be assisted
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Construction of 6 new homes for low-income families
22	<b>Project Name</b>	Section 108 Loan Projects
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Provide Economic Development Opportunities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$1
	<b>Description</b>	Projects utilizing HUD Section 108 Loans and repayments of Section 108 loans
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	
23	<b>Project Name</b>	Homeless Rental Assistance
	<b>Target Area</b>	
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Homeless Assistance
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeless Families and Individuals
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$150,000
	<b>Description</b>	Rental assistance to prevent families from becoming homeless

	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2015
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	35 persons will be assisted with rent payments to prevent homelessness.
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	35 persons will be assisted with rent payments to prevent homelessness.

## **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 on an application basis. Historically, the City has chosen a targeted-neighborhood approach for housing rehabilitation and will still do this on a demonstration basis in specific selected neighborhoods. Areas will be 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. The City realizes that in certain homes, deteriorated conditions make rehabilitation infeasible. Acquisition, clearance and new construction will be pursued in conjunction with rehabilitation activities to benefit the entire surrounding area.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Housing Program	100

**Table 61 - Geographic Distribution**

## **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The City has found that a targeted approach creates more of a visual impact in a more compact area than spreading out assistance in a less centralized area. Due to both financial constraints and staffing constraints, the City is now serving residents on more of an application basis than a strict targeted approach. This allows the City to serve residents in need throughout the City. The City continues to support the rehabilitation of existing housing by combining rehabilitation assistance with Lead Abatement Assistance in order to maximize productivity and address more items in need of repair in selected homes. 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. The City is planning a demonstration program in a targeted area that will include acquisition of blighted properties, clearance, new housing construction and housing rehabilitation. Akron will afford property owners in this area the opportunity to make an investment in each property to improve its outward appearance and make sure that its major systems - heating, electrical and plumbing - are in good working order.

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

## **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 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	55
Non-Homeless	65
Special-Needs	0
Total	120

Table 62 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	55
The Production of New Units	60
Rehab of Existing Units	5
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	120

Table 63 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

#### Discussion



## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

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

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

AMHA Resident Services department is planning to conduct and assess a vulnerability risk factors survey to all residents living in AMHA elderly/disabled buildings and family developments in order to meet the most immediate supportive housing needs. Regarding AMHA's physical assets, AMHA will be acquiring and constructing at least 22 new units of public housing, as well as making capital repairs to the existing housing stock with the limited funds available from HUD.

### **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 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.

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.

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

**provided or other assistance**

N/A

**Discussion**

N/A

## **AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)**

### **Introduction**

The City of Akron is anticipating receiving a 2015 Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement of \$506,207. The City of Akron issued a request for proposals in October, 2014 to homeless service providers for distribution of 2015 funding. Funding priorities are given to rapid re-housing programs, emergency shelters and transitional housing providers.

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

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

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

The City of Akron and the Continuum of Care are looking at housing opportunities that could be adapted to meet 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.

### **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. The goal of ending homelessness is ambitious and several approaches are necessary. The Akron / Summit County Continuum of Care will focus on the following key elements to reduce homelessness:

- Ø Establish/develop resources within our community to fund homeless prevention;
- Ø Strengthen homeless prevention programs within the community;
- Ø Expand outreach services to the homeless by creating teams to specifically target subpopulations;
- Ø Improving coordination and access to services;
- Ø Expand availability of affordable housing within the community;
- Ø Improve access to affordable housing for homeless persons;
- Ø Work with the needs of special sub-populations;
- Ø Evaluate role of faith-based organizations;
- Ø 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.

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 2014 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 Continnum 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, eviction, fire loss and flooding). The intent of the Home Again Program is to provide temporary financial assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless, or who would be homeless *but for* this assistance. Program focuses on individuals and families that can remain stably housed after this assistance ends.

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

The City of Akron and the Akron/Summit County/Barberton Continuum of Care in place to address the immediate needs of families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless. As in the previous year, in 2015 agencies will continue to provide short-term (and in many cases one-time) rental / mortgage assistance, assistance in paying utility bills and food assistance. Legal services are available to those at risk of eviction or foreclosure. These resources are limited and are quickly depleted due to heavy demand, but the community has a strong network of organizations that work closely to maximize assistance available to clients. The Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program will continue to provide short-term benefits and services to low-income families.

## **Discussion**

## **AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 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**

As in the previous year, specific actions or reform steps to be taken over the coming year to remove or ameliorate these negative effects are as follows:

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

### **Discussion:**

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

#### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

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

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

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

#### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

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

- a) Provide adequate land for a variety of housing types through review by Zoning and Land Use and Development Guide Plan updates.
- b) Work to eliminate obsolete and prescriptive building code requirements.
- c) Continue educating the public on the need for affordable housing and promote a diversity of affordable housing programs.
- d) Continue the practice of one-stop permitting.
- e) Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies in implementing programs that support

affordable housing (e.g. State of Ohio Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Summit County Land Reutilization program and federal programs such as HOPE VI, etc.).

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

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 both 2009 and 2012). Over 90% of the City's homes were constructed before 1980 and, of Akron's 54,000 families, over twenty percent of them have children under the age of 6. City officials have estimated that up to 40 percent of children in some inner-city neighborhoods are threatened and 1 in 10 Akron children are affected by lead base 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, effective April 22, 2010 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 2012-2015 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 education, health, security, the arts and fair housing. Organizations citywide have submitted proposals in order to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Akron.

#### Affordable Housing

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

#### Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's)

The City contributes CDBG funds for operating expenses to non-profit Community Housing Development Corporations. The East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation is active in planning and constructing low income housing tax credit projects and offers home maintenance and budgeting training for its participants. WENDCO is planning purchase/rehab/resale home projects and new housing in FY 2015.

#### Crime Prevention

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

#### Transitional Housing

The City of Akron supports the provision of housing for the homeless with CDBG/ESG funds. The City encourages the continuation of existing emergency shelters while also encouraging transitional housing with supportive services as part of the Continuum of Care. The goal is to integrate homeless individuals

back into the community. The intent of emergency housing is to serve as a stepping-stone to, first, transitional housing and then on to affordable permanent housing. Organizations applying for funds must commit to participate in the Continuum of Care process.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

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

- a) Pursue other funding sources for affordable housing as they become available.
- b) Develop an approach to coordinate social services with housing treatment areas.
- c) Hold quarterly meetings with AMHA to help ensure coordination on programs and monitor progress.
- d) Pursue developing and expanding programs with lenders who serve the Akron area.
- e) Continue work with non-profit housing developers.
- f) Serve on committees/boards involved in housing and social service delivery.
- g) Hold public meetings to inform citizens of housing programs.
- h) Conduct meetings with non-profit developers.

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

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

The City works hand-in-hand with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and various partners on the Hope VI projects that have received funding (the Cascade Village and Edgewood developments). In turn, the City also works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when

preparing the Renewal Plans for the project areas either associated with the Hope VI areas or individually selected areas (the Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks Redevelopment Area). Where new housing is involved, the City works with both the Homebuilders Association and private builders as necessary.

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

**Discussion:**

## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 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	0
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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### 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.	0.00%

#### 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)  
Reference 91.220(I)(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.

After reviewing options for centralized intake and coordinated assessment being successfully managed in other parts of the state, the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care began meeting in 2012 to explore and plan for a centralized intake/coordinated assessment process. A subcommittee of the CoC was created with the goal of creating a system that would work for the majority of agencies and clients in Summit County. After months of discussions and drafted document review, trial procedures were developed. Almost six months ago, a pilot period was initiated, using a local homeless shelter that agreed to test the assessment tools and drafted protocol for receiving calls at a centralized phone bank (Info Line) and then using a referral procedure to forward the client and documentation directly to the homeless agency. In the coming months, the process will be evaluated and adjustments will be made as needed. The intention will be to bring more homeless agencies into the pilot project and eventually move from a pilot stage to a permanent policy and procedure.

Currently there are two main obstacles to moving this project forward. One of the largest homeless service providers is a faith based organization that has not pursued or accepted any money associated with the government or politically affiliated fundraising activities. Although a full participant in the CoC and area efforts to end homelessness, their organizational leadership and by-laws will not permit them to participate in HMIS or the pending centralized intake and coordinated assessment project. Representatives from this organization are serving on the sub-committee that is charged with developing the centralized intake and coordinated assessment project and perhaps a solution can be reached..

Secondly, working with the local domestic violence shelters creates an obstacle. The concerns of the shelter organizations are based on the special needs of homeless persons who are or may be in dangerous situations; domestic violence and elder abuse allegations. For these two populations the centralized screening system may not be the best practice. Persons calling with potential abuse and danger need to be immediately assessed in a specialized way. Housing is an immediate need for them, but so to is their safety and often times an escape plan. The needs of specialized populations who require a more specialized intake screening and assessment process need to be addressed.

The CoC will continue to dialogue with the faith based, domestic violence and elder abuse shelter

programs to work together to creatively find the best practices for their maximum participation in all CoC issues.

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 meets 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, Project Homeless Connect, 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. 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 least 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 will be 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.

## **Discussion:**



**Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources**