

CITY OF PITTSFIELD

CONSOLIDATED PLAN

&

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030
(HUD Program Years 2025 - 2029)



Prepared with
assistance from:

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Pittsfield, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement community since 1974, receives an annual formula allocation of CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG program has three overall goals:

- To provide decent, safe, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income people, including supportive housing for people with special needs and access to job opportunities.
- To provide a suitable living environment with access to public/private facilities and services that reduces isolation of income groups, restores and preserves historic/aesthetic quality of housing and conserves energy.
- To offer expanded economic opportunities, including job creation and retention, financing and capital opportunities, and projects that promote empowerment and self-sufficiency for low-income people.

Under HUD regulations for the CDBG program, the City of Pittsfield has prepared this Consolidated Plan, which covers July 1, 2025- June 30, 2029. The Mayor of Pittsfield has designated the Department of Community Development (DCD) as the leading agency for the preparation and management of the Consolidated Plan and the City's CDBG funds.

HUD provides jurisdictions with updated Low/Mod Income Summary Data (LMISD) to assist them in making official determinations of activity compliance with the low- and moderate-income area (LMA) benefit national objective. The specific CDBG eligible census tracts and block groups in Pittsfield are listed in detail later in this report at sections SP-10 and AP-50 "Geographic Distribution". For the CDBG program, low-to-moderate income means an annual household income that is less than 80% of the area median family income (low income on the chart below), as established by HUD. The current HUD income limits for the City of Pittsfield are as follows:

Table 1 - HUD CDBG Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective 2024)

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

As required by HUD, the Pittsfield Department of Community Development continues to incorporate HUD's performance measurement system into its Consolidated Plan and fiscal year 2025 Annual Action Plan reporting documentation. The outcome performance measurement system includes the identification of specific objectives, outcome measures, and indicators. As identified by HUD, the specific objectives are: Suitable Living Environments, Decent Housing, and Economic Opportunities. The specific outcome categories are Accessibility/Availability, Affordability, and Sustainability.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This 5-year Consolidated Plan cycle covers HUD funding years beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2029. Due to a number of unknowns and the uncertainty of previous years in which HUD entitlement programs have been cut, it's difficult to predict how the City will perform in achieving the goals and objectives stated in this 5-year Consolidated Plan and fiscal year 2025 Annual Action Plan. Based upon the City's track record it may be assumed that the City will meet a high number of its proposed goals. As in previous years, the City's Department of Community Development will be utilizing other federal and state grants for projects throughout the City during the upcoming 5-year Consolidated Plan cycle. Many of these other federal and state grants will leverage CDBG funds to help achieve the City's goals as stated in this Consolidated Plan. In September 2024, the City completed the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the previous 2023-2024 (Fiscal Year 2024) program year. As is the same for this Consolidated Plan, the goals and objectives for the reporting period were based on priority needs identified in the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. Over the past four years, considerable progress was made toward accomplishing the City's five-year goals. The following tables serve to show the progress the City has made towards meeting previous Consolidated Plan goals and also serve as a standard that helped the City establish the five-year goals and objectives outlined in this document as well as an indicator of future performance:

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development took the lead role in preparing this Consolidated Plan with the assistance of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Berkshire Housing Services, and the Pittsfield Housing Authority provided some of the data contained in this plan. Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, Berkshire Community Action Council and the 3-County Continuum of Care (CoC) provided valuable housing market information and information on homelessness.

5. Summary of public comments

The City provided two opportunities for public input on February 26th at 6:00 PM at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield and on March 19th at 5:30 PM at Iglesia Fuente De Salvación Misionera Inc. The February meeting was attended by 23 people. The comments are summarized as follows:

Draft Demo

- Develop more accessible affordable housing/adaptable housing for people with disabilities, funding for home safety improvements for people with disabilities. There's a long waiting list for apartments, people who are in nursing homes cannot be discharged, because they do not have the possibility of going to an affordable apartment that complies with ADA rules.
- Assistance funds for landlords to make modifications to their properties.
- Transportation has always been a challenge in Berkshire County if you don't have a car. Often, people are not able to get to med appointments, grocery shopping, etc. There is a micro transit system program, through BRPC being looked at, that hopefully bridges the holes in our transportation system. There is no transportation on Sundays; if someone that uses a wheelchair has an emergency, how do they get somewhere with no wheelchair car services?
- Funds for home modification programs, such as ramp installation, restroom improvements, etc.
- Funding for pothole repair, crosswalks, curb cuts, and sidewalks.
- Sidewalks for kids going to school. (John St. going up to Onota St. on W. Union St.)
- Funding to address access issues to city-owned buildings and public spaces. Work is currently underway in the library's bathrooms and parks. Funding to address 521CMR/ADA access issues, in the city-owned buildings, contained in the "ADA Plan".
- Increase parks and street lighting. Camaras in parks to increase safety, for example Durant Park is occupied all the time and needs to be safe. Westside Legends helped fund new equipment, took old equipment and did not put it back. There used to be volleyball and basketball courts, but not anymore.

Comment/response: Lighting would be considered an infrastructure. We are not allowed to do maintenance for the city with this funding. Replacing lights that are already there might not be eligible.

- Speed bumps: Onota St., Linden St., Dewey Ave., John St., Columbus Ave., West St. going down to college
- Services for youth/kids to get them off the streets, such as basketball programs.
- Funding to continue several programs through Human Service Agencies, social services (i.e. Elder Services, Literacy Program, programs for children, etc.)
- Services for the unhoused (bathrooms, showers, lockers, resource center, etc.). The Literacy Volunteers office is in the food section of the library. That section is unusable because of the unhoused and people with mental health problems. The Brien Cr. Sends recovery coaches, and different organizations send breakfast/lunch to the library for these people. Literacy Tutors used to meet with their students at the library, not anymore. We can't go to the children's or young adults' sections.
- Remove or relocate the cell tower due to reports of negative health impacts and issues affecting people and the quality of everyday life. Rehab our homes by removing the local frequency of radiation and restoring them to what they were pre-tower, resulting in making our homes healthy and accessible to us and our neighbors. This tower is a hazard, immediate threat to health and welfare of impacted neighbors.

No one attended the March 19th public input meeting. All comments can be found in the citizen participation attachment in this plan.

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

All comments were accepted.

7. Summary

This is the 51st year that the City of Pittsfield, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement community, will receive an annual formula allocation of CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to meet three overall goals:

- The provision of decent, safe affordable housing and access to job opportunities for low and moderate income people including those with special needs;
- The provision of living environments that provides access to public/private facilities and services that reduces isolation of income groups; restores and preserves historic/aesthetic quality of housing and conserves energy;
- Expanded economic opportunities that include job creation, retention and opportunities that promote empowerment and self-sufficiency for low-income people.

The Consolidated Plan covers a five-year period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, and is prepared by the Department of Community Development (DCD) as the lead agency for management of the Consolidated Plan and the City's CDBG funds. The City must expend CDBG funds to benefit low-income households/persons and target CDBG funded activities to census tracts within the City where a majority of low-income households reside.

A summary of the 5-Year objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan needs assessment based on HUD's performance measurement system may be seen on the chart below.

Performance: Based on the City's track record it may be assumed that it will meet a high number of its proposed goals outlined in this 5-Year Consolidated Plan and fiscal year 2025 Action Plan. However, this will be impacted by the level of Congressional funds for the HUD entitlement programs. Many other federal and state grants will leverage CDBG funds to help the City achieve their goals.

Citizen Participation: The Pittsfield DCD conducted a series of facilitated consultation round tables with the Human Service Advisory Council, two neighborhood initiatives in the target communities. Planning documents and data reports were provided by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Hearthway, and Pittsfield Housing Authority. The Berkshire Community Action Council and the 3-County Continuum of Care (CoC) provided valuable housing market information and information on homelessness. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the City's Department of Community Development conducted outreach and direct assistance in completing the survey in order to solicit input into the plan. These services were provided in both English and Spanish. Over 20 agencies assisted in the planning process either by responding to a series of questions, contributing to on-going collaborations, or sending a representative to a public hearing. The DCD developed and circulated a community survey to solicit input on community needs to which 95 people responded. The survey was available in both English and

Spanish. The survey solicited the public's feedback regarding priority needs for Public Facilities, Community Services, Infrastructure, Special Needs Services, Business and Jobs, Neighborhood Services, and Housing, including discrimination. Key priority themes in the focus groups included: Long-term planning to engage community residents, funding for parks and green space, safety measures, activities that support youth and families, neighborhood improvement activities and housing quality and access. This input and data was incorporated into the respective needs assessments, and formed the basis for the Annual Action and 5-year Consolidated Plans.

DRAFT

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	PITTSFIELD	
CDBG Administrator		City of Pittsfield Dept. of Community Development
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development (DCD) is the designated administrator entitlement grantee of the City's federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, awarded to the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City of Pittsfield's DCD is the responsible entity for the preparation of the City's 5-year Consolidated Plan which identifies and analyzes the City's needs and proposes strategies to meet these needs over the 5-year period 2025-2029. Additionally, the DCD prepares and administers the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. The DCD oversees planning and zoning, economic development, community development, housing programs and lead paint abatement, conservation, parks and recreation, and open space programs. The Department must meet HUD's administrative requirements for proper grants management, and address community needs, and DCD staff reviews program data and activities on a regular basis throughout the year to ensure that community needs are met. Additional agencies and organizations that will aid in the administration of activities and programs under this plan are listed in the consultation section of this plan.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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PR-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(I) and 91.315(I)

1. Introduction

This Consolidated Plan is carried out through the collaborative efforts of numerous organizations. The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development (DCD) takes the lead in implementing the housing and community economic development plan. The DCD is assisted in these efforts by several other public agencies, a variety of nonprofit sub-recipients, and community development entities.

The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development (DCD) is the lead entity for the development of priorities and strategies for the Consolidated Plan. The DCD monitors and reports on Consolidated Plan performance for the City and determines if applications are consistent with the Consolidated Plan. The DCD administers federal HUD funds that the City receives as an entitlement community, which currently includes the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The DCD also applies for and receives other federal and state funds that are used to fund many types of activities throughout the City including planning. Over the last five years, the DCD has been awarded millions of dollars in additional state and federal grants to assist the City in accomplishing a variety of projects. Additional grant funds have included: Mass Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; EPA Brownfields Grants; Mass Growth Capitol Foundation: DHCD Gateway Rehabilitation Funds; the Stanton Foundation; the Kresge Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts; Mass Development; MassWorks Infrastructure Program; and other grants listed in the City's Annual Action Plan. CDBG funds support the following activities to carry out this housing and community development strategy:

- Rehabilitation financing for low and moderate-income homeowners and rental properties occupied by low to moderate-income households,
- A residential handicapped ramp grant program,
- Sidewalk replacement, handicapped curb cuts, historic preservation,
- Non-profit human service agencies that serve low-moderate income homeless and special needs populations,
- Economic development loans,
- Technical assistance grants to start-up businesses and existing businesses,
- Demolition of vacant buildings,
- Handicapped accessible improvements to small businesses and non-profit organizations.

The DCD also provides Fair Housing services such as a tenant/landlord hotline that provides answers to fair housing related questions. Free fair housing guidebooks for both tenants and landlords are also available through the DCD; assistance is also available to the public in filing discrimination complaints with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

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)).

The City relies on its extensive existing collaborative relationships throughout the year to determine where its strengths and weaknesses exist. Many existing organizations, committees, city departments, public agencies and non-profit organizations work together with the City to understand and meet the needs of the community. The City participates in the 3-County Continuum of Care, which includes Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties, and meets quarterly to ensure provider and institutional collaboration regarding the prevention, shelter, rapid-rehousing, and stabilizations services for homeless/at-risk, individuals, families, youth and Veterans. The City collaborates with the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Hearthway, the two assisted housing providers in Pittsfield.

The following list of committees demonstrates the City's on-going collaborations throughout the year. Most collaboration happens in the daily course of departmental activity and others are created for a definite purpose. The Department of Community Development relies upon these established collaborative channels in preparing the Consolidated Plan along with the regular lines of communication already established with other agencies, departments and groups.

- City of Pittsfield Veterans Services/Ralph J. Froio Senior Center
- Pittsfield Department of Public Works & Utilities
- City of Pittsfield Health Department
- City of Pittsfield Fire Department
- City of Pittsfield Building Inspections Department
- Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Human Services Advisory Council
- Pittsfield Parks Commission
- Pittsfield Public Schools
- Berkshire Athenaeum
- Conservation Commission
- Upside413 (former BERKSHIRE COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY)
- Hearthway (former BERKSHIRE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION)
- Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
- Pittsfield Housing Authority
- Homeless Advisory Committee
- BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL
- ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER OF THE BERKSHIRES
- MASSACHUSETTS FAIR HOUSING CENTER
- Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.
- Commission on Disabilities
- Greylock Federal Credit Union

- Berkshire Bank
- Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation
- MassHire Berkshire Career Center
- Massachusetts Office of Business Development
- Berkshire Black Economic Council
- Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

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

Pittsfield has a well-established service delivery system integrated through the 3-County Rural CoC and Berkshire County - Policy and Systems sub-committee meeting that meets quarterly and a Coordinated Entry case conferencing that meets weekly. The Western MA region takes a coordinated approach to ending homelessness through shared strategies developed through target population services committees (family, individuals/chronically homeless, Veterans, unaccompanied youth, sexual offenders, and assessment and data collection tools that help to see the impact of service delivery. Regardless of the doorway at which homeless and at-risk individuals enter, all are screened for eligibility and referred to a checklist of mainstream services, including a vulnerability assessment to support the CoC's by-names list.

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 works in close consultation with the 3-County CoC administrating agency, Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV). The City of Pittsfield does not receive ESG funds directly from HUD. ESG funding for the 3-County CoC region is allocated by the MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) through a competitive application process. Two providers within the CoC region receive funding. The application is submitted by Community Action Pioneer Valley in the same department that the CoC is located, which serves Franklin/Hampshire with Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority as a sub-recipient for Berkshire/Pittsfield fund. DHCD is required to solicit input from the CoC regarding their priorities for ESG funding and the CoC and the Community Services program provide each other with input. As part of the CoC governance structure, the collaborative applicant, CAPV, engages in an annual discussion with the CoC board, membership, funded agencies, and community providers regarding needs, and informs MA-DHCD of its priorities. This influences the MA-DHCD allocation. Over the last several years funds have been directed exclusively at Prevention Services. State funding allocations are informed by the Point-In-Time count numbers as well as other data reports through HMIS.

The CoC has established Project evaluation and ranking criteria for projects based on HUD required performance outcome standards. Projects and grantees are evaluated according to the following

categories: Project Model and Design, Project Outcomes regarding achievement of housing stability, participant employment status, increased or maintained employment income, increase of mainstream benefits, project cost effectiveness, participation in the coordinated entry process, and targeting of hard to serve populations; Data Reporting Compliance, and. Collaboration and Participation in COC efforts.

The CoC is governed by a Charter & written standards which outline the governance structure and activities required for HUD CoCs, and has established funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS, as well as CAPVs fiscal management requirements. HMIS data administration is managed by CAPV, as well, as the HMIS lead. Participating agencies use the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), data software through Social Solutions. DHCD provides this for homeless providers so that information can be aggregated into a state-wide profile in efforts to end homelessness. In addition, CAPV utilizes a data warehouse administered by Green River in order to pull data from Veteran's services providers, victims service providers and to create specified reports.

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

DRAFT

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Department of Community Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Pittsfield Department of Community Development (DCD) is the HUD grantee that administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the City of Pittsfield. Programs and activities described in this plan are intended to primarily benefit extremely low, very low, and low-income persons and households, neighborhoods with a majority of low-income residents, and the City as a whole.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Pittsfield Ralph J. Froio Senior Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Senior Center was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities. For housing and homelessness services, they ranked elderly housing first, disabled housing second, and homeless prevention programs as the third most important. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked municipal facilities improvements, street and sidewalk improvements, and sewer improvements as the top three, respectively. For overall funding priorities, they ranked economic development first, public services second, and public facility improvements third. The Senior Center also stated that there is a need for affordable dental services.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Department of Public Works & Utilities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The DPW is consulted with regularly to coordinate public facility related activities, such as sidewalk and curb cut construction.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Pittsfield Building Inspections Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Building Inspections Department is regularly consulted during the year particularly for their input on vacant and condemned buildings and code enforcement issues.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Human Services Advisory Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Human Services Advisory Council was consulted both in person and via email for input regarding the human service needs in Pittsfield. Additionally, the Human Services Advisory Council put out a press release seeking the public's input. A total of 17 comments on the gaps in Pittsfield's human service needs were received.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Conservation Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City's Conservation Commission provided input into the City's Hazard Mitigation Planning and Municipal Vulnerability Planning, particularly in the areas of flood plan management, public land, water resources.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Atheneum
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Berkshire Athenaeum was consulted via email with a series of questions about finding priorities. They ranked homelessness prevention programs, homeless outreach programs, and disabled housing as the top three housing and homelessness services, respectively. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked sewer improvements as most important, stormwater and flood mitigation as second most important, and municipal facilities improvements as third most important. For overall funding priorities, they ranked homeless services, public services, and public facility improvements as the top three categories. The Berkshire Athenaeum also stated that they feel there is a need for more public bathrooms.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Upside413
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Upside413 was emailed on 1/3/25 a letter with questions about different funding priorities. They responded on 1/6/25. Upside413 ranked affordable housing services first for housing and homelessness services, sewer improvements first for infrastructure improvements, and public facilities improvements first for overall funding priorities. They also stated that they think there should be a program to support the nonprofit's purchasing naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH).
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Hearthway
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Hearthway was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities. They ranked affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, and disabled housing as the top three housing and homelessness services to be funded with CDBG. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked sewer improvements, street and sidewalks improvements, and stormwater and flood mitigation as the top three priorities. For overall funding priorities, Heathway ranked affordable housing first, homeless services second, and neighborhood revitalization third.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City's Department of Community Development frequently works with Habitat for Humanity to provide grant funds through CPA or other state grants. Habitat also coordinated with the City to plan the public outreach meetings and to provide free childcare for attendees.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Pittsfield Housing Authority was consulted via email for data on the amount of vouchers they give out and how many people are on the waiting list. Their input contributed to the housing needs assessment portions of this plan.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER OF THE BERKSHIRES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Elizabeth Freeman Center was consulted via email to gather data on the number of clients they served this past year. The data they provided helped inform the non-homeless and homeless needs sections of this plan.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	ServiceNet, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	ServiceNet was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities for CDBG projects. They ranked the top four housing and homelessness services to be funded as affordable housing, rental assistance, lead paint remediation, and housing rehabilitation, respectively. ServiceNet also stated that the top two most important overall funding priorities are affordable housing improvements and assistance, and homeless services.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	AdLib, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	AdLib was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities. They stated that there is an additional need for homeless shelter expansion, warming and cooling shelters, and transitional housing. AdLib ranked the top three housing and homeless services as homeless prevention programs, rental assistance programs, and disabled housing. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked storm water and flood mitigation, street and sidewalk improvements, and broadband infrastructure as the top three priorities. For overall funding priorities, they ranked homeless services first, affordable housing improvements and assistance second, and neighborhood revitalization third.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	BRIEN CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Brien Center was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities. They ranked disabled housing, rental assistance, and homeless outreach programs as the top three housing and homeless services. For overall funding priorities, they ranked homeless services, economic development, and affordable housing improvements and assistance as the top three. The Brien Center also stated that the City of Pittsfield should have easier access to housing and more efficient operation of housing authorities.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Commission on Disabilities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Commission on Disabilities was consulted via email. They ranked affordable housing as the top housing and homeless service to be funded with CDBG. Fr infrastructure improvements, street and sidewalk improvements, broadband infrastructure, and sewer improvements as some of the top priorities. For overall funding priorities, they ranked public services, homeless services, affordable housing improvements, and public facility improvements as some of the most important projects.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Greylock Federal Credit Union
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Private Sector Banking / Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Greylock Federal Credit Union was consulted with for the development of the Annual Action Plan and the Consolidated Plan for the market analysis and housing analysis sections. Greylock Federal Credit Union offers first-time homebuyer seminars, and they are a very strong community partner that sponsors many City and private events.

18	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF PITTSFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Pittsfield's Health Department is consulted regularly throughout the year regarding health and sanitary code conditions of the City's housing stock as well as lead paint issues. The Health Department also provided data on vacant and condemned structures for this plan.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Bank
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Private Sector Banking / Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire Bank was consulted for input on the Consolidated Plan via email with a series of questions about funding priorities based on needs in the community. Based on what they have observed, they stated that first time homebuyer programs, rental assistance, and housing rehabilitation are the top three housing needs. For infrastructure improvements, they believe that street and sidewalks are the most important priority, followed by broadband infrastructure and stormwater and flood mitigation. For overall funding priorities, Berkshire Bank ranked public facilities first, demolition of blighted properties second, and public services third. Berkshire Bank also offers seminars and information for first-time homebuyers throughout the year. They are consulted regularly throughout the year, as they are a strong community partner to the City.

20	Agency/Group/Organization	MassHire Berkshire Career Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	MassHire Berkshire Career Center was consulted via email with a series of questions about finding priorities. They ranked elderly housing, affordable housing, and disabled housing as the top three housing and homelessness services to be funded, respectively. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked public school buildings, sewer improvements, and street and sidewalk improvements as the top three priorities. For overall funding priorities, they ranked public services first, affordable housing improvements and assistance second, and homeless services third. MassHire also expressed that there is a need for expanded services to connect youth to careers, jobs, and internships.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	DPI was emailed on 1/3/25. They responded on 1/6/25. They ranked affordable housing first for housing and homelessness services, street and sidewalk improvements first for infrastructure improvements, and economic development first for overall funding priorities. They did not state any additional services that should be available for low-to-moderate income individuals but are not.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Black Economic Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire Black Economic Council (BBEC) was consulted by email. BBEC expressed that affordable housing, energy efficiency improvements, and lead paint remediation are the top three housing and homelessness services to be funded with CDBG. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked municipal facilities first, sewer improvements second, and broadband infrastructure third. For overall funding priorities, BBEC ranked homeless services, public facilities, and public services as the top three categories.
23	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Legal Aid
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Community Legal Aid was consulted via email about what they thought the greatest funding priority needs were that could be addressed with CDBG funding. They stated that eviction prevention, homeless prevention, and affordable housing with the top three housing and homeless services. For overall funding priorities, they ranked affordable housing, homeless services, and economic development as the top three categories. Community Legal Aid also stated that residents of Pittsfield could benefit from more rental assistance programs to keep vulnerable populations in their homes.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Dream Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire Dream Center was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities. For housing and homelessness services, they ranked affordable housing, homeless outreach programs, and rental assistance programs as the top three priorities. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked parks and recreational areas, street and sidewalk improvements, and public school and building improvements as the top three priorities. For overall funding priorities, Berkshire Dream Center ranked public services as first, homeless services as second, and neighborhood revitalization as third. They also expressed interest in securing a CDBG grant at some point in the future to help support their food pantry that serves 1 in 4 Pittsfield community members.
25	Agency/Group/Organization	Skytop Properties
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Skytop properties was consulted on 1/6/25. They expressed that housing rehab, energy efficiency improvements, and residential historic preservation are the most important housing and homelessness services. For infrastructure improvements, they stated that municipal facilities improvements, school building improvements, and broadband infrastructure improvements were the most critical. Lastly, for overall funding priorities, they ranked homeless services first, public services second, and public facility improvements third.
26	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield police Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Pittsfield Police Department was consulted via email with a series of questions about funding priorities. For housing and homelessness services, they ranked homeless outreach programs, homeless prevention programs, and housing rehabilitation as the top three priorities, respectively. For infrastructure improvements, they ranked street and sidewalk improvements first, municipal facilities improvements second, and parks and recreational areas third. For overall funding priorities, their top three choices were economic development, homeless services, and public facility improvements, respectively.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

N/A

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care		

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(l))

The City of Pittsfield collaborates with other general local governments, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, as well as several State agencies and funding sources, in order to achieve the strategies included in the Consolidated Plan. The Pittsfield Department of Community Development pursues millions of dollars of State grant funds each year in an effort to leverage both CDBG and City funds in achieving Consolidated Plan goals.

Narrative (optional):

The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development ensures that as many agencies and organizations as possible are consulted and invited to participate in providing public input for the development of both its Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans. In addition to

consulting the agencies/groups/organizations listed above, the Department of Community Development staff prepared and distributed both a paper survey and an electronic survey to gather public input for this Consolidated Plan. Pittsfield Department of Community Development staff also held two public input meetings on February 26th at the Berkshire Athenaeum and on March 19th at Iglesia Fuente De Salvación Misionera Inc.

DRAFT

PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(c)

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

The City of Pittsfield Department of Community Development utilized several types of outreach methods in an effort to broaden citizen participation for its 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan.

Public Hearings: The Department of Community Development held two public input hearings. The first input hearing was held on February 26, 2025 at 6pm at the Berkshire Athenaeum. The second hearing was held on at.

Flyers: Paper and electronic flyers publicizing the CDBG public input meetings and the CDBG public survey were distributed a number of different ways.

Press Releases and Newspaper Articles: Press releases were prepared announcing the two public input meetings and the availability of the CDBG public survey at www.SurveyMonkey.com.

Display Advertisements: A total of 3 display advertisements were published between *The Berkshire Eagle* and iBerkshires announcing the CDBG public input meetings and CDBG public survey.

Copies of the advertisements are included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.

Public Survey: The City also developed and distributed an electronic and paper CDBG Public Survey in Spanish and English. The electronic version of the survey was developed at www.SurveyMonkey.com and a direct link to the survey was posted on the City's home page. The link was also included in all fliers, press releases, and advertisements. The City recieved 94 responses from the English survey and 1 response from the Spanish survey.

Public Comment Periods: Two public comment periods were held to solicit comments. A complete draft of the fiscal year 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan was made available for public review and comment for a 30-day period beginning April 22, 2025 through May 23, 2025. The availability of both the draft plan and the final plan was advertised in the local newspaper.

Demo

Public comments received from all sources during the process were extremely useful in determining Consolidated Plan needs and priorities and provided the City with confirmation that the use of CDBG funding is and will be invested accordingly and that the goals established in this Plan will be met.

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)
3	Public Meeting	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish	A public meeting was held on March 19, 2025 at 549 North Street, Iglesia Fuente De Salvación Misionera Inc at 5:30 PM in an effort to reach the Spanish speaking community. No one attended this meeting.	No comments were received	N/A	

Demo

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	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Several emails were sent to the HSAC in response to the iBerkshires article and press release.	17 comments were received regarding the Human Service needs for Pittsfield. See attachment in public participation section.	All comments were accepted.	https://www.iberkshires.com/story/74051/Public-Comments-Sought-On-Human-Service-Needs-In-Pittsfield.html

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

As of 2023, the population of Pittsfield is 43,559, with 19,556 households according to 2023 ACS data. The Median Income in Pittsfield as of 2023 is \$68,386.

32% (6,335) of all households in Pittsfield, renters and owners combined, have one or more severe housing problem.

Less than 1% of households (120) have substandard housing issues such as incomplete plumbing or kitchen facilities. Less than 1% of renter and owner households experience overcrowding of any kind.

The distribution of cost burden is experienced disproportionately by 1) Residents in the central city neighborhoods, 2) The elderly and/or disabled and 3) African Americans and those of Hispanic origin.

Black and Hispanic Origin households are disproportionately represented among those with low to very low incomes in Pittsfield. This is demonstrated by how closely the percentage of the population they represent mirrors the percentage of people with incomes less than or equal to 30% of AMI and also in part by where they reside.

Black and Hispanic origin households make up approximately 13.8% of the population, but 24% of the households in the City with incomes less than or equal to 30% of AMI and one or more severe housing problems which is only slightly more than the percentage of the entire population that they represent. (2023 ACS data, 2017-2021 CHAS data.)

Among the City's disabled population, 72% have housing problems. 900 households have incomes less than 30% of HAMFI. Among those, the rate of housing problems is between 88% and 100% (renters are slightly more likely to have severe housing problems than owners).

Elderly/frail-elderly renters and owners comprise 3.6% of all households with incomes below 30% AMI and with cost burdens over 50%. More elderly **owners** have severe cost burdens than renters, which may be due to fixed incomes and increases in real estate taxes and maintenance expenses.

Among victims of abuse and domestic violence, 74% of local shelter or emergency housing clients were from Pittsfield. Providers estimate the number of people in need of housing assistance may be much higher because many victims do not seek help. An estimated 65% of Pittsfield households experience severe housing problems/are at risk of homelessness as a result of abuse, stalking and/or domestic violence.

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

Summary of Housing Needs

The charts below reflect that 30% of Pittsfield households are low or very low income (0-30% and 30-50% HAMFI). Cost burden remains the highest of the four designated housing problems, with a very small percentage experiencing substandard housing (insufficient kitchen/plumbing facilities). It is widely believed, however, based on local input from the City Building Inspections Department, the Pittsfield Housing Authority, Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, and two neighborhood initiatives, that the averaged HUD data used in the tables below do not reflect the true need for housing rehabilitation. While there may be pockets of overcrowding, it is not believed to be a wide-spread issue. Cost-burden disproportionately impacts small family households, elderly, and households with children under 6 years. Many of these households are families with female single heads of households and are Black and Hispanic minorities.

Demographics	Base Year: 2020	Most Recent Year: 2023	% Change
Population	43,927	43,559	-1%
Households	19,072	19,566	3%
Median Income	\$56,620.00	\$68,386.00	21%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Alternate Data Source Name:
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA
Data Source Comments:

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	2,730	2,910	3,295	2,198	8,015
Small Family Households	555	815	375	1,010	3,865
Large Family Households	0	30	75	115	335
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	910	700	960	510	2,245
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	320	595	505	375	690
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	170	355	360	330	739

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Alternate Data Source Name:
2017-2021 CHAS
Data Source Comments:

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	25	10	20	55	110	10	0	0	0	10
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,250	435	60	0	1,745	420	355	180	0	955
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	410	1,025	485	125	2,045	100	455	630	265	1,450

Demo

	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)	90	0	0	0	90	45	0	0	0	45

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

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	1,695	1,470	575	180	3,920	525	815	810	265	2,415
Having none of four housing problems	350	315	765	660	2,090	160	310	1,145	1,245	2,860
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

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	45	420	75	540	0	80	175	255
Large Related	35	30	40	105	0	15	25	40

Demo

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Elderly	10	40	100	150	0	100	65	165
Other	195	350	250	795	25	40	245	310
Total need by income	285	840	465	1,590	25	235	510	770

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

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	335	170	30	535	100	80	60	240
Large Related	45	0	0	45	0	0	4	4
Elderly	15	35	0	50	65	45	25	135
Other	385	125	30	540	30	95	55	180
Total need by income	780	330	60	1,170	195	220	144	559

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

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	10	0	15	0	25	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	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
Total need by income	10	0	15	0	25	0	0	0	0	0

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

	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	170	295	100	565	0	60	260	320

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

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

Only a small number of single person households are identified as in need of housing assistance with problems other than cost burden. Many more single households are identified with cost burden housing problems. Cost burdens for households that are “other” (not elderly, large or small related) experience significant cost burdens.

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.

According to PHA 5 Year Plan data, there are housing problems for the disabled in income groups above 80% of AMI, the largest population (95%) is below 80% of AMI and especially below 30% of AMI. They make up nearly half of all disabled households with housing problems and 35% of all disabled households in Pittsfield.

The Elizabeth Freeman Center (EFC), the Pittsfield based domestic violence services provider, offers free and confidential counseling, a 25-bed shelter for adults and children, legal advocacy, safety planning, teen dating violence, prevention education, and 24/7 hotline. Pittsfield residents comprise about half of their active clients. EFC served approximately 1,500 survivors this past year. Providers also suggest that many of these people are also part of other high need populations, such as disabled, elderly and those with severe housing problems.

A MA Department of Transitional Assistance study of Emergency Assistance sheltered families found that nearly two-thirds of all respondents had been survivors of domestic violence sometime in their lives; more than a third had been survivors of domestic violence within the last year (Domestic Violence among Homeless Families, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance 2006). There has been a significant increase in the number of people moteled by EFC to protect them from danger and an increase in the number of nights they needed shelter.

What are the most common housing problems?

The most common housing problem in Pittsfield is cost burden, and especially in the three central census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006), that generally comprise Morningside and Westside, where the AMI is about 54% of the AMI of the entire City. The population of these three census tracts makes up 25% of the population and 28% of the City's households. The majority of residents in these areas are renters and a high percentage of them have severe housing problems due to low incomes. Secondary among housing problems is in substandard housing, having insufficient plumbing or kitchen facilities, among very low-income households.

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

Since the majority of severe cost burden problems are experienced by those with incomes below 50% of HAMFI, and even more so among those with incomes below 30% of HAMFI, it is clear that large numbers of families of all sizes city-wide, but especially those who live in the central census tracts of 9001, 9002, and 9006 are experiencing severe cost burden problems. (CPD maps data)

While a very high proportion of Pittsfield families, and especially those in the central city neighborhoods experience severe cost burden housing problems, problems related to sub-standard housing have been reduced by rehabilitation, demolitions and lead education and abatement programs.

In addition to the disabled described in the section above, elderly and frail elderly renters and owners face a higher cost burden.

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

Low and extremely low-income disabled households with housing problems risk being forced into temporary relocation or homelessness. Coordinated homeless diversion or rapid re-housing services are provided through coordinated services among Berkshire Housing Services, Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, and Soldier On (Veterans). Data provided by these agencies are a good indicator of need. An average of 1,000 households are diverted from homelessness annually, including over 1,500

referred to financial assistance through Home-Base, RAFT, and ESG and Neighbor 2 Neighbor programs. Most of these households are eligible for subsidized housing, however many wait years to obtain either TBRA or project-based units due to the long waiting lists through the Pittsfield PHA and Berkshire Housing Services (There are currently over 1,000 households on the Berkshire Housing waiting list, with an anticipated wait of 3-4 years). Depending on the nature and severity of the disability, most households have difficulty maintaining housing without the supports of subsidies due to limited capacity to work. All of the agencies who work with low-income individuals and families have coordinated "self-sufficiency" assessment practices to identify the needs of participants across multiple domains (housing, income, employment, education, food/nutrition, childcare, transportation, MH/SA service supports, healthcare, and skills development, etc.) and are referred to appropriate resources, no matter which "front-door" they enter, and request services from.

Additional affordable housing, with access to on-going support services, either through homeless services organizations, affordable housing support services plans at housing complexes, or through organizations that support individuals with chronic disabilities (Brien Center, ServiceNet, Ad Lib, Berkshire Elder Services, United Cerebral Palsy, the Departments of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, etc.) continues to be the most critical need for individuals who are currently housed but at imminent risk of residing in shelter or becoming unsheltered. Providers have been working on collaborative solutions to bring more resources into the community, as evidenced by new SSFV funds for Veterans, a reallocation of HUD McKinney Vento funds that had previously funded transitional housing and converting these units to permanent supportive housing, and constant efforts to increase the quantity of affordable housing.

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:

Pittsfield defined high risk households using the following parameters:

- Households with incomes of 50% or less of the AMI
- Your income is less than 60% of the AMI and you are at risk of domestic violence
- Single parent households headed by female heads of households with children under 6 years.
- Households that are 1 or more months behind in rent or those who have received eviction notices.
- Low-income households that experience a sudden loss of a wage earner (e.g. if partner is incarcerated, women fleeing a domestic violence situation, divorce, separation, or death).

The methodology used in these definitions is based on shelter and prevention program data, and census data.

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

Household characteristics linked with instability and at increased risk of homelessness include very low income households, single parent households with female heads, families with disabilities, and seniors both renter/homeowners. While more difficult to quantify the source and cause - due to disclosure issues - women fleeing domestic violence are at high risk of homelessness.

Discussion

In addition to HUD's prepopulated data that conveys issues related to substandard housing, the City has developed a measure for tracking progress on improving substandard housing that reflects annual and five-year progress with mitigating substandard housing that amplifies the pre-populated data. This includes tracking the number of housing rehabilitation units funded, code enforcement inspections, and patterns of building permits obtained. 64 multi-family buildings and 73 in 1-4 unit buildings were funded with CDBG housing rehabilitation units from 2020-2025. While the number and location of building permit applications changes from year to year, the percentage of permits that involve significant investment in property seems relatively consistent.

DRAFT

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	2,164	435	0
White	2,000	390	0
Black / African American	160	45	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	4	0	0
0	0	0	0

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	2,285	1,075	0
White	900	895	0
Black / African American	55	85	0
Asian	25	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0

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
Hispanic	0	60	0
0	0	0	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	990	1,805	0
White	830	1,575	0
Black / African American	30	115	0
Asian	25	14	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	40	15	0
0	0	0	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	445	1,905	0
White	235	1,695	0
Black / African American	35	100	0
Asian	0	25	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	135	0	0
0	0	0	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:
2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	2,285	1,185	0
White	1,550	1,040	0
Black / African American	505	105	0
Asian	20	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	50	44	0
0	0	0	0

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	805	2,105	0
White	675	1,710	0
Black / African American	90	185	0
Asian	0	25	0

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
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	30	70	0
Other	0	0	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	270	3,205	0
White	240	2,575	0
Black / African American	15	180	0
Asian	0	35	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	20	130	0
Other	0	0	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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	55	2,295	0
White	35	1,890	0
Black / African American	0	125	0
Asian	0	25	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	135	0
Other	0	0	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:
2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*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:

Black and Hispanic people of origin have disproportionally greater need. This is demonstrated in part by the fact that a highly disproportionate quantity of the Black and Hispanic populations live in the neighborhoods where the incomes are lowest and the cost burden highest.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	12,590	3,835	2,734	140
White	11,285	3,075	2,425	80
Black / African American	415	280	210	20
Asian	230	50	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	405	295	79	40
Other	255	135	20	0

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2017-2021 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

Discussion:

Black and Hispanic origin people tend to be disproportionally represented among those with higher cost burdens. For example, in the entire City, people with >50% housing cost burdens are only 27% of the number that have ≤30% cost burdens. American Indians, Alaskan Native and Pacific Islanders are not present in enough number to have significant data.

This disproportionality is extreme and of great concern on many levels. More quality, affordable housing and better paying jobs are essential.

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?

Black and Hispanic Origin households are disproportionately represented among those with low to very low incomes in Pittsfield. This is demonstrated by how closely the percentage of the population they represent mirrors the percentage of people with incomes less than or equal to 30% of AMI and also in part by where they reside.

Black and Hispanic origin households make up approximately 13.8% of the population, but 24% of the households in the City with incomes less than or equal to 30% of AMI and one or more severe housing problems which is only slightly more than the percentage of the entire population that they represent. (2023 ACS data, 2017-2021 CHAS data.)

In a larger picture, households with cost burdens above 30% are equal to 15% of the entire population, but among African Americans and Hispanics there are actually more people with burdens greater than 30% than less. 864 Black and Hispanic families have cost burdens greater than 30% and 820 families have burdens less than 30%. (2017-2021 CHAS data.)

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

Better paying jobs, more quality affordable housing, increased access to transportation, especially to nearby parts of the County where more service and trade employment is available (in the Stockbridge, Great Barrington and Lee areas).

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

Yes. While only 25% of all people in Pittsfield live in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside, 53% of African American and 37% Hispanic origin households live in those neighborhoods where the AMI is \$23,504 or 54% of the AMI of the City as a whole. This is clearly related to the fact that African American and Hispanic Origin families are disproportionately represented among those with low to very low incomes in Pittsfield. They make up 9.6% of the households in the City with incomes less than or equal to 30% of AMI and one or more severe housing problems which is only slightly more than the percentage of their entire population.

Black and people of Hispanic origin make up 13.8% of the City-wide population, but 20% of the center city census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006). Unfortunately, this also corresponds to the drastically lower area median income (AMI) in the center city census tracts, where the average AMI of those census tracts is \$23,604 which is only 54% of the City-wide AMI of \$43,916 and 31% of the families earn less than \$15,000 a year (34% of Area Median Income). (PP data, CPD maps and 2010 census data)

DRAFT

NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The HUD chart below "Totals in Use" only provides the number of federally funded public housing units within Pittsfield along with the number of HUD tenant-based housing choice vouchers (Section 8) that were being administered by the Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) as of a certain date in time which was most likely the previous fiscal year.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	0	698	1,505	126	1,379	0	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Alternate Data Source Name:

PIC (PIH Information Center)

Data Source Comments:

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	0	0	20,017	20,128	43,655	19,882	0	0
Average length of stay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average Household size	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0
# Homeless at admission	0	0	8	0	44	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	61	137	4	133	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	0	88	238	3	235	0	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	0	520	0	520	0	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:

PIC (PIH Information Center)

Data Source Comments:

Race of Residents

Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	443	492	14	478	0	0	0
Black/African American	0	0	74	111	5	106	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	19	2	0	2	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

Alternate Data Source Name:
PIC (PIH Information Center)
Data Source Comments:

Ethnicity of Residents

Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	50	50	1	49	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0	518	435	19	416	0	0	0

***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:

PIC (PIH Information Center)

Data Source Comments:

DRAFT

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

Hearthway reports that approximately 2,600 individuals are on the mobile voucher waiting list. Of those 2,600, 225 reported having a disability. The exact amount of disabled individuals on the waiting list is unknown, as disability status is not a required question on the application. It can be assumed that the exact amount is higher than 8.6%.

PHA reported that there are 173,933 people on the voucher waitlist without live/work local preference. Of those, 172,433 reported having a disability. For the live/work local preference waitlist, there are 2,407 individuals, of which 907 reported having a disability.

PHA also reported on the waitlist for federal public housing and state public housing. There are 624 individuals on the waitlist for federal public housing with no live/work local preference. Of those, 203 are disabled or elderly. There are 37 individuals on the local live/work waitlist for federal public housing. Of those 37, 19 are disabled or elderly. There are 10,429 individuals on the state public housing waitlist with no live/work local preference. Of those, 1,863 are elderly or disabled.

The amount of accessible units is severely limited in comparison with the large amount of disabled individuals on all waitlists.

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

Waiting list data from the Pittsfield Housing Authority indicate the highest area of need is for households that are extremely low income.

The most immediate issue facing both housing authorities are the issues statewide waiting list system for state-aided public housing. All households seeking housing in Massachusetts are listed on a centralized waiting list. Once an applicant reaches the top of the list, they must be offered the next unit that becomes available in the state, regardless of where it is located. This has caused the local housing authority's to be administratively overwhelmed with out of area applicants that have no desire to locate to the region but still need to have their applications processed. This process has created unnecessary vacancies that harm locally based households.

Since public housing residents and voucher holders have extremely low incomes, it is clear that the highest needs for able bodied Public Housing residents include higher paying jobs, education, training and transportation. A lot of employment for Pittsfield residents is in service and trade jobs that are often located outside the City in more affluent parts of the region. Public transportation to those areas is minimal.

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

Since incomes of public housing residents and voucher holders tend to be so low, many of the problems they face in terms of transportation, education or better paying jobs are not experienced by the population at large in the same proportion. One exception to that is the rising crime rate, which very likely has more impact on people living in the central city neighborhoods, but certainly has some impact on the lives of everyone in the city.

Discussion

There is a clear need for more public housing for all populations, but certainly the need among disabled and elderly families is among the highest. Public housing is filling a desperate need for safe, quality housing in Pittsfield where so many people have low to extremely low incomes.

The average public housing and voucher holder's income of about 28% of the area median income of the City as a whole is only about 56% percent of the median income of the families in the central city neighborhoods – and the median family income in the central city neighborhoods is about half of the City at large. So since most of the public housing in Pittsfield is in the central city neighborhoods (census tracts 9001, 9002, 9006), residents represent another impoverished geographic sub-set.

DRAFT

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

Pittsfield has a well-established service system that provides, outreach and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing targeted to families, veterans and women experiencing domestic violence, and an array of permanent supportive housing programs for chronically homeless individuals funded through HUD McKinney grants and MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The Pittsfield community has an integrated homeless prevention and diversion program for families, individuals and Veteran families initiatives funded through the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). The 3-County Rural Continuum of Care (Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties), and Western MA Network to End Homelessness supports:

- strategic planning including specific actions to reduce and end homelessness,
- policies that prevent discharge into homelessness from institutions,
- a comprehensive HMIS data system that collects client level data on homelessness helps to assess needs and changes in the homeless population,
- point-in-time counts, Area Homeless Assessment Reports, and annual Housing Inventory Charts

Berkshire County maintains a sub-committee of the Continuum and holds quarterly CoC Policy and Systems meetings to coordinate homeless services within Central, North and South County.

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)	0	99	99	0	0	0

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 Only Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	16	72	88	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Child	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Alternate Data Source Name:
2024 Point in Time Count
Data Source Comments:

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	56	0
Black or African American	95	0
Asian	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	23	0
Not Hispanic	0	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.

Soldier On estimates that an average of 300 Veteran families in Berkshire County are at risk of homelessness and will target serving 250 individuals/families with SSVF prevention, diversion and rapid re-housing, through the use of flexible funds. Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority and Berkshire Regional Housing Corporation provide some 700 families annually with prevention, diversion and rapid rehousing resources.

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

The Pittsfield homeless population is predominately black (55%), 32% white, and 13% Hispanic. This is reflective of the area demographics.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

Over the last five years, the numbers of unsheltered individuals has increased slightly. The 2020 Point in Time Count indicates that 5 people in Pittsfield were unsheltered or sleeping somewhere unsafe for habitation on a single night in January. The 2025 Point in Time Count indicates that 16 individuals were unsheltered on a single night in January. ServiceNet operates a low-threshold winter shelter for individuals operated in collaboration with Soldier On.

In previous years, this shelter was funded by a state earmark that provided funds for this overflow capacity with additional funds for prevention and diversion from homelessness. Recognizing how critical and needed these beds are, the Berkshire County legislature and providers and the Western MA

Network to End Homelessness have asked the state to make this a line item in the state's budget to secure this critical funding.

Discussion:

Homelessness outreach, rapid rehousing, and prevention are essential services due to the high number of households paying in excess of 50% of their income for rent and, as a result, are considered to be cost burdened. Additionally, there is also a high number of households paying in excess of 30% of their income for rent. All of these cost-burdened households are at a high risk of becoming homeless. Research indicates that the most cost-effective approaches to diverting individuals and families from entering homelessness and restabilizing them quickly are through short-term subsidies, skills development, and flexible outreach and support services. Pittsfield service providers, with the support of the community, legislators, new funding, the CoC and Network to End Homelessness, have developed a level of integration and collaboration within the community. Much needed winter overflow capacity, conversion of transitional housing to new permanent supportive housing beds whenever possible, better integration, and targeting of prevention and homeless diversion funds through Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA) and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation's (BHDC) RAFT program, and other prevention services have made a difference.

An average of over 1,000 households are diverted from homelessness annually, including over 1,500 referred to financial assistance through Home-Base, RAFT, ESG, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, and other financial assistance programs (e.g. MHSA and Youth). While poverty continues to be ever present in the community, these initiatives are making in-roads into preventing people from slipping into homelessness and providing rapid rehousing if they do.

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

Introduction:

Pittsfield has a comprehensive array of services for its elderly, frail elderly, people with disabilities, people with addictions and HIV/AIDS. The Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) prioritizes the elderly, people with disabilities and families with children and makes their housing needs a priority.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Elderly: Pittsfield has a significantly higher elderly population than the rest of the state. In 2023, 20.1% of the population of Pittsfield, and only 18.1% of the population of MA was over 65. A disproportionate percentage of elderly people in Pittsfield live alone compared to state averages (36% vs 28.7%). This includes approximately 2,883 people and these often have the greatest need for supports.

Disabilities: Approximately 250 individuals with developmental disabilities live in Pittsfield with service needs. Approximately 30% are under 21, 52% are adults, and 18% are elderly. The Department of Mental health provides services to approximately 225 persons who have serious mental illness and co-occurring substance misuse disorders. Services and supports are provided through DMH Case Management, Brien Center and Viability Inc., and Mass Rehab Commission. In Pittsfield there are 40 group living environment (GLE) slots. DMH considers this a temporary living situation where the person can obtain skills for independent living and self-care. Residents transition out to an "Agency Based" subsidized apartment where the tenant is the Brien Center. DMH has 33 Agency Based Community subsidized apartments in Pittsfield.

Ad-Lib, Inc. plans to offer peer counseling, information and referral, skills training, advocacy, transition assistance, social recreational/educational activities, transportation, and home modifications to people with disabilities in Pittsfield. For federal fiscal year 2024, Ad-Lib served 923 people with disabilities. Of that number, 611 reported a physical disability.

Addictions: Brien Center continues to respond to trends in alcohol and drug use. 2017-2018 data breaks down primary drug of abuse as follows:

- Alcohol: 49%
- Heroin: 31.4%
- Marijuana: 9.4%
- Crack/Cocaine: 8.2%
- Other Opioids: 7.3%

Among clients enrolled in the Brien Centers substance use disorder outpatient programs, half report marijuana use within the past year, and almost half report heroin or opioid use within the past year, highlighting the need for services that address polysubstance abuse. 59% of persons served in Brien Center outpatient clinics identified as male, and 40.8% identified as female, with non-binary/transgender individuals making up less than 1% of persons served. The majority of adults served in our clinics (65%) are over the age of 30. 30% identify as unemployed at the time of intake, and approximately 5% report being homeless at the time of intake. 63% of addiction treatment clients have MassHealth insurance.

Domestic Violence: The Elizabeth Freeman Center (EFC), the Pittsfield based domestic violence services provider, offers free and confidential counseling, shelter, legal advocacy, safety planning, teen dating violence, prevention education and 24/7 hotline. This past year, they served nearly 1,500 clients.

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

Elderly/Frail Elderly: Health care access, transportation, affordable housing, and information and health navigation assistance. Transportation services are needed due to the high number of elderly people living alone. (Elder Services)

Disabilities: There is little need for additional housing or support services for individuals with disabilities who are largely cared for through the state Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and their contracted providers (DDS interview). The state Department of Mental Health (DMH interview) and the Brien Center address most of the housing and support needs of the mentally ill. Individuals with physical disabilities are largely supported through Elder Services, Ad Lib, Goodwill Industries and the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Berkshire County (interview). Greater fully accessible housing, adequate income from SSDI, and employment opportunities continue to be the greatest unmet needs.

Addictions: Treatment services are provided at the McGee Unit at Berkshire Medical Center and the Brien Center provides aftercare services including an intensive outpatient day program, a group home (Keenan House), and supported housing options, along with comprehensive outpatient addictions services. Housing instability is a core problem for approximately 180 individuals in Pittsfield with addictions. Low demand treatment programs, and peer recovery supports are a needed addition to the existing services in the community to respond to individuals who are only in the very early stages of change regarding their addictive patterns.

Domestic Violence: The Elizabeth Freeman Center (EFC) provided services, shelter, or emergency housing to approximately 1,500 individuals/families last year, and about half were from Pittsfield. EFC staff estimate that the real number of people in need of housing assistance is likely to be double or more (estimated 800 people, based on local and national statistics for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking), because only a portion of people who are victims of abuse seek help and therefore are captured in the EFC data. Providers also suggest that many of these people are

also part of other high need populations, such as disabled, elderly and those with severe housing problems.

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

The data and service needs information document an unmet housing need among all but developmentally and most physically disabled individuals. While the PHA prioritizes all special needs populations (disability, elderly, or families with children), there is insufficient capacity and a long waiting list to meet the needs of eligible applicants. The City has an excellent infrastructure of support for special needs populations; however as with housing there is sometimes insufficient funding for staff capacity to fully meet the volume of needs.

If the PJ will establish a preference for a HOME TBRA activity for persons with a specific category of disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness), describe their unmet need for housing and services needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2) (ii))

N/A

Discussion:

The data and service needs information document an unmet housing need among all but developmentally and most physically disabled individuals. While the PHA prioritizes all special needs populations (disability, elderly, or families with children), there is insufficient capacity and a long waiting list to meet the needs of eligible applicants. The City has an excellent infrastructure of support for special needs populations; however as with housing there is sometimes insufficient funding for staff capacity to fully meet the volume of needs.

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

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:

Homeless facilities: ServiceNet operates a 40-bed shelter at 21 Pearl St. The facility includes three dorms with bunk beds and in suite bathrooms, two recreation rooms, handicapped restrooms, and a laundry room.

Elizabeth Freeman Center: EFC is the City's only domestic violence shelter and service program. Both facilities are partially funded by state and federal sources, but there is a gap in funding. These are essential facilities for homeless and special needs populations in the City.

Youth Centers: The Community Needs Survey rated Youth Centers as the number one need for Pittsfield. Both neighborhood initiatives have been exploring the need for a community possibility of creating a community center for youth.

Childcare: Neighborhood based childcare facilities and subsidies in the City's Westside and Morningside neighborhoods continue to have a strong need for childcare facilities. Current facilities are operated by Childcare of the Berkshires.

Neighborhood Facilities: The City is undertaking a Tyler Street District improvement planning process to upgrade a major business corridor adjacent to the downtown district. A vacant City-owned Tyler Street firehouse and vacant land in the district are in the planning phase for redevelopment. The City purchased a vacant gas station on Tyler Street to improve the condition of the neighborhood and create green space directly across from Morningside Community School.

How were these needs determined?

These facilities needs were determined by the following plans: Planning to Thrive- City of Pittsfield Master Plan; Housing Needs Analysis & Development Recommendation (parks); the Tyler Street Transformative District Initiative Plan (Neighborhood Facilities) and the Parks and Open Space Five Year Capital Plan. Other feedback sources included the Citizen Comments received at the CDBG public input meetings held, and the CDBG public survey responses.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

The City has identified the following needs for public improvements:

Sidewalks: Sidewalk reconstruction and the installation of curb cuts are on-going needs for income eligible neighborhoods. This is part of a City master plan to improve accessibility, pedestrian safety, and walkability. This has been a multi-year commitment over the past decade.

Park Improvements: As part of the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Open Space Five Year Capital Plan, City capital funds and other funding sources are identified to improve and create parks throughout the Pittsfield, including the Westside and Morningside target neighborhoods.

How were these needs determined?

These Public Improvement Needs were determined by the following documents: Planning to Thrive- City of Pittsfield Master Plan; City of Pittsfield Parking Management Plan; Housing Needs Analysis & Development Recommendation; Tyler Street Infill Development Plan. Other feedback sources included the citizen comments received at the CDBG public input meetings, and CDBG public survey responses. See Citizen Participation section.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

The City of Pittsfield continues its commitment to fund human services through its annual operating budget which complements yearly budgeted CDBG funds allocated for public service grants. In order to foster coordinated approaches to service needs, agencies are encouraged to collaborate whenever possible. Public services needs fall under the following broad categories:

Family Services with identified needs in the areas of: family stability; well-being; financial management; education and training; and employment for young families and parents with a history of abuse and neglect; affordable childcare and early childhood education programs, home visiting programs for first time high risk parents under the age of 30; support for children, adolescents and families who suffer from serious and persistent behavioral health disorders; and consumer advocacy to support, advocate and educate families with children with persistent mental health issues.

Prevention and Resolution of Homelessness with identified needs in the areas of: housing counseling services, legal and educational counseling, community dispute resolution services through housing court as well as housing search services; money management and financial literacy programming for individuals on SSI; emergency shelter funds for homeless individuals; homeless prevention/legal representation in the area of housing law for homeless households and those at risk of homelessness; and emergency residential shelter for victims of domestic violence and for their homeless prevention services which include a 24 hour hotline and emergency services including transportation, food, shelter and legal advocacy for protection and vacate orders.

Disability Services with identified needs in the areas of: basic needs/self-sufficiency advocacy services for children and adults who are developmentally and physically disabled; programs that provides activities to promote socialization, support and skills training; vocational rehabilitation program, which provides job training, vocational counseling, referral services and employment for individuals with

disability; healthy summer programs for low income families of children with disabilities; workshops lead by faculty artists for individuals with disabilities.

Youth Services and Anti- Crime Programs with identified needs for multidisciplinary services for child victims of assault; positive youth development activities including; youth gardening; life skills program for at-risk/high risk youth; anti-bullying programs for school aged children; art classes at neighborhood schools; self-esteem programs for at-risk middle school students; employment/job readiness services for teens; school retention support for high-risk youth.

Elderly Services: Meals on Wheels program, and transportation for the increasing number of elderly/frail elderly living alone.

Transportation: for low-income individuals and families at off-peak hours so they can get to and from jobs in the evenings.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services: Including substance abuse prevention and education programs.

How were these needs determined?

These needs were determined by input from human service agencies that serve the special needs populations described above, homeless, family service agencies, youth and elderly service providers, citizen public input sessions and public surveys.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

There has been a significant change in the pattern of owner-occupied multi-family homes in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside which include census tracts 9001, 9002, and 9006. It is more difficult for people of modest means, who are the most likely to own and live in a multi-family house, to purchase a multi-family home.

Some of the reasons for this are:

1. Lending for multi-family homes has become stricter, making it more difficult for owner occupiers to purchase multi-family homes. One significant barrier is that the reserve requirements to get a mortgage have increased.
2. There has been a decline in interest in multi-family purchases among first-time homebuyers – who are among the most likely to be owner occupiers. This tends to reduce building permits because existing owners may be less likely to upgrade the property.
3. A combination of reduced equity and increased reserve requirements make it more difficult for existing owners to borrow money. Reserve requirements specify that new multi-family owners have access to 10% to 20% of the value of the home in reserve to cover unanticipated vacancies and emergency repairs. With lower appraisals on multi-family homes in the central city neighborhoods, it's not as likely that new owners can borrow additional funds for repairs at the time of purchase – and more difficult for existing owners to borrow equity line reserves.
4. Some multi-family owner occupiers lost their property through foreclosure. Sometimes because tenants were unable to pay rent.

Market Changes:

Home prices and the number of homes sold increased from 1,112 in 2023 to 1,133 in 2024, according to Berkshire Market Watch Report. The majority of these sales are for single family homes, although multi-family dwellings have experienced a steady increase in sales over the last several years. The median sales price for a home in Pittsfield has also been steadily rising since 2020.

According to the 2023 American Community Survey, 44% of the housing units in Pittsfield are in multi-family structures and the majority of multi-family homes are in Pittsfield's central city neighborhoods where over half of the multi-family units are located and nearly three quarters of the residents are renters. The increase in sale prices of multi-family homes in Pittsfield has more impact on the poorest socio-economic groups in the city. In addition, the lower rate of owner-occupied homes is likely to have an impact on the social and economic environment of the community.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

The City has 21,589 total units of housing according to 2023 ACS data. Approximately 8% of those units are affordable housing units.

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	11,290	52%
1-unit, attached structure	929	4%
2-4 units	5,682	26%
5-19 units	2,438	11%
20 or more units	1,045	5%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	205	1%
Total	21,589	100%

Table 27 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Alternate Data Source Name:
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA
Data Source Comments:

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	284	1%	251	3%
1 bedroom	3,000	15%	2,610	35%
2 bedrooms	13,200	67%	4,171	56%
3 or more bedrooms	3,082	16%	466	6%
Total	19,566	99%	7,498	100%

Table 28 – Unit Size by Tenure

Alternate Data Source Name:
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA
Data Source Comments:

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

44% of all housing units in Pittsfield are located in multi-unit structures and approximately 23% of those housing units are affordable housing operated by the PHA, Berkshire Housing Services, Inc., or private ownership. The Housing Authority owns and manages a total of 10 housing developments consisting of 695 rental units and administers 580 housing vouchers. Hearthway, formerly Berkshire Housing owns

and/or manages eight housing developments consisting of 328 rental units in Pittsfield and 902 total vouchers.

The breakdown of the types of households occupying subsidized affordable housing units located in federal, state, and privately owned housing developments in Pittsfield is as follows:

- 845 subsidized units are designated as elderly housing
- 546 subsidized units are designated as family housing
- 120 subsidized units are designated as mixed housing for any household type
- 44 subsidized units are designated as individual housing

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

No units are expected to be lost in the near future due to the expiration of Section 8 contracts.

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

No. Waiting lists are extremely long for public housing and for tenant-based Housing Choice Rental Vouchers (Section 8).

PHA waiting lists: The dramatic increase in the number of people on the PHA waiting lists, and especially those with extremely low-incomes and disabilities, demonstrates increasing numbers of people in the City with severe housing cost problems and is at the most urgent level since 2004, due largely to job loss, low wages, lack of transportation to where employment is located, an aging population, and other economic conditions of the last several years.

Berkshire Housing Waiting List Changes: The addition of 37 three bedroom units and 63 two bedroom units since 2010 has had a dramatic effect on waiting lists, especially for the three bedroom units, because prior to 2012 there were none to offer. The availability of additional large units has led to a corresponding increase in waiting list demand.

Section 8 Voucher Waiting List: The PHA reports there are a total of 632 Housing Choice Mobile Vouchers and 100 Project Based Vouchers currently in use in 2025 and the PHA does not anticipate receiving an increased allocation in 2026. There are approximately 2,600 people on their Section 8 Housing Choice Mobile Voucher waiting list.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

Hearthway reports that there are 706 pending Section 8 vouchers and expected wait time for new applications taking three and a half years. Pittsfield Housing reported its wait time for federally funded units is two years. The application process for state funded public housing is centralized and the wait

time for a unit is dependent on the individual applications, therefore, an expected wait time is unpredictable.

The Commonwealth established a goal for the purpose of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B for each community to have at least 10% of its housing stock to be affordable for households at or below 80% of the AMI. The Department of Housing and Livable Communities calculates Pittsfield is only at approximately 8% for subsidized housing units.

Discussion

The City continues to see increasing demand for safe affordable housing. The demand (e.g. number on waiting lists) for any kind of subsidized housing has is higher now than at any time in the last 10 years. This year the most demand is for tenant based Housing Choice Rental Vouchers (Section 8), but this may be primarily because the PHA periodically closes the wait list for Section 8 vouchers until the list becomes shorter.

A small change in the demographics of those on the waiting lists is consistent with the general demographics of the region and the City – that is there are slightly fewer families with children on the waiting lists and more elderly and families with disabilities.

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

Introduction

Data from the 2023 American Community Survey puts the median home value in Pittsfield at \$233,700 which is 32% greater than the 2020 median value of \$176,800. The median contract rent in 2023 was \$1,094 which is 21% greater than the 2020 median contract rent of \$907.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2020	Most Recent Year: 2023	% Change
Median Home Value	176,800	233,700	32%
Median Contract Rent	907	1,094	21%

Table 29 – Cost of Housing

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	728	0.0%
\$500-999	2,305	0.0%
\$1,000-1,499	2,940	0.0%
\$1,500-1,999	693	0.0%
\$2,000 or more	698	0.0%
Total	7,364	0.0%

Table 30 - Rent Paid

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

Housing Affordability

Number of Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	No Data	No Data
50% HAMFI	No Data	No Data
80% HAMFI	No Data	No Data
100% HAMFI	No Data	No Data
Total	0	0

Table 31 – Housing Affordability

Data Source Comments: 2017-2021 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	950	1,100	1,402	1,807	1,867
High HOME Rent	950	1,100	1,402	1,807	1,867
Low HOME Rent	950	1,055	1,266	1,462	1,631

Table 32 – Monthly Rent

Data Source Comments: 2024 HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

No. For people who can afford single family residences there is an abundance of housing available at prices below what they were 5 to 7 years ago. However, for people of more modest means, for whom owner occupied multi-family homes may have been a viable option 5 to 7 years ago, the opportunities are far fewer. While multi-family homes are available at low prices, financing is not.

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

With rents remaining high, or stable, depending on one's perspective, affordability ownership for moderate income families would be possible if financing was more readily available for origination and rehabilitation of multi-family homes. For renters, the availability of safe, quality housing at moderate rent is limited, which in large part is why public housing and rental voucher program waiting lists are so long. Viable, affordable housing is more and more often limited to public housing or for those who have mobile Section 8 housing vouchers.

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

Current Fair Market Rents (FMR) align very closely to average Area Median Rent (AMR) for one-bedroom apartments. There is approximately a 15% disparity between market rate rents and FMR's for efficiencies and AMR's for two and three bedrooms. This creates a disincentive to develop efficiencies and an incentive to create affordable 2-3 bedroom units. A further factor impacting affordable housing development is the narrow profit margin achievable in small affordable housing projects (under 50 units), which is the type appropriate for many settings in the central city target neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside.

Discussion

Although there is some inconsistency in estimates of rent required for various size apartments in Pittsfield, it is clear that it has raised. Fair market rents have gone up in the last five years. Median rent

has also increased 21% since 2020. While the overall median family income (MFI) in the City has increased, the MFI of those who are living in the central city neighborhoods has not. The result is larger Public Housing and rental voucher waiting lists and large numbers of severely cost burdened families, which precipitate increasing problems securing and maintaining transportation, health care, quality food, education, and job training.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

Significant progress has been made in de-leading housing units and in the demolition of buildings that are either beyond repair or the cost of repair far exceeds the value of the potential rehabilitation. Since 2020, the City reports that 14 buildings have been demolished. A total of 13 housing units were de-leaded with CDBG funds between 2020 and 2025, with an average cost of \$29,895 per unit. Additionally, 64 multi-family buildings and 73 in 1-4 unit buildings were rehabbed using lead-safe practices on projects that contained some lead but did not trigger a full de-leading.

Most properties that were demolished in Pittsfield were condemned in disrepair by the time they were torn down. Many of the City's large multi-family structures were built in the 19th and early 20th century to house factory workers. Unfortunately, because of low property values in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside, some structures that were originally of higher quality have also been lost because the cost of restoring them would not be supported by property values in those neighborhoods and owners let them fall into disrepair and eventually abandoned them. This is a common problem in many older New England cities, and it is unfortunate because of the history and character that tends to be lost.

Describe the jurisdiction's definition of "standard condition" and "substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation":

Housing considered to be in **"substandard"** condition is defined as a structure with conditions that present serious health or safety hazards to residents. In Pittsfield, more often than not, residential buildings that fit this definition are eventually issued a condemnation order by the City's Board of Health which then oftentimes leads to the issuance of an Order to Demolish if the code violations are not rectified within a given time period. Issues that can make a housing unit **"substandard"** include but are not limited to:

- Lack of non-porous floors in bathrooms and kitchens
- Roof leaks
- Foundation problems
- Inadequate and/or poorly operating electrical systems
- Inadequate and/or poorly operating heating systems
- Inadequate and/or poorly functioning plumbing system and fixtures
- Aging fuel containment systems (i.e. aging oil tanks)

Housing considered to be in **"substandard condition but eligible for rehabilitation"** is dependent upon the degree of deterioration of the same systems listed above as well as an assessment of the level of health and safety risk presented to the residents either now or in the near future. Some of the issues

that would be present to qualify housing to be considered in substandard condition but eligible for rehabilitation include, but are not limited to:

- Inadequate insulation
- Broken or poorly operating windows and doors
- Walls with holes and/or crumbling plaster
- Non-contained lead-based paint
- Non-contained asbestos

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	2,521	21%	3,789	51%
With two selected Conditions	95	1%	66	1%
With three selected Conditions	11	0%	27	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	9,441	78%	3,616	48%
Total	12,068	100%	7,498	100%

Table 33 - Condition of Units

Alternate Data Source Name:
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA
Data Source Comments:

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	531	4%	326	4%
1980-1999	1,277	11%	798	11%
1950-1979	1,991	16%	1,470	20%
Before 1950	8,269	69%	4,904	65%
Total	12,068	100%	7,498	100%

Table 34 – Year Unit Built

Alternate Data Source Name:
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA
Data Source Comments:

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	10,260	85%	6,374	85%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	1,085	9%	679	9%

Table 35 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Alternate Data Source Name:
2017-2021 CHAS
Data Source Comments:

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	74	12	86
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 36 - Vacant Units

Alternate Data Source Name:
City of Pittsfield Vacant Building List
Data Source Comments:

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

<TYPE=[text] REPORT_GUID=[F8DC4D3147433947165558A235C46686]
PLAN_SECTION_ID=[1313801000]>

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

Because the housing stock in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside is generally older than many of the houses in the rest of the City, there is more lead risk in these neighborhoods. However, it's a fine point, because while the original housing stock in the central city neighborhoods is made up of 19th-century and early 20th-century buildings, the majority of the housing stock in the rest of the City still contains lead because most of the housing was constructed before 1978. The 2015 estimate is that 84% of the buildings in the City were built before 1980. Although the majority of lower-income residents live in the central city neighborhoods are often at risk for lead exposure, their risk may not be significantly greater than that for the rest of the population. This is because many low-income citizens live in public and subsidized housing units, and some low-income households may be at less risk of lead than people in the rest of the population.

Discussion

The City has demolished approximately 155 buildings since 1992 using a combination of CDBG, State, and City funds.

Since 2020 (FY '21) the City has demolished 14 buildings.

A total of 130 housing units have been de-leaded with CDBG funds since 2005.

How many more were de-leaded privately, is unknown.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

The local housing authority is the Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA). The PHA owns and manages federally and state-funded public housing developments and administers HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Vouchers for very low-income households. In addition to the PHA, Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. (BHS) also owns and manages federally and state-funded public housing developments and administers HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Vouchers as well as other sources of federal and state rental vouchers.

Totals Number of Units

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0	0	698	1,505	126	1,379	0	0	0
# of accessible units			23						
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 37 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:

PIC (PIH Information Center)

Data Source Comments:

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:

The local housing authority is the Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA). The PHA owns and manages federally and state-funded public housing developments and administers HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Vouchers for very low-income households. In addition to the PHA,

Hearthway also owns and manages federally and state-funded public housing developments and administers HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Vouchers as well as other sources of federal and state rental vouchers. In addition to these two agencies there are a number of privately owner subsidized housing developments in Pittsfield.

The Housing Authority owns and manages a total of 10 housing developments consisting of 695 rental units and administers 603 housing and project based vouchers. Hearthway owns and/or manages eight housing developments consisting of 328 rental units in Pittsfield and 902 vouchers.

DRAFT

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score

Table 38 - Public Housing Condition

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

The three federally funded public housing developments in Pittsfield are Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments, and Columbia Arms.

HUD's Real Estate Center conducts bi-annual physical inspections of public and assisted multi-family housing on a rotating basis, and scores them on a range of 0-100 points. The housing authority bases its rehabilitation schedule in large part based on the needs identified during these inspections. The overall condition of housing has improved over the past 2 years. Average score based on the physical inspection in 2022 was 65%. In 2024, the average score was 93%. Although, HUD rotates the housing developments that are inspected, this represents a 28% net increase.

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

During the next five years the local public housing authority, the Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA), plans to improve the management and operation of public housing, and address the housing needs of families in the jurisdiction and on the waiting list through the following strategies:

- Improve security systems at all developments
- Make common areas more attractive for community use
- Use debriefing tools for residents leaving the PHA to ascertain reasons and implement correction action plans when appropriate
- Provide space and support for City and Community programs that aim to security and quality of life for our residents and supporting neighbors
- Agency wide training to make each department aware of new rules and regulations and changes to the law regarding assistance animals in housing and reasonable accommodations
- Continue emergency housing and/or voucher preferences
- Provide voucher mobility counseling after 1 year in the PHA jurisdiction
- Continue measures to deconcentrate poverty by mixing incomes in developments
- Provide supportive services to increase residents' employability

Discussion:

The City demonstrates an on-going commitment in increasing both the quantity and quality of public housing. This remains a key strategy to increase housing stability among the cost burden among

families, disabled and the elderly. The PHA uses an admissions preference to prioritize applicants to public housing. A priority is given to the following populations: victims of domestic violence, homelessness, substandard housing residents, and persons who are living and working in Pittsfield.

Both the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Hearthway will continue to administer existing Section 8 rental voucher allocations. The Pittsfield Housing Authority receives their yearly allocation directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

Pittsfield has a well-developed array of homeless facilities and support services that address the prevention, diversion and rapid re-housing of homeless and at-risk individuals, families, Veterans, and young adults. Providers coordinate services through the 3-County Rural Continuum of Care and work collaboratively with homeless services partners in North and South County (Family Life Supports and Construct).

The table below lists the 3 County Rural Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Chart of facilities located in the City of Pittsfield targeting homeless individuals and families as of January 2024.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	82	49	25	18	0
Households with Only Adults	42	10	0	22	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	52	0	84	13	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Alternate Data Source Name:
Housing Inventory Chart - 2025

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

HUD uses several important service indicators as benchmarks for effective programming among its grantees. These include: the number/degree to which participants are connected with mainstream services; baseline income and employment status at entry and at exit with the goal to increase income and employment status, and the number who exit to permanent housing. Providers are required to conduct "self-sufficiency" assessment that identifies participant needs for: housing, family, income, education, employment, childcare, health, mental health or addictions treatment, transportation, social and community supports. Connections with mainstream services are essential if participants are to successfully achieve these benchmarks. Specific resources include:

Case managers ensure that everyone is screened for eligibility and enrolled in any mainstream services to which they are qualified and entitled. These include food stamps, EFDC, WIC, VA benefits, Chapter 155 benefits (veterans), Section 8 waitlists, SSI/SSDI, school enrollment, and Affordable Care Act health insurance (MassHealth).

Participants are referred to health care through the VA Medical Center (VAMC), Community Health Center and Berkshire Medical Center. Outpatient clinical supports are provided through ServiceNet and the Brien Center. Addictions services are provided through the Brien Center. A PATH clinical social worker provides outreach services to the homeless in shelters, the streets and institutions.

MassHire provides employment readiness services, along with Mass Rehab, the Adult Learning Center. Individuals, families, and children are referred to the array of community-based supports which include youth programs, young parent programs, childcare, afterschool programs, community meals, self-advocacy supports, Berkshire Community Action Council programs, and elderly programs.

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.

- Our Friend's House (7 families); Onota Street Family Shelter (20 families); The Pearl (40 beds) - are operated by ServiceNet and have on-site supervision, case management and access to clinical support. Chronically homeless families and individuals are served at these sites.
- Soldier On, Inc. operates a 60-bed transitional housing facility for homeless veterans, 3 emergency shelter slots supported by case management, and an employment readiness and placement program. Soldier On shelters veterans overnight at their site. Additionally, Soldier On operates a Support Services for Veteran Families which targets 200 veterans/families annually and provides them with prevention, diversion, and rapid re-housing, through flexible funds, case management, outreach, and follow-up support, peer mentor and employment readiness

supports. Soldier On collaborates with Upside413 (FKA BCRHA) to provide housing placement services.

- Elizabeth Freeman Center operates a 25-bed emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence.
- Upside413 and Hearthway have developed an integrated approach to providing triage, assessment and direct financial assistance to at-risk and homeless households. Upside413 provides a comprehensive program of prevention, tenancy preservation, housing counseling, court mediation and eviction prevention, foreclosure prevention and representative payee programs. Hearthway provides access to an array of subsidized housing units to which homeless/at-risk individuals apply.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

Pittsfield has a comprehensive array of services for its elderly, frail elderly, people with disabilities, people with addictions, and people with HIV/AIDS. The Pittsfield Housing Authority prioritizes the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children.

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

Elderly: Pittsfield has a significantly higher elderly population than the rest of the state.

A disproportionate percentage of elderly in Pittsfield live alone compared to state averages (36% vs 28.7%). This includes approximately 2,883 people and these are often at the greatest need for supports.

Disabilities: Approximately 250 individuals with developmental disabilities live in Pittsfield with service needs. Approximately 30% are under 21, 52% are adults, and 18% elderly. The Department of Mental health provides services to approximately 225 persons who have serious mental illness and co-occurring substance misuse disorders. Services and supports are provided through DMH Case Management, Brien Center and Viability Inc., and Mass Rehab Commission. In Pittsfield there are 40 group living environment (GLE) slots. DMH considers this a temporary living situation where the person can obtain skills for independent living and self-care. Residents transition out to an “Agency Based” subsidized apartment where the tenant is the Brien Center. DMH has 33 Agency Based Community subsidized apartments in Pittsfield.

Ad-Lib, Inc. plans to offer peer counseling, information and referral, skills training, advocacy, transition assistance, social recreational/educational activities, transportation, and home modifications to people with disabilities in Pittsfield.

Addictions: Brien Center continues to respond to trends in alcohol and drug use. Our 2017-2018 data breaks down primary drug of abuse as follows:

- Alcohol: 49%
- Heroin: 31.4%
- Marijuana: 9.4%
- Crack/Cocaine: 8.2%
- Other Opioids: 7.3%

Among clients enrolled in the Brien Centers substance use disorder outpatient programs, half report marijuana use within the past year, and almost half report heroin or opioid use within the past year, highlighting the need for services that address polysubstance abuse. 59% of persons served in Brien

Center outpatient clinics identified as male, and 40.8% identified as female, with non-binary/transgender individuals making up less than 1% of persons served. The majority of adults served in our clinics (65%) are over the age of 30. 30% identify as unemployed at the time of intake, and approximately 5% report being homeless at the time of intake. 63% of addiction treatment clients have MassHealth insurance.

HIV/AIDS: The MA Department of Public Health's (MA-DPH) HIV/SIDS Surveillance Programs reports that as of 1/1/18 there were an estimated 129 people living with HIV/AIDS in Berkshire County. The county-wide prevalence rate is 98.3/100,000 up from 2009 data when it was 89.7/100,000. New diagnoses have been rising over the past 3 years, however obtaining actual city number in a city however an actual Pittsfield number is difficult to determine due to the MA-DPH practice of suppressing values of less than 5 for a region. An estimated 45 individuals from Pittsfield receive medical case management services through Berkshire Medical Center. An increasing number of clients are people "living with HIV/AIDS" and have families and young children. Approximately, 30% of participants are considered to have housing instability, and/or are homeless or doubled up, and have unmet housing needs.

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

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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)

In addition to those non-homeless special needs populations described above, social service agencies within the City of Pittsfield will provide supportive housing services to additional special needs populations during the upcoming year through a number of programs and services.

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))

In addition to those non-homeless special needs populations described above, social service agencies within the City of Pittsfield will provide supportive housing services to additional special needs populations during the upcoming year through a number of programs and services. It is estimated that approximately 5,000 non-homeless special needs persons will be assisted in the coming year with supportive services.

Specifically, **Elder Services of Berkshire County** estimates that it will provide supportive services to 2,000 elderly Pittsfield persons during the upcoming year. These services include home care, meals on wheels, protective programs, adult family daycare, and enhanced programs. The **Ralph J. Froio Senior Center** expects to assist approximately 1,500 elderly persons during the upcoming year with social day programs; a hot meal program in conjunction with Elder Services; recreation; transportation; health insurance counseling; food stamp applications; legal education; and tax preparation. **Ad-Lib, Inc.**, an independent living center, plans to assist approximately 1,300 disabled Pittsfield persons with peer counseling; information and referral; skills training; advocacy; social recreational/educational activities; transportation; deaf and hard of hearing services; and home modifications. **Berkshire Medical Center** plans to assist approximately 43 Pittsfield persons who are living with HIV/AIDS via Healthy Steps, a program to assist clients as they go through their journey of returning to self-management. Healthy Steps includes services such as medical care coordination; social services; adherence support; peer support; sexual health; risk reduction; benefits counseling; psychosocial services; outpatient nutrition counseling; pastoral care; and substance abuse and mental health services. **United Cerebral Palsy** is projecting to assist approximately 700 persons in the upcoming year in Pittsfield and will offer advocacy on basis needs/self-sufficiency; the Assistive Technology Center; medical equipment loaner program; one to one computer training; assistive technology evaluations and training; social and recreational programming; pre-employment training; an adult foster care program; and life skill training. The **Elizabeth Freeman Center** anticipates assisting approximately 100 persons at its secure shelter for battered women and children in danger and will provide community based counseling supportive services. The **Berkshire County Kid's Place and Violence Prevention Center** expects to assist approximately 20 children during the upcoming year with intervention and counseling programs. In the past CDBG funds have been utilized for the Berkshire Sexual Assault Intervention Team (SAIN) which is a multidisciplinary team for child victims of sexual assault.

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

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

Public policies and practices that impact or create barriers to affordable housing include zoning and land use. The City has inclusionary zoning that promotes accessibility of housing to low-income individuals, including a downtown overlay district and a flexible development ordinance that promotes the development of affordable housing. Lot size, set back and parking requirements in targeted neighborhoods may continue to create barriers to certain types of affordable housing development. The City has begun addressing this concern in the neighborhoods through recently implementing a new overlay district in the Morningside Neighborhood, as well as adopted a by-right three-family residential unit category with minimized parking requirements and setbacks and maximized in our multi-family residential zoning district.

The City has also adopted the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing (UCH-TIF) Program, as well as the Commonwealth's Housing Development Incentive Program, each of which promote new housing development in urban centers and neighborhoods. The City of Pittsfield will continue to provide developers with zoning flexibility and incentive programs that have been implemented over the past 20 years. These programs include the Downtown Arts Overlay District; 40R Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District; Urban Center Housing TIF Program; and the Housing Development Incentive Program.

The Downtown Overlay District provides a requirement that residential development of five units or more shall provide no less than 20% of the total number of dwelling units as affordable units for 30 years. This provision allows the City to require developers to create mixed use housing and create affordable units in the downtown area.

The Commonwealth of MA maintains a Subsidized Housing Inventory, used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law, which holds cities and towns to a 10% standard of affordable housing. Currently the City of Pittsfield is at 8.79%, meaning that of the 21,228 year round housing units in Pittsfield 1,865 are designated as affordable units. While housing developed under Chapter 40B is eligible for inclusion on the inventory, many other types of housing also qualify to count toward a community's affordable housing stock.

Over the last ten years, the City has spent significant time and resources in the Morningside Neighborhood as part of Mass Development's Transformative Development Initiative. Pittsfield's district was centered on Tyler Street, and resulted in the neighborhood's first full scale neighborhood plan, a significant amount of data collection related to building conditions within the neighborhood, place making, planned streetscape improvements, and a housing feasibility study for infill housing. These efforts have led to the previously referenced overlay district in the Morningside Neighborhood and in our multi-family residential zoning district.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

Pittsfield's civilian labor force is just over 23,000, and 30% of the workforce has a high school diploma, equivalent or less, ill-positioning the workforce for having the skills for jobs that pay a living wage, or for meeting the requirements of growing technology focused business sectors. Job growth and employment rates are sluggish at best. However, strong collaborations among partners in the business sector, the Regional Employment Board, and area educational institutions demonstrate a commitment to methodically expanding the trajectory of area youth and are manifested in exciting collaborations in the area of STEM, biotechnology, and advanced technology. Simultaneously the City is positioning itself to become a technology innovation center for the region and the state.

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	209	0	1	0	-1
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	2,025	0	9	0	-9
Construction	993	0	5	0	-5
Education and Health Care Services	6,755	0	31	0	-31
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	1,111	0	5	0	-5
Information	388	0	2	0	-2
Manufacturing	1,649	0	8	0	-8
Other Services	1,116	0	5	0	-5
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	2,393	0	11	0	-11
Public Administration	1,051	0	5	0	-5
Retail Trade	2,974	0	14	0	-14
Transportation and Warehousing	687	0	3	0	-3
Wholesale Trade	468	0	2	0	-2
Total	21,819	0	--	--	--

Table 40 - Business Activity

Alternate Data Source Name:
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA
Data Source Comments:

DRAFT

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	23,605
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	21,819
Unemployment Rate	4.90
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	29.60
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	39.40

Table 41 - Labor Force

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	9,784
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	209
Service	4,532
Sales and office	4,041
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	1,442
Production, transportation and material moving	2,029

Table 42 – Occupations by Sector

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	889	22%
30-59 Minutes	2,262	55%
60 or More Minutes	947	23%
Total	4,098	100%

Table 43 - Travel Time

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

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	639	89	925

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	4,761	435	1,673
Some college or Associate's degree	5,172	440	1,396
Bachelor's degree or higher	7,092	400	991

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	436	0	0	0	0
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	0	0	0	0	0
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	939	5,918	5,367	11,075	7,953
Some college, no degree	976	0	0	0	0
Associate's degree	0	0	0	0	0
Bachelor's degree	690	2,465	2,160	3,858	2,721
Graduate or professional degree	0	0	0	0	0

Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	31,538
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	37,939
Some college or Associate's degree	43,027
Bachelor's degree	60,461
Graduate or professional degree	72,037

Table 46 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Alternate Data Source Name:

2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA

Data Source Comments:

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

Five key industries (Health Care/Social Assistance, Retail trade, Accommodation & Food Services, Manufacturing and Educational Services) comprise roughly 65% of the jobs in the Pittsfield New England Cities and Towns Area (NECTA). This mirrors the county with the exception that there is a slightly lower percentage of workers in educational services in the NECTA.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

A number of the major sectors experienced employment declines from 2020-2025, including farming, fisheries and forestry occupations; sales and office; and construction, extraction, maintenance and repair. The sectors that experienced major employment increases included management, business, and financial; service; and production, transportation and material moving occupations.

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.

With the approval of over 80 regional stakeholders in the private sector, government, and academia, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center awarded the City of Pittsfield a \$9.7 million capital grant in May of 2014. The grant was for the development of a 20,000 square foot innovation center in Pittsfield's William Stanley Business Park, the former site of General Electric. The Berkshire Innovation Center, which officially opened in 2020, provides regional manufacturers and STEM businesses with advanced R&D equipment, state-of-the-art lab and training facilities, and collaboration opportunities with BIC's renowned research partners, as well as internship and apprenticeship programs for local students. Operationally, the BIC is a membership model designed to be self-sustainable and private sector driven.

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Education Consortium has supported the development of core competencies and articulation agreements for degrees and certificate programs in bio-technology and bio-manufacturing and a regional partnership between Berkshire Community College and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) to develop a biotech career pathway for students to work in the growing biotechnological industry in Pittsfield and the region.

The **Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network** is part of a state-wide initiative bringing together higher education, PreK-12 and other educators, and businesses for the improvement of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and work force development and is led by MCLA. It has the specific goal of increasing the number of Berkshire students who participate in programs that support STEM Careers, and the number of qualified STEM educators.

Berkshire Community College and Taconic High School are partnering on an Advanced Manufacturing Program (AMP) and manufacturing technology programs, including high-tech equipment, to provide

students with technical skills to pursue jobs in this area. The program is designed to fill anticipated manufacturing job vacancies in the area over the next decade.

Charles H. McCann Vocational Technical High School has strong technical certification programs including MasterCam Associate Level certifications and SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System certifications which prepare youth for machine technology and advanced careers in plastics, mechanical and advanced manufacturing, and industrial engineering.

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

An examination of the highest education level achieved among individuals in the labor market indicates that 30% of the workforce has a high school diploma, GED, or less. The average median earnings for education level in the past 12 months shows that individuals with a high school diploma or less may expect to earn between 0-30% of the Area Median Income annually. This indicates a large gap in workforce capacity to earn a living wage, and a high need for workforce development training including technical skills in the areas of computers, technology, and industry specific needs, which typically pay more than service or health care certificate programs.

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.

In 2017, 1Berkshire, the Berkshires Regional Economic Development Organization, undertook a ten-year strategic plan, the Berkshire Blueprint 2.0, to outline the present state of the local economy and provides a strategy to focus resources on what they found to be five primary economic key clusters. These clusters were identified as a priority for the region due to their ability to hit on the following four components: achieving economies of scale; boosting innovation that leads to new technologies or enhanced techniques, simulating entrepreneurship, and improving employment opportunities. The five clusters for the Berkshires are advanced manufacturing, the creative economy, food and agriculture, healthcare and hospitality/tourism.

Training programs in advanced manufacturing and healthcare training programs are being held with MassHire. MassHire, Berkshire Community College, McCann Technical School and the Pittsfield Public School Department are offering trainings in advanced manufacturing. The MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board consist of business and community leaders appointed by the Mayor of Pittsfield, the board serves as a the oversight and policy making body for federally funded employment and training programs and addresses labor market issues.

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

Yes

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.

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Discussion

The initiatives above describe strong, visionary and persistent investments in activities and steps designed to lead Pittsfield and the region to greater economic vitality and provide training and job opportunities that offer area residents a chance to earn a living wage. Currently 30% of the workforce has a high school or less education, which limits them to an average annual wage of \$25,000 or less. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator (2025) one adult living in Berkshire County needs to make a minimum of \$49,079 annually, and for one adult with a child that number leaps to \$94,506 annually. This is a clear link to the homeless and housing instability described in earlier sections and reflects a sector of the community that has experienced intergenerational poverty. The Women's Crittenton Union describes sufficient income as just the first step to reaching economic independence. They pioneer an innovative approach built on the concept of a *Bridge to Self-Sufficiency Theory of Change*. In order for a family to progress toward economic self-sufficiency they must journey across a bridge supported by 5 critical pillars: family stability, well-being, education and training, financial management, and employment and career managements. Achievement must be seen in all areas for economic independence to be sustained. Without this nuanced understanding of the factors that continually tip residents back into poverty, communities will not be able to redress the issue of economic instability among individuals in the labor force. (MA Economic Independence Index, 2013) See "Bridge to Self-Sufficiency Theory of Change" model below.

A 2019 report prepared by Berkshire Benchmarks defined low income households in Berkshire County as those earning less than \$35,000. By this definition, roughly one-third of the population is considered low income. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the householders under the age of 25 are low income earners. Higher rates of low income earnings are also seen among householders who have children compared to those without.

In looking at the correlation between poverty, tenure and housing expenses, it is clear that the majority of those making under \$35,000, both renting and owning, are paying over 30% of their income towards housing expenses. Owners making between \$35,000 and \$50,000 also have a high percentage (44%) that are paying over 30% of their income towards rent. Renters do not show this high of a percent at this income level. It appears that once a renter earns \$35,000 to \$50,000, they have reached financial stability but owning at this income level is still a burden.

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MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

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

(HUD) has generated a series of standards that can be used to determine if a Census Block Group has a "concentration" of issues like multiple housing problems, racial or ethnic minorities or low-income family household concentration. Low-income concentrations are typically defined as a Block Group that is below 50% of the Area Median Income for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Racial/ethnic minority concentrations are typically defined as at least 20 percentage points higher than the total percentage of all minorities for the City or MSA. Households with multiple housing problems (cost burden, and limited overcrowding or substandard plumbing) are concentrated in the City's Westside and Morningside target neighborhoods.

The key housing problem in the City is cost burden.

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

For the purpose of this document, concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities are defined as being equal to or greater than 15% of the City rate and greater than 30% of a minority population living in the low-income census tracts. The City experiences areas of racial/ethnic minority concentrations as follows. White households comprise approximately 82% of the City's households, while Black/African American, and Hispanic households comprise approximately 11%. The three central city census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006) house approximately 25% of the City's population. Whites make up the majority of the households in the three core central census tracts, followed by 10% Black/African American, 5% Hispanic and 3% mixed race for a minority population of about 18%. This is roughly 7 percentage points higher than the City as a whole. An even greater disparity exists when examining the percentage of total households by each race/ethnicity who live in the low-income census tracts. One quarter of all White households in the City live in the three central city census tracts as compared with nearly half of all Black/African American households, nearly half of all mixed-race households, and one-third of all Hispanic households.

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

While the City methodically continues to address issues of vacant/abandoned buildings, and targets resources to improve the infrastructure of the central city neighborhoods, the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods continue to be characterized by average incomes at less than half of the City's area median family income. There is also a concentration of older houses in these neighborhoods, and surprisingly rents are not substantially lower than in other areas of the City.

There continues to be a pattern of absentee landlords for much of the housing in the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods. This is believed to adversely affect the quality of housing as absentee landlords are less likely to provide regular upkeep and in addition tenant issues may be left unaddressed for longer periods of time. There was a period in time when low-middle income families were able to obtain loans for multi-family housing as a means of supplementing their cost of housing; however banks have disproportionately foreclosed on these loans.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Strong social service agencies and creative partnerships are assets to both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods. Both Habitat for Humanity and the Christian Center offer gathering places for the residents in the Westside, and Berkshire Children and Families, among other organizations, are embedded in the two neighborhood community schools, providing Head Start, childcare, after-school programs, and arts programs, like Kids 4 Harmony.

New immigrants bring their time and talents to the community supporting community arts programming, and devoting energy to revitalizing distressed homes.

Multiple community gardens have been established in both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods which bring opportunities to gather, supplementary food supplies, and opportunities for nutritional education.

Westside is noted for its strong neighbor-to-neighbor connections, and both neighborhoods are deeply committed to the revitalization and preservation of their communities. They continue to stand up together to support positive youth intervention strategies to protect youth from criminal behavior.

The City's Morningside neighborhood is flanked by the Tyler Street business corridor and the William Stanley Business Park, and many City initiatives are focusing on economic development that hope to increase the income levels of current residents and attract newcomers to invest in neighborhood revitalization.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

Prior to the recession, the housing stock was improving in Pittsfield and the number of owner occupied multi-family houses was increasing. Since the recession that trend has slowed, but in more recent years there has been growth. There are still opportunities for people of modest incomes to purchase homes and contribute to the community as property owners, but in order to do so there will need to be some shift in origination and rehabilitation financing for people with modest means.

MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

Broadband connections to households are a critical component for today's society. Having connections is important for all income levels, yet tends to be more prevalent among moderate- and higher-income households due to the subscription cost. In today's world, many programs including filing for unemployment, submitting resumes for jobs, paying utilities, and furthering one's education, and many others, are all mostly done online, resulting in reduced opportunities for the low-income households, and causing them to fall further behind the moderate- and higher-income households. While all of Pittsfield has access to cable-based broadband internet, the Morningside and Westside neighborhoods likely have a lower utilization rate due to the density of low-income households and their inability to pay for an internet subscription. Pittsfield Public Schools have worked to make sure that the schools had powerful and fast internet service, including to the exterior of the buildings, so that at least during the day there was no digital divide. In 2020, due to schools closing because of the COVID19 pandemic, PPS distributed 5,100 Chromebooks to students who did not have computer access.

Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

The City of Pittsfield only has two broadband internet providers at the current time, which puts the residents at the mercy of the provider for higher costs.

Current broadband access in the City of Pittsfield is provided by Spectrum cable and Verizon DSL with plans starting at around \$50 per month. Additionally, 4G LTE is available throughout the majority of the city, the primary cellular carriers are Verizon and ATT.

The only special program offered in Pittsfield was offered by Spectrum in response to the COVID19 crisis. The program offered discounted access to inter WiFi for new Pre-K to 12, college student and teacher households who did not have internet or WiFi service.

By increasing the number of providers, the competition will result in a decrease in the cost of accessing broadband internet for each household. In addition, increasing competition can lead to an improvement in the broadband offerings, including higher speeds and better-quality connections.

MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)

Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

The purpose of a Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify and assess the City's natural hazard risks (such as flooding, winter storms, and hurricanes) and determine how to best minimize or manage those risks and serves as a strategy document for reducing current and future risks to natural hazards. Previously, the City of Pittsfield was part of the Berkshire County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; now, the City has an updated, more comprehensive local hazard mitigation plan dedicated to itself. Public participation was essential in this process.

The 2019 update to Pittsfield's Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies natural hazards to the City and categorizes them by low, medium, and high risk. The greatest hazards are flooding, average/extreme temperatures, other severe weather including wind and extreme precipitation, and dam failure. The low and medium hazard rankings include invasive species, hurricanes/tropical storms, tornadoes, droughts, landslides, wildfires, and earthquakes. Climate change exacerbates these hazards because it causes changes in precipitation, which is responsible for both flooding and drought. Increased rainfall also increases the likelihood of landslides. Rising temperatures brought on by climate change greatly affect the average/extreme temperatures and increase the likelihood of wildfires. Additionally, increasing temperatures can spread invasive species by creating habitats where these species would otherwise not survive/thrive. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program provides support for municipalities that wish to begin the process of planning for resiliency to climate change and increasing their ability to adapt to and recover from climate events. Through the process of developing the Plan, the City was able to:

- Define extreme weather and natural and climate related hazards of community concern
- Understand how the City may be impacted by climate change
- Identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths
- Develop and prioritize actions for the community
- Identify opportunities to take action to reduce risk and build resilience
- Plan for the implementation of key actions identified through the planning process.

As part of the MVP planning process, a Core Team was formed to develop initial concerns, set goals for the process and identified stakeholders within Pittsfield. Key stakeholders were brought together in Pittsfield's Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop held to comprehensively identify and prioritize steps to reduce risk and improve resilience across Pittsfield. A Listening Session and Public comment were conducted.

In 2019, the vulnerability assessment work was completed and an action-oriented resiliency plan was finalized.

Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

Extreme temperatures are more likely to occur with climate change and present significant challenges to marginalized populations in Pittsfield. In summer, the increase in average temperatures further strains low- and moderate-income households by significantly increasing costs to cool the home. In winter, the same issue arises with extremely cold days that increase heating costs.

Severe snowstorms have caused increased school closures which forces parents to increase spending on childcare or take time off work which results in lost wages. Additionally, more severe snow storms can make commuting to work an even greater challenge to those who already have limited transit options which can lead to losing hours of work and even losing one's job due to missing work. The financial repercussions of this greatly affects how low- and moderate-income households can budget money for housing.

Within low- and moderate-income groups are elderly people and young children who are particularly vulnerable to the health risks caused by extreme temperatures. The health risks are more severe within low- and moderate-income groups due to their financial instability. Many people within these groups have limited resources for health care due to lack of insurance coverage which - for example - can make a trip to an urgent care facility caused by heat stroke very costly. Some who cannot afford medical care will not seek aid which is a potentially life-threatening scenario.

Flooding also disproportionately impacts lower income residents. Low- and moderate-income groups have higher percentages of renters because buying a home can be unattainable. As renters, many of these residents do not have flood insurance or may not even know they reside in a flood area. In the event of a severe flood, residents who already experience financial vulnerability can be displaced.

People within the low- and moderate-income groups will be forced to make difficult financial decisions brought on by the effects of climate change. Their financial vulnerability can create situations where they may have to choose between heating a home and paying rent that month. This can lead to increased evictions and vacancies, lost wages for landlords, increased rates of homelessness, greater strains on public housing and shelters, and can put some of the City's most vulnerable residents in an increasingly dire housing situation.

First Question Cont.

Adoption of the HMP plan makes the City eligible to apply for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation project grant funding through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs and other non-emergency disaster assistance. The plan identified the following hazards:

- Flooding
- Drought
- Landslide

Average/Extreme Temperatures
Wildfires
Invasive Species
Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
Severe Winter Storms/Nor'easters
Tornadoes
Severe Weather (strong winds/extreme precipitation)
Earthquakes

The HMP plan identified the following projects:

- Mitigating flood risk at Wahconah Park
- Floodplain education and awareness programs
- Culvert and bridge projects
- Assessing green infrastructure opportunities
- Assess mosquito and pest control options
- Develop City-wide Business Improvement and Economic Development Plan
- Expand emergency communication systems
- Develop a robust transportation plan for emergencies
- Provide Critical facilities with back-up power
- Prevent Vector-Borne illnesses

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The geographic priorities of Pittsfield's 5-Year Consolidated plan targets low to moderate income persons, the majority of whom live in the City's three central census tracts of 9001, 9002, and 9006, otherwise known as Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.

The priority needs within the City which are determined as "high" priority needs include the following:

1. **Homeless Outreach, Rapid Re-housing and Prevention:** Focus on both upstream interventions (promotion of housing stability and eviction mitigation supports) and interventions that serve imminently at-risk households. Resources and services across several organizations targeting coordinated prevention and diversion among at-risk individuals and families, which is assessment driven to determine the most appropriate intervention or interventions in an environment with finite resources. This includes expanding case management services to meet the needs of this population through partnerships with health services, community services, elder services and substance prevention programs.

2. **Homelessness: Emergency and Winter Shelter:** The City has seen an increase in the number of unsheltered persons. The current facility, Barton's Crossing, is not able to meet the needs of this population. Relocation of the shelter to a more central location with services and a facility that can meet the needs of unsheltered person is a priority.

3. **Homelessness: Transitional (TH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Both HUD and local CoC priorities have shifted to expanding PSH capacity in favor of transitional housing. This allows individuals/families to receive flexible intensive supports in permanent housing to better promote long term stability. A priority for the City of Pittsfield is the development of a deeply subsidized SRO for individuals, which would provide some onsite supports, but would be a low threshold, harm reduction model. Existing and/or new transitional housing will focus on special needs populations, including: Veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth and individuals with substance abuse recovery support needs.

4. **Affordable Housing:** Advocacy for increased rental assistance and maintenance of existing Section 8 TBRA and public housing. The production of new affordable housing units, rehabilitation of existing housing units such as handicapped ramps, accessibility modifications and home improvements in order to help to remediate the long waiting lists for subsidized housing and prevent the loss of affordable housing stock.

5. **Improving the City's Housing Stock:** Assistance for existing property owners to improve the quality of their property and increase their property values, assistance and support for smaller rental property owners (owner occupied duplexes and triplexes), who could make currently dormant or unoccupied housing inventory available to households in need of affordable housing, lead paint remediation and code related improvements.

6. **Public Services:** Targeted towards homelessness prevention, at risk youth services, substance abuse

and mental health services, domestic violence services, supportive housing, and services for the elderly and disabled community.

7. **Economic Development:** Programs that promote a better educated/trained workforce and the development of jobs and expansion of businesses that pay a living wage in order to promote economic and housing stability.

8. **Demolition** of vacant buildings in the target neighborhoods.

9. **Public Facilities and Parks:** Improvements to public facilities and parks and improved access for all residents to improve neighborhoods.

10. Program administration and planning funds sufficient to implement the goals and objectives of the 5-year plan.

First Question Cont.

The key market conditions that impact the target communities include: sluggish sales and housing values of multi-family housing that impact lending for new purchase or rehabilitation of properties, limited resources for new affordable housing development, and access to TBRA vouchers.

City CDBG funds will leverage an unknown amount of funding from several sources, including HUD CoC funds, City general funds, HUD VASH vouchers, federal low-income housing tax credits, Pittsfield Housing Authority Capital Fund Program, Section 8 voucher programs, the Stanton Foundation, revolving loan fund repayments, and federal and state rental housing operating funds, DHCD prevention/diversion funds, VA Support Services for Veteran Families, FEMA funds, Brownfield Remediation funds, social services agency funding, Mass Growth Capital Corp funds, and City Capital funds for parks projects.

The key needs listed above are supported by several City and Regional Boards, housing, economic development, neighborhood initiatives, social services agencies, housing organizations, and banking organizations.

Public Housing accessibility and involvement is supported by the PHA's strategies to address priority housing needs and involve residents and management and homeownership, including: expanding the supply of assisted housing, make improvements to the quality of existing assisted housing, increase housing choices for residents of public housing, promote self sufficiency and asset development; ensure Equal Opportunity and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, and promote health and safety for public housing residents.

The City has a well-developed strategy to remove/ameliorate barriers to affordable housing that includes the removal of zoning barriers, promoting handicapped access, distribution of fair housing information, prioritization of persons with disabilities, administration of a fair housing complaint process, promotion of landlord/tenant counseling and legal assistance, and promotion of rehabilitation and housing safety.

City and local provider staff are active participants in local and regional homeless strategies to ameliorate homelessness, and works in close collaboration with the 3-County Continuum of Care and

Western MA Network to End Homelessness.

The City maintains actions to address lead based paint hazards, which are achieved through housing rehabilitation, demolition, building inspections programs, education workshops and review of screening and incidence statistics.

The City has an anti-poverty strategy that addresses the needs of individuals, families and children that includes: asset development, emergency resources and referrals, and integration of services and cross-collaboration among services agencies.

The Pittsfield DCD has well-established monitoring policy to ensure long-term compliance with CDBG program requirements to ensure that activities are consistent with the Consolidated Plan, implemented in a timely manner and conform to all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, policies, sound management, and accounting practices.

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

Geographic Area

Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Comprehensive
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	The Westside neighborhood can be geographically described as Census Tract 9006: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Census Tract 9001: Block Group 2, and part of 3. The Morningside neighborhood can be geographically described as Census Tract 9001: Block Groups 1, and part of 3, and Census Tract 9002: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	The housing characteristics of the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods consist of single and multi-family dwellings that were primarily constructed in the late 1800's and early 1900's. There is a predominance of lead-based paint especially in the multi-family dwellings. Westside has a handful of small corner markets and a few restaurants but is primarily residential. Morningside also consists of the same type of housing characteristics and is bordered on the north end of the neighborhood by Tyler Street which is a long time business district dominated by small businesses with two major employers, Berkshire Medical Center at the western boundary and General Dynamics at the eastern boundary.

	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	These two neighborhoods have long been considered target areas within the City regarding the use of CDBG funds due to the fact that the highest percentage of low/moderate income households reside within the two areas and the existence of the oldest housing stock within the City. The City's Department of Community Development and local chapter of Habitat for Humanity collaborate to provide regular opportunities for citizen input and prioritizing of CDBG and other funding investments that address issues such as housing, public infrastructure and public services for its residents.
	Identify the needs in this target area.	The needs within these two target areas are similar in that there is a need for housing rehabilitation, sidewalk reconstruction, demolition of vacant and condemned structures, improved parks, and increased public services for its residents.
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Continued investment in public services, small business development, and affordable housing opportunities will contribute to the continued success of these neighborhoods.
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	The main barriers to improvement in these two target neighborhoods is the availability of funding for some of the above described opportunities. Lack of investment in maintaining affordable housing and private commercial development continue to be barriers to improvements in this target area.
2	Area Name:	Morningside Initiative
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Comprehensive
	Other Revital Description:	

Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	The boundaries for the Morningside target area are: north by Springside Avenue; east by Fourth Street and Benedict Road; west by North Street, and south by East Street. The Morningside neighborhood can also be geographically described as Census Tract 9001: Block Groups 1, and part of 3, and Census Tract 9002: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	The housing characteristics of the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods consist of single and multi-family dwellings that were primarily constructed in the late 1800's and early to mid 1900's. There is a predominance of lead-based paint especially in the multi-family dwellings. Westside has a handful of small corner markets and a few restaurants but is primarily residential. Morningside also consists of the same type of housing characteristics and is bordered on the north end of the neighborhood by Tyler Street which is a long time business district dominated by small businesses with two major employers, Berkshire Medical Center at the western boundary and General Dynamics at the eastern boundary.
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	These two neighborhoods have long been considered target areas within the City regarding the use of CDBG funds due to the fact that the highest percentage of low/moderate income households reside within the two areas and the existence of the oldest housing stock within the City. Both neighborhoods have well established Neighborhood Initiative Steering Committees that prioritize activities for each target area, and provide regular opportunities for citizen input and prioritizing of CDBG and other funding investments that address issues such as housing, public infrastructure and public services for its residents.
Identify the needs in this target area.	The needs within these two target areas are similar in that there is a need for housing rehabilitation, sidewalk reconstruction, demolition of vacant and condemned structures, improved parks, and increased public services for its residents.

	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Continued investment in public services, small business development, and affordable housing opportunities will contribute to the continued success of these neighborhoods.
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	The main barriers to improvement in these two target neighborhoods is the availability of funding for some of the above described opportunities. Lack of investment in maintaining affordable housing and private commercial development continue to be barriers to improvements in this target area.
3	Area Name:	Westside Initiative
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Comprehensive
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	The boundaries of the Westside neighborhood are North Street to the East; West Street to the South; Onota Street to the West; and Kent Avenue, Turner Avenue, Danforth, and Von Nida to the North. The Westside neighborhood can also be geographically described as Census Tract 9006: Block Groups 2, 3, and 4, and Census Tract 9001: Block Group 2, and part of 3.
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	The housing characteristics of the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods consist of single and multi-family dwellings that were primarily constructed in the late 1800's and early 1900's. There is a predominance of lead-based paint especially in the multi-family dwellings. Westside has a handful of small corner markets and a few restaurants but is primarily residential.

How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	These two neighborhoods have long been considered target areas within the City regarding the use of CDBG funds due to the fact that the highest percentage of low/moderate income households reside within the two areas and the existence of the oldest housing stock within the City. The City's Department of Community Development and local chapter of Habitat for Humanity collaborate to provide regular opportunities for citizen input and prioritizing of CDBG and other funding investments that address issues such as housing, public infrastructure and public services for its residents.
Identify the needs in this target area.	The needs within these two target areas are similar in that there is a need for housing rehabilitation, sidewalk reconstruction, demolition of vacant and condemned structures, improved parks, and increased public services for its residents.
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Continued investment in public services, small business development, and affordable housing opportunities will contribute to the continued success of these neighborhoods.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	The main barriers to improvement in these two target neighborhoods is the availability of funding for some of the above described opportunities. Lack of investment in maintaining affordable housing and private commercial development continue to be barriers to improvements in this target area.

General Allocation Priorities

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

In addition to concentrating CDBG funding in both the Westside and Morningside neighborhood target areas, the City of Pittsfield utilizes HUD's Low/Moderate Income Summary Data (LMISD) to help decide where to invest funds during any given program year. HUD published updated its LMISD for 2024 which enabled the City of Pittsfield to update its CDBG income eligible areas and produce a new map showing the areas of the City in which a majority of the residents have incomes below 80% of Pittsfield's area median income. A copy of this map, that defines the boundaries of the CDBG eligible areas within the City of Pittsfield, is included in the attachment to this plan entitled "Grantee Unique Appendices."

A CDBG eligible area is a specific block group within a census tract in which at least 51% of its population has median family incomes at or below 80% of the median family income for Pittsfield. This

map is utilized in assisting grantees in making official determinations of activity compliance with the low-moderate income area (LMA) benefit national objective which is used to help locate activities like sidewalk reconstruction, park improvements, and public service activity.

CDBG eligible areas (census tracts and block groups) within the City of Pittsfield as of 2024 are as follows:

- Census Tract 9001 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3
- Census Tract 9002 Block Groups: 1, 3, 6
- Census Tract 9003 Block Groups: 1
- Census Tract 9004 Block Groups: 1, 2
- Census Tract 9006 Block Groups: 2, 3, 4
- Census Tract 9009 Block Groups: 2, 3
- Census Tract 9011 Block Groups: 3
- Census Tract 9352 Block Groups: 3

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

Priority Needs

Table 48 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Homelessness Prevention, Outreach, Rapid Rehousing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homelessness Prevention - Public Services
	Description	Homelessness outreach, rapid rehousing, and prevention are essential services due to the high number of households paying in excess of 50% of their income for rent and as a result are considered to be cost burdened. Additionally, there is also a high number of households paying in excess of 30% of their income for rent. All of these cost burdened households are at a high risk of becoming homeless. Research indicates that this is one of the most cost effective approaches to diverting individuals and families from entering homelessness and restabilizing them quickly through short-term subsidies, skills development, and flexible outreach and support services.

	Basis for Relative Priority	This is considered a high priority need because according to HUD data for Pittsfield there are 1,650 renters and 1,105 owners paying more than 50% of their income for housing costs. Additionally, there are 1,950 renter and 1,330 owner households paying more than 30% of their income to cover housing costs. Annually, Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (AKA Upside413), Community Legal Aid, and other agencies and non-profits expects to assist approximately 100 Pittsfield households annually with homelessness prevention services.
2	Priority Need Name	Homelessness: Emergency Shelter
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	
	Associated Goals	Homeless - Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing
	Description	There is a high need to provide emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families. Pittsfield currently has insufficient capacity for the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Areas in which there continue to be high need for emergency housing include: domestic violence victims, those struggling with substance use disorder, and unaccompanied youth.

	Basis for Relative Priority	This is considered a high priority need because there are not enough emergency and transitional shelter beds to serve particular sub-populations targeted by HUD as priority populations for transitional housing. These include: victims of domestic violence, individuals with substance use disorder, and unaccompanied youth.
3	Priority Need Name	Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	
	Associated Goals	Homeless - Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing
	Description	There is a high need for the creation of additional permanent supportive housing or transitional housing for homeless individuals and families. The most recent Point in Time Count reported 187 sheltered homeless persons in Pittsfield that could benefit from transitional or permanent supportive housing. The City of Pittsfield will look for opportunities to support creation of new supportive housing units.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This is considered a high priority need because according to the data collected for this plan, there are currently 39 permanent supportive housing beds for households with only adults; and 58 permanent supportive beds for Veterans.

4	Priority Need Name	Public Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	
	Associated Goals	Public Services - CDBG HSAC Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups
	Description	There is a need for the provision of public services and programs through the City's social service and non-profit agencies. Public Services that target homelessness prevention, at risk youth services, substance abuse and mental health services, domestic violence services, supportive housing, and services for the elderly and disabled community are a high priority need.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The provision of public services and programs was assigned a high priority due to the fact that 36% of Pittsfield households are low or very low income (0-30% and 30-50% HAMFI). Small family households, elderly, and households with children under 6 years comprise 32% of these households. The assignment of a high priority level was also determined as a result of community residents comments received through public input meetings and a public survey.
5	Priority Need Name	Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Housing Rehabilitation Program Residential Accessible Ramp Program
	Description	There is a high need for rehabilitation of existing owner-occupied housing units and existing rental housing units due to the age of the structures within Pittsfield especially in the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods of the City where a majority of the City's housing stock was built prior to 1978.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This need is considered to be a high priority due to the number of owner-occupied and rental housing units that are not code compliant and in need of rehabilitation work as well as lead paint abatement. It is estimated that approximately 6,755 households may be living in older housing that may contain lead-based paint hazards.
6	Priority Need Name	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas

	Associated Goals	Public Facilities and Improvements - Parks Public Facilities and Improvements - Neighborhood Public Facilities and Improvements - Sidewalks
	Description	There is a need for new or replaced public facilities such as the creation of or improvements to existing parks within the City. The rehabilitation of or support of new critical neighborhood facilities and specialized facilities such as an emergency shelter for the homeless and victims of domestic violence is a priority need. There is also a need for the reconstruction or installation of new sidewalks and curb cuts particularly in the City's CDBG income eligible neighborhoods.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The assignment of a high priority for this need is due to the completed responses received from the CDBG public input survey as well as citizen comments received at the public input meetings and comment periods. Additionally, the public facility improvements listed above are consistent with a number of existing plans including the City's Master Plan.
7	Priority Need Name	Economic Development
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	
	Associated Goals	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program Economic Development - Microenterprise
	Description	There is high priority need in the community to create economic opportunity by supporting the creation of new small businesses and the supporting existing businesses with the creation of new jobs for low-moderate income residents of Pittsfield.

	Basis for Relative Priority	The assignment of a high priority for this need is due to the completed responses received from the CDBG public survey as well as citizen comments received at the public input meetings held during creation of this plan.
8	Priority Need Name	Creation of Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production
	Description	There is a high need to ensure the continued availability of affordable housing by supporting the creation of new public housing, Section 8, and other subsidized housing units in the community or ensuring affordability through restrictions in exchange for home-ownership assistance or support of associated soft costs for the development of residential properties.
	Basis for Relative Priority	
9	Priority Need Name	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents

	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Housing Rehabilitation Program Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production
	Description	There is a high need to ensure the continued availability of affordable housing by maintaining and preserving existing public housing, Section 8, and other subsidized housing in the community or ensuring affordability through restrictions in exchange for rehabilitation of or support of associated soft costs for unrestricted residential properties.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The creation and retention of affordable housing have been identified as a high priority in the CDBG public input survey and public comments received during plan creation.
10	Priority Need Name	Demolition of Vacant Buildings
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings
	Description	Currently there are approximately 100 vacant residential buildings that have a history of code enforcement on the City's Vacant Building List. This list is maintained by the Health Department and updated monthly by City code enforcement personnel. Approximately 20 of the buildings on the list are not well suited for rehabilitation. The Vacant Building list is reviewed at monthly code enforcement meetings and used to prioritize buildings that present a health and safety issue and should be demolished.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This need is assigned a high priority ranking due to the number of vacant buildings throughout the City that require constant oversight and code enforcement actions. These vacant buildings create health and safety concerns and contribute blight to neighborhoods which in turn de-values properties and reduces quality of life.
11	Priority Need Name	Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation
	Priority Level	Low

	Population	Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation
	Description	Due to the history of Pittsfield as an industrial community there is a need to address lingering sites known or suspected to be contaminated by prior industrial activity that can be evaluated and remediated to address conditions of slum and blight and provide for opportunities for further economic development.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This goal has been assigned a low priority as opportunities for strategic use of CDBG funds to catalyze larger economic development typically take longer to realize due to complex regulation and project financing that needs to occur before projects demonstrate viability. Assessment and remediation can address these economic opportunities as well as the blighting effects of these properties, but specific projects to address this need have not yet been identified.
12	Priority Need Name	Program Administration and Planning
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	
	Associated Goals	Program Administration and Planning
	Description	<p>The City receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development each year. Pittsfield is considered an entitlement community which means the amount of funds awarded to the City is calculated through a HUD formula. HUD regulations allow the use of CDBG funds to pay for staff salaries and related administrative costs associated with the administration of City CDBG funded programs and services.</p>

	Basis for Relative Priority	A high priority was assigned to this need due to the City receipt of CDBG funding and the need for staff to administer CDBG funded programs such as housing rehabilitation and special economic development loans and grants as well as other as detailed in the Annual Action Plan and budget.
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Narrative (Optional)

The City's priority needs include addressing needs for homeless and chronic populations; the provision of additional permanent supportive housing; employment training especially in the industries in the local economy that pay higher wages; resources for an appropriate emergency and winter shelter with supportive services for the homeless population; providing additional affordable housing in the form of a SRO development; more accessible housing for the disabled population; increased mobile Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers; reallocating transitional housing funds to create permanent supportive housing for homeless populations and prioritizing chronically homeless for these slots; providing additional funds to support public service programs; prioritizing CDBG funds to support housing rehabilitation; demolition of vacant buildings; public service and homelessness programs; public facility projects; and economic development programs.

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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)	<p>The City of Pittsfield does not receive HOME funds. The information below address the current status of market conditions without regard to the sources of funding used.</p> <p>The City continues to see an increasing demand for safe affordable housing. Cost burden continues to be one of the largest factors in housing instability for extremely low and low- income households.</p>
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	<p>The Pittsfield Housing Authority prioritizes elders, individuals/families with members who have a disability, and families on both the project based and TBRA waitlists. However there are insufficient units to meet the demands of those on the waiting list. State agencies offer temporary subsidies to individuals with disabilities, however, there is insufficient availability of new TBRA vouchers, and many individuals get stuck in “temporary” subsidies far longer than originally intended. The greatest concern that PHA has at this time is housing the elderly and disabled population in our local area. State legislation requires all statewide housing authorities to participate in the Centralized waiting list. Once a unit is available the PHA must make it available to the top waiting list household on the state list. The concern that the PHA and most Housing Authority's face is that the local population of elderly and disabled are not close to the top of the list to be offered housing</p>
New Unit Production	<p>The City has removed zoning barriers that impact the development of new unit production and offers multiple incentives to support new unit production. The City actively supports and contributes to new affordable housing development through the public and private sector. A key barrier to new production is insufficient access/availability of state and federal development funds, particularly for projects that are 20 units or less, for which tax credits are not an available source of funding.</p>
Rehabilitation	<p>Given the age of the housing stock in Pittsfield (84% built before 1980) there is constant need for rehabilitation. Based on the number of building permits it can be inferred that at least some routine maintenance and some more extensive urgent maintenance is being postponed</p>

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Acquisition, including preservation	<p>Home prices and the number of homes sold increased from 1112 in 2023 to 1133 in 2024, according to Berkshire Market Watch Report. The majority of these sales are for single family homes, although multi-family dwellings have experienced a steady increase in sales over the last several years. The median sales price for a home in Pittsfield has also been steadily rising since 2020.</p> <p>According to the 2023 American Community Survey, 44% of the housing units in Pittsfield are in multi-family structures and the majority of multi-family homes are in Pittsfield's central city neighborhoods where over half of the multi-family units are located and nearly three quarters of the residents are renters. The increase in sale prices of multi-family homes in Pittsfield has more impact on the poorest socio-economic groups in the city. In addition, the lower rate of owner-occupied homes is likely to have an impact on the social and economic environment of the community.</p>

Table 49 – Influence of Market Conditions

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

Introduction

It is estimated that millions of dollars in federal, state, local, and private funding will be utilized over the next five years in order to deliver Pittsfield public and private programs and services and address priority needs. In addition, the funds listed below will also provide public infrastructure and facility improvements. The following table details the estimated types and amounts of resources that are anticipated to be available.

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	1,250,000	130,000	810,000	2,190,000	8,000,000	CDBG funds will be used for a variety of public service programs; public facility projects; economic development programs; housing rehabilitation; demolition; and admin and planning activities. Annual allocations are anticipated to be around \$1,250,000 annually, with anticipated regular Program Income of \$130,000 per year. \$535,000 is available in revolving loan funds.

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: \$		
General Fund	public - local	Admin and Planning Public Services	251,750	0	0	251,750	1,007,000	City of Pittsfield general funds will contribute approximately \$200,000 per year towards the salaries of CDBG program related employees. An additional \$51,750 per year of City general funds will be directed towards human (public) service agencies serving low-moderate income residents of Pittsfield.

Table 50 - 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 of Pittsfield leverages federal CDBG funding whenever possible with funding from other public and private sources in order to maximize the effectiveness of the City's CDBG funds. Although CDBG funds do not require a local match, the City tries to leverage its CDBG funds with other grant funding as described below.

- On a yearly basis, the City anticipates local social service agencies will leverage its CDBG grant awards with approximately \$10,000,000 from other federal, state, local, and private sources.
- City property owners receiving assistance through the CDBG funded Home Improvement Program are expected to leverage CDBG funds with an additional \$75,000 through a combination of homeowner contributions; Berkshire Community Action Council funds; and Get the Lead Out.
- The CDBG funded Handicapped Accessibility Loan Program for businesses requires for-profit property owners to provide a minimum 3:1 match and requires non-profit property owners to provide a 1:1 match. Funds leveraged through these CDBG funded loans during the coming year are estimated to total \$250,000.
- CDBG funded economic development programs are structured to involve companion funds from other public and private sources. Technical

Assistance grants require a one-to-one match of funds. CDBG small business loan borrowers are limited to receive a maximum of 40% of project costs from CDBG. CDBG funds for economic development activities will leverage other bank and private financing of approximately \$250,000 during the upcoming year.

- CDBG funding will leverage \$200,000 of City general funds during the next year to pay for a portion of Department of Community Development staff salaries and CDBG public service agency grant funding will leverage \$51,750 of City general funds to fund additional public service agency grants.

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

The City funds a Community Gardener to manage several gardens on City owned property at Conte, and Morningside Elementary Schools in the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods, as well as at an affordable housing development, and City park. Volunteers, residents and students help maintain the gardens. Produce is used by the schools, local food pantries, and residents.

The tax title foreclosure process results in the occasional transfer of abandoned property to the City, the Department of Community Development along with other City departments will review and determine whether City owned vacant lots will be transferred or sold for the purposes of developing affordable housing or address other needs identified in the plan.

Discussion

As described above, the City of Pittsfield CDBG funds are estimated to leverage approximately \$13,945,000 during the upcoming five year period. CDBG funded activities that require matching funds from other sources (loans or private funds) are the Economic Development loans and technical assistance grants as well as handicapped accessibility loans. Additionally, the City's housing rehabilitation program generates leveraged dollars each year as well as improvements at the City parks and playgrounds. Public service agencies participating in the City's CDBG funded HSAC public service grants program are anticipated to leverage millions of dollars to support their programs for various federal, state, local and private sources. In addition to the above mentioned leveraged dollars, Pittsfield Department of Community Development staff will continue to pursue other grant funds to help achieve Consolidated Plan goals.

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
Upside413	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Planning Rental	Region
Hearthway	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning Rental	Region
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Inc.	Regional organization	Planning	Region
BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation	Regional organization	Economic Development	Region
Berkshire County Regional Employment Board	Regional organization	Non-homeless special needs Planning public services	Region
Soldier On	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership	Nation
Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements public services	Jurisdiction

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Berkshire Housing Services, Inc.	Regional organization	Ownership Public Housing Rental	Region
Pittsfield Housing Authority	PHA	Planning Public Housing Rental	Jurisdiction
Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Economic Development Planning public facilities	Jurisdiction
Massachusetts Office of Business Development	Government	Economic Development	State
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Government	Ownership Planning Rental neighborhood improvements public facilities	State
Pittsfield Economic Development Authority	Redevelopment authority	Economic Development Planning	Jurisdiction
3 County Rural Continuum of Care	Continuum of care	Homelessness Planning	Region
Commission on Disabilities	Government	Non-homeless special needs public services	Jurisdiction
Pittsfield Department of Public Works & Utilities	Departments and agencies	neighborhood improvements public facilities	Jurisdiction
CITY OF PITTSFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT	Departments and agencies	Non-homeless special needs	Jurisdiction
Human Services Advisory Council	Public institution	Non-homeless special needs public services	Jurisdiction
Pittsfield Parks Commission	Government	Planning neighborhood improvements public facilities	Jurisdiction

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Pittsfield Department of Community Development			
Berkshire United Way, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Planning public services	Region
Berkshire Medical Center	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
City of Pittsfield Ralph J. Froio Senior Center	Government	Non-homeless special needs public facilities public services	Jurisdiction

Table 51 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The City of Pittsfield has strong and well-developed institutional delivery systems that represents a high level of cooperation, among governmental departments, commissions, agencies, committees, and organizations that have worked together to ensure service coordination, and identify gaps and barriers to services and unmet needs.

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
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	
Mortgage Assistance	X		
Rental Assistance	X		
Utilities Assistance	X		
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	X	X	
Mobile Clinics	X	X	
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X

Child Care	X		
Education	X		
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS	X		X
Life Skills	X	X	X
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	
Other			

Table 52 - 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)

There is a robust and collaborative service delivery system throughout Western Massachusetts built to respond to the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Pittsfield utilizes the Three County CoC Coordinated Entry system, Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness (WMNEH), and State services like the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance funding, and local services to meet the immediate needs of homeless persons. In partnership with the WMNEH and Three County CoC, Pittsfield networks with Western MA providers to evaluate the service delivery system and identify continuous improvements to ensure homelessness is brief, rare, and non-recurring.

Using a coordinated No-Wrong-Door approach, the Coordinated Entry system is built to immediately connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness with a comprehensive Housing Vulnerability Assessment that helps communities, including Pittsfield, identify the appropriate services and housing programs based on individual need. Pittsfield uses this system to prioritize individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are the most vulnerable, including those who are: chronically homeless; fleeing domestic or intimate partner violence; veterans; families with children; LGBTQ+ persons; individuals and families of color; and unaccompanied youth and young adults. Weekly CE Case Conferencing meetings are held in all three counties, with Pittsfield holding the weekly Berkshire County meeting attended consistently by a variety of social service providers. The system encourages continuous evaluation of how each community is working to end homelessness and best practices for doing so.

Using this service delivery system, homeless service providers in Pittsfield are able to help homeless persons access mainstream benefits and supports, community resources, safe and affordable housing options, and CoC-funded housing programs. By assessing the housing vulnerability and needs of each individual and family, Pittsfield service providers can immediately identify the appropriate services, resources, and programs, including: immediate shelter or transitional housing options; access to healthcare, including mental health support; income maximization; short-term financial assistance;

affordable housing programs; Permanent Supportive Housing programs; recovery programs; housing stabilization services.

A summary of service providers include:

- Prevention Services (See SP-60 for details) are provided by Upside413, BHS, BCAC and Soldier On. Street/Shelter/Institution Outreach is provided through Eliot Services that provides federally funded statewide homeless outreach services and ServiceNet.
- Health Care and HIV/AIDS Services are provided by Tapestry Health, Fallon Health, Berkshire Medical Center
- Support Services and Substance Abuse Services are provided by the Brien Center, Spectrum, Berkshire Health Systems, ServiceNet Recovery Center and Behavioral Health, Primary Care, Fallon Health, Clean Slate, BMC Detox and Clinical Support Services
- Employment and Education Services are provided by MassHire Career Center, Pittsfield Adult Learning Center, Pittsfield Public Schools
- Mental Health Services are provided by ServiceNet, the Brien Center, Community and Support Options, Dept of Mental Health, Private Behavioral Health practices
- Transportation Services are provided by Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, Mass Health PT1, agency provided transportation

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

Although Pittsfield has a robust and strong service delivery system, there are gaps and areas in need of improvement in order to better address and end homelessness in the community. Key gaps in need of addressing are: insufficient affordable housing stock, engagement with providers that serve special populations, services for individuals and families ineligible for CoC-funded opportunities; and data quality improvement to help evaluate the delivery service system. For example there is a need for increased engagement and partnership with providers who provide services specifically with target populations, in particular there is a need to pull in agencies that specifically serve: individuals and families fleeing violence; individuals and families who are immigrants, refugees, and/or prefer languages other than English; individuals and families with LGBTQ+ members; and parenting youth and young adults. As a second example, there is a need for diversifying CoC and WMNEH membership to reflect the community the CoC serves in terms: lived-experience of homelessness, community of residence, gender identity, race, ethnicity, disability status, national origin, language preference, and social location.

A strength of the Pittsfield service delivery are a recognition by health care providers that collaboration with local agencies that work with the special needs populations on issues other than health, such as housing, can effect better outcomes for individuals. Berkshire Health System and Fallon Health are collaborating with ServiceNet and Berkshire County Regional Housing to meet the needs of homeless families and individuals. These partnerships have provided increased funding for those experiencing substance use disorders, which includes longer term inpatient beds and recovery support services.

Accountable Care Organization (Berkshire Health Systems and Fallon Health) are now investing in homeless services with local providers.

One of the gaps in the service delivery system is low wage part time jobs that make it impossible to afford housing. There is also a lack of easily accessible training programs with most being located in Springfield or even further east. Berkshire County and Pittsfield has a lack of transportation with limited bus routes, schedules and no evening services, which impacts job search and attainment and makes it difficult for low income individuals and families to increase their income. In addition, services and programs for the homelessness are significantly under resourced. State and federal funding covers approximately 65% of the cost to administer these programs, making it a constant struggle to keep services available. Local community investment in these programs has also not keep pace with the need

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

The main strategy the City will take to overcome gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system will be to continue developing and maintaining its existing highly developed coalitions among the agencies, organizations, non-profits, and neighborhood initiatives listed previously in this section. Specifically, the City's Department of Community Development recognizes the extreme importance of the institutional structure that currently exists and will continue to utilize its strong relationships as well as develop new ones to address the City's priority needs. The City will continue to participate as a Board and Committee member for the Three County Continuum of Care. The Continuum has addressed the following priorities to overcome gaps in the service delivery system.

- Expanding and improving Coordinated Entry – expanding the access by using a no-wrong door approach and population specific focuses for youth, Domestic Violence survivors, and veterans. The Coordinated Entry Assessment population to address specific disparities by using a 2 step assessment process to include a crisis assessment and a housing assessment.

Built for Zero - CoC membership in Built for Zero will provide a broader National Connection to the work of ending homelessness, training and support from our CoC partnerships, and a better data collection network.

Improving HMIS Data systems - increased access to meet HUD's growing reporting requirements, improved systems performance measures and data quality; increased level of county specific data collection.

Increased partnerships and presence in Berkshire County – continued and improved broad engagement from the CoC in Berkshire area presence and collaborations; increased CoC sponsored training events and CoC funded project fiscal, program, fair housing, trauma informed and equity based trainings.

The CoC is undergoing a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, specifically regarding a plan to ending youth homelessness in Franklin County and plan to utilize the strategies implemented here, across three counties, including hiring staff to support a robust Coordinated Entry Process specific to youth & domestic violence survivors, providing funding for housing navigators to better the connections between homeless young people, the coordinated entry process, and the programs and landlords with

resources to house them. The program plans to focus on obtaining tenancy training for youth who will obtain a certification to encourage landlords to house them.

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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	Homeless - Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Homeless		Homelessness: Emergency Shelter Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing	CDBG: \$20,000	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 20 Beds Housing for Homeless added: 5 Household Housing Unit
2	Homelessness Prevention - Public Services	2025	2029	Homeless	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Homelessness Prevention, Outreach, Rapid Rehousing	CDBG: \$250,000	Homelessness Prevention: 300 Persons Assisted
3	Public Services - CDBG HSAC	2025	2029	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs		Public Services	CDBG: \$772,500 General Fund: \$258,750	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3000 Persons Assisted
4	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Morningside Initiative Westside Initiative Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$75,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Housing Rehabilitation Program	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation Maintain Existing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$3,600,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 80 Household Housing Unit
6	Residential Accessible Ramp Program	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$350,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 4 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 6 Household Housing Unit
7	Public Facilities and Improvements - Parks	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Morningside Initiative Westside Initiative Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$250,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5000 Persons Assisted
8	Public Facilities and Improvements - Neighborhood	2025	2029	Homeless	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$100,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
9	Public Facilities and Improvements - Sidewalks	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$750,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5000 Persons Assisted
10	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$750,000	Jobs created/retained: 10 Jobs
11	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$750,000	Jobs created/retained: 35 Jobs Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
12	Economic Development - Microenterprise	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$175,000	Businesses assisted: 175 Businesses Assisted
13	Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$250,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 5 Business
14	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Demolition of Vacant Buildings Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation	CDBG: \$1,000,000	Buildings Demolished: 15 Buildings
15	Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation	CDBG: \$50,000	Brownfield acres remediated: 1 Acre

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
16	Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Morningside Initiative Westside Initiative Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing Creation of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$300,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 30 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 15 Households Assisted
17	Program Administration and Planning	2025	2029	Program Administration and Planning		Program Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$900,000 General Fund: \$1,000,000	

Table 53 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Homeless - Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	There is a high need for the expansion of emergency shelter operations and the creation of additional permanent supportive housing or transitional housing for homeless individuals and families. The most recent Point in Time Count reported 187 sheltered homeless persons in Pittsfield that could benefit from transitional or permanent supportive housing. The City of Pittsfield will look for opportunities to support creation of new shelter beds or supportive housing units.

2	Goal Name	Homelessness Prevention - Public Services
	Goal Description	Early intervention programs will be provided by Pittsfield social service agencies such as Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (AKA Upside413) and non-profits such as Community Legal Aid. The five-year goal is to assist approximately 300 persons/households with homelessness prevention assistance with CDBG funding. These funds are awarded to agencies in conjunction with the annual HSAC grant process for other non-homelessness specific public service activities. In addition to CDBG funding, other federal, state, local, and private funding is expected to be utilized to achieve this goal.
3	Goal Name	Public Services - CDBG HSAC
	Goal Description	The City of Pittsfield Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) administers CDBG funding to provide grants to non-profit social service agencies that provide critical services and programs to the City's extremely-low, low, and moderate income households and persons. The City also provides additional funds for human (public) service grants from its General Fund budget. Over the next five years, it is estimated that approximately 3,000 persons will be assisted through CDBG funded human service programs and another 3,000 will be assisted through City general funded human service programs.
4	Goal Name	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups
	Goal Description	CDBG funding will be budgeted over the next five years to conduct and help organize neighborhood clean-ups in both the Westside and Morningside Initiative neighborhoods, and potentially other yet to be identified income eligible neighborhoods. Approximately ten clean-ups will be held over the five year period utilizing CDBG funds to pay for dumpsters and promotional fliers. This activity is considered a public service by HUD and therefore CDBG funding for this activity is budgeted within the HUD 15% public service cap calculation. As an Low Mod Area benefit this activity is anticipated to affect neighborhoods containing a cumulative total of up to 10,000 residents over five years.
5	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Goal Description	The City's goal to improve the quality of existing owner-occupied and rental housing will be accomplished by offering low interest rate loans and grants to HUD income eligible homeowners or landlords with HUD income eligible tenants to make necessary repairs and perform lead paint abatement work. The five year goal is to provide financing to approximately 100 housing units over 5 years through the City's CDBG funded home improvement program.

6	Goal Name	Residential Accessible Ramp Program
	Goal Description	The CDBG funded handicapped accessible ramp program is available to HUD income eligible homeowners and renter households citywide. The goal of the program is to provide an exterior handicapped accessible ramp or lift to a disabled household. The five year goal is to assist approximately 10 persons with mobility impairment through this program.
7	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements - Parks
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, the City plans to utilize a number of different funding sources to improve and create parks throughout the City of Pittsfield. According to the City's Parks and Open Space Five Year Capital Plan, it is estimated that City Capital Funds totaling \$3,695,000 will be utilized for a number of park related improvements. During the upcoming five years CDBG funds will be expended to improve parks in income eligible areas of the City. CDBG funds will be utilized to leverage other federal, state, and local funding to help create or improve parks expected to benefit approximately 5,000 residents in income eligible neighborhoods.
8	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements - Neighborhood
	Goal Description	The City plans to provide CDBG funds to support improvements including neighborhood facilities such as public schools, recreational facilities, senior centers, libraries, health centers or facilities for persons with special needs such as emergency shelters for homelessness or victims of domestic violence, and group homes. Approximately \$100,000 will be directed towards this activity over the next five years.
9	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements - Sidewalks
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, it is anticipated that CDBG funds will be used to fund sidewalk reconstruction and the installation of curb cuts in income eligible neighborhoods. It is estimated that approximately 5,000 linear feet of sidewalks and approximately 50 curb cuts will be constructed with CDBG funds in the next five years in HUD income eligible neighborhoods benefitting approximately 5,000 residents.

10	Goal Name	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, CDBG funded economic development loans will be available to small businesses that create job opportunities for low-moderate income persons. The overall five year goal for this activity is to assist approximately 5 businesses and create approximately 10 new jobs by providing small business loans to start-up businesses or expanding small businesses. The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation will administer and provide underwriting services for this CDBG funded program as a subrecipient and will provide loan funding utilizing its existing revolving loan fund, income from loan payments expected to be received (program income), and a carryover balance of CDBG funding from previous years.
11	Goal Name	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program
	Goal Description	During the next five years, PERC will administer CDBG funds budgeted to provide technical assistance grants in order to assist both start-up businesses and existing small businesses that are expanding which will create jobs for low-moderate income persons. The five year goal is to assist 25 businesses and create approximately 35 new jobs, and assist 10 microenterprises. CDBG funds will be budgeted over the next five years totaling \$750,000, or approximately \$150,000 for each year of the Consolidated Plan.
12	Goal Name	Economic Development - Microenterprise
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be used to support eligible microenterprise businesses with technical assistance and access to consulting services to assist businesses develop operational capacity and gain sustainability. Over the next five years approximately \$175,000 will be directed towards this activity, which will benefit approximately 175 new or existing microenterprises.
13	Goal Name	Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program
	Goal Description	During the next five years, CDBG funds will be budgeted to provide deferred payment loans to business property owners (for profit and non-profit) to help pay for handicapped accessible improvements or to remove barriers to accessibility to their properties. Over the next five years, it is estimated that this program will assist approximately 5 businesses with financial assistance to help make their buildings accessible. Approximately \$250,000 will be budgeted for this program over the five year period.

14	Goal Name	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be expended over the next five years to demolish vacant, condemned structures. Approximately \$200,000 per year will be budgeted to demolish approximately 15 condemned structures.
15	Goal Name	Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation
	Goal Description	Brownfield assessment and remediation can facilitate economic development activities and help address blighting influences in residential neighborhoods. The City will use limited CDBG funds as projects are identified where targeted investment in brownfield assessment and remediation can facilitate greater investment or achieve positive outcomes by reducing environmental hazards for residents. The City anticipates approximately \$50,000 will be made available for this goal over the next 5 years with the intent to facilitate assessment or remediation on up to 1 acre of formerly industrial land.
16	Goal Name	Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production
	Goal Description	The City intends to make funding available to support the production of new affordable housing units or preservation of existing restricted or naturally occurring affordable housing through downpayment assistance programs for new home-owners or rehabilitation of existing units in exchange for long term affordability restrictions.
17	Goal Name	Program Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, CDBG funds will be used to pay for Department of Community Development staff salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, and associated administrative costs related to administering the City's CDBG funds as well as other federal, state, and local grants. City General Funds will also pay for a portion of the salaries of some CDBG staff within the Department of Community Development. CDBG funds will also be used for planning purposes over the next five years.

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)

During the five years of this Consolidated Plan, it is estimated that a total of 370 renter and owner households will be provided with affordable housing assistance that meets the HUD Section 215 definition of affordable housing. The following is the HUD Section 215 affordable housing criteria for rental housing and homeownership that are used for determining if a household assisted with housing meets the HUD Section 215 affordable housing definition:

1. Rental Housing: A rental housing unit is considered to be an affordable housing unit if it is occupied by an extremely low-income, low-income, or moderate-income family or individual and bears a rent that is the lesser of (1) the Existing Section 8 Fair Market Rent for comparable units in the area or, (2) 30% of the adjusted income of a family whose income equals 65 percent of the median income for the area.
2. Homeownership:
 - (a) Housing that is for purchase (with or without rehabilitation) qualifies as affordable housing if it (1) is purchased by an extremely low-income, low-income, or moderate-income first-time homebuyer who will make the housing his or her principal residence; and (2) has a sale price that does not exceed the mortgage limit for the type of single family housing for the area under HUD's single family insuring authority under the National Housing Act.
 - (b) Housing that is to be rehabilitated, but is already owned by a family when assistance is provided, qualifies as affordable housing if the housing (1) is occupied by an extremely low-income, low-income, or moderate-income family which used the house as its principal residence, and (2) has a value, after rehabilitation, that does not exceed the mortgage limit for the type of single family housing for the area, as described in (a) above.

A description of the number and types of households projected to be assisted is as follows:

Rental Assistance:

- 250 renter households (0-30% of MFI) will be provided with Section 8 Vouchers

Rehabilitation of Existing Units:

- 100 households will receive rehabilitation assistance as follows: 30 owner households (0-30% MFI); 20 owner households (31-50% MFI); 25 owner households (51-80% MFI); 10 renter households (0-30% MFI); 10 renter households (31-50% MFI); and 5 renter household (51-80% MFI).
- 10 special needs households will be provided with accessible ramps: 2 renter households (0-30% MFI); 2 renter household (31-50% MFI); and 3 owner households (31-50% MFI) 3 owner households (51-80% MFI).

Production of New Units:

- 10 owner households (31-50% MFI) will purchase new homes through Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity.

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)

Not applicable

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

The PHA's strategies for addressing priority housing needs and to get residents involved in management and homeownership are as follows:

1. Expand the Supply of Assisted Housing- The PHA has established objectives to meet this goal. They are to reduce public housing vacancies, leverage private and other public funds to create additional housing opportunities and to look to acquire or build units and or developments.
2. Improve the Quality of Assisted Housing- Over the next five years the PHA will improve the public housing management score (PHAS score) and improve the voucher management (SEMAP) score. PHA will make attempts to increase customer satisfaction with the residents they work with. The PHA will be making renovations in an attempt to modernize the public housing units they manage. In addition, obsolete public housing under their control will be demolished or disposed of in the next five years.
3. Increase Assisted Housing Choices- The PHA plans on providing mobility counseling for all residents that have completed one year of residency with an existing voucher in the PHA jurisdiction. The PHA also will conduct outreach efforts to recruit potential landlords and educate them about the voucher program. Over the next five years the PHA will explore implementing a homeownership program to assist public housing residents moving into homeownership.
4. Provide An Improved Living Environment- The objective of the PHA is to continue measures to deconcentrate poverty in Pittsfield by bringing higher income public housing households into lower income developments. Mixing a range of incomes in public housing by assuring access to lower income families into higher income developments will assist the PHA in achieving this goal. The PHA will continue their practice to designate developments or buildings for particular resident groups, such as elderly or person with disabilities in order to improve their living environment.
5. Promote Self Sufficiency and Asset Development- The Housing Authority will increase the number and percentage of employed person in assisted families and will provide or attract supportive services to improve residents employability. Supportive services, particularly for the elderly or families with disabilities, can also assist these residence increase their independence and promote self-sufficiency.
6. Ensure Equal Opportunity and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing- PHA will undertake affirmative measures to ensure access to assisted housing and provide a suitable living environment, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability. The PHA will also undertake affirmative measures to ensure accessible housing to persons with all varieties of disabilities regardless of unit size required.

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

No

Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation

N/A

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

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Public policies and practices that impact or create barriers to affordable housing include zoning and land use. The City has inclusionary zoning that promotes accessibility of housing to low-income individuals, including a downtown overlay district and a flexible development ordinance that promotes the development of affordable housing. Lot size, set back and parking requirements in targeted neighborhoods may continue to create barriers to certain types of affordable housing development. The City has begun addressing this concern in the neighborhoods through recently implementing a new overlay district in the Morningside Neighborhood, as well as adopted a by-right three-family residential unit category with minimized parking requirements and setbacks and maximized in our multi-family residential zoning district.

The City has also adopted the Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing (UCH-TIF) Program, as well as the Commonwealth's Housing Development Incentive Program, each of which promote new housing development in urban centers and neighborhoods. The City of Pittsfield will continue to provide developers with zoning flexibility and incentive programs that have been implemented over the past 20 years. These programs include the Downtown Arts Overlay District; 40R Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District; Urban Center Housing TIF Program; and the Housing Development Incentive Program.

The Downtown Overlay District provides a requirement that residential development of five units or more shall provide no less than 20% of the total number of dwelling units as affordable units for 30 years. This provision allows the City to require developers to create mixed use housing and create affordable units in the downtown area.

The Commonwealth of MA maintains a Subsidized Housing Inventory, used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law, which holds cities and towns to a 10% standard of affordable housing. Currently the City of Pittsfield is at 8.79%, meaning that of the 21,228 year round housing units in Pittsfield 1,865 are designated as affordable units. While housing developed under Chapter 40B is eligible for inclusion on the inventory, many other types of housing also qualify to count toward a community's affordable housing stock.

Over the last ten years, the City has spent significant time and resources in the Morningside Neighborhood as part of Mass Development's Transformative Development Initiative. Pittsfield's district was centered on Tyler Street, and resulted in the neighborhood's first full scale neighborhood plan, a significant amount of data collection related to building conditions within the neighborhood, place making, planned streetscape improvements, and a housing feasibility study for infill housing. These efforts have led to the previously referenced overlay district in the Morningside Neighborhood and in our multi-family residential zoning district.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

The City of Pittsfield will continue to offer developers several zoning ordinances and incentive programs that were put in place over the previous years. These programs include the Downtown Arts Overlay District; 40R Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District; Urban Center Housing TIF Program; and the Housing Development Incentive Program. The City continues to remove zoning barriers that impact the development of new unit production and offers multiple incentives to support new unit production. The City recently enacted a new overlay district in the Morningside Neighborhood that provides greater development flexibility, as well as the adoption of a by-right three-family residential unit in the City's multi-family residential zoning district. The City actively supports and contributes to new affordable housing development through public and private sector efforts. A key barrier to new production is insufficient access/availability of state and federal development funds, particularly for projects that are 20 units or less, for which tax credits are not an available source of funding.

The City of Pittsfield will also undertake the following actions in an effort to reduce barriers to affordable housing:

- A minimum of 10% of the CPA funds distributed each year are specifically set aside for affordable housing.
- The City Department of Community Development will continue to prioritize funding the Home Improvement Program as a high priority. Over the past five years, 73 units of housing were rehabilitated through the CDBG program. With a focus on code related and health and safety issues, the program has preserved these units for low income households and tenants. The program has directly addressed the City's aging housing stock by updating outdated heating, electrical and plumbing systems, weatherizing and making energy efficient modifications and addressed accessibility and lead paint hazards.
- The City's Community Development Department will provide CDBG funded grants to low-income, handicapped renters and homeowners to install handicapped ramps. The Department of Community Development CDBG budget has allocated approximately \$25,000 yearly for this activity in the past.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

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

According to the 2024 Point in Time Count conducted by the Three County CoC there were at least 44 people in Berkshire County who were completely unsheltered or sleeping somewhere unsafe for habitation on a single night in January. According to the 2020 Point in Time Count conducted by the Three County CoC there are a reported 569 sheltered homeless person in all three counties, at least 187 were from Pittsfield. ServiceNet, Inc. is the primary provider of emergency, transitional and permanent housing to homeless individuals and families. They operate a resource center on North Street where homeless persons, seeking shelter, information and referral and support may access services.

Eliot Services has a dedicated homeless outreach worker who provides in-reach to the shelters, hospital, and substance use treatment to facilitate shelter and housing options for high need/risk individuals, who move frequently across systems. Eliot Services program in Pittsfield works with unsheltered persons and provides individual case management to those individuals.

In the past five years, the Berkshire Athenaeum, the City's Public Library, has found that they have become a resource for many of the City's unsheltered persons particularly during the winter months. As a public building open during the day they have seen an increase of people using the library as a shelter during the day, especially in the winter months. They have responded to this by relaxing regulations about food and drinks in the library, providing access and assistance for those needing computers and internet access. In order to further respond to the population they have in the library they have partnered with several local agencies that serve the homeless to provide case management services at the library. Elder Services, ServiceNet, and Living in Recovery have partnered with the library staff to provide case management services at the library in an attempt to reach homeless persons and address their individual needs. The Salvation Army provides a mobile food van at the library at the same time these services are offered.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Berkshire County has the highest rates of sheltered homelessness throughout the CoC. Pittsfield has four facilities that address the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless person. These include: Our Friend's House family shelter (emergency and transitional units); The Pearl (provides emergency and overflow beds for individuals); Onata St Family Shelter (20 beds for families), and Soldier On. Two organizations provide transitional housing including the Elizabeth Freeman House for women and their families experiencing domestic violence and Soldier On which provides 60 beds of transitional housing for Veterans. The overnight winter shelter for homeless individuals is co-located in a community room at Soldier On.

The CoC has realigned its program capacity to better align with the goal of ending homelessness and data from evidence-based practices. The region has adopted a Housing First approach, whereby diversion and prevention is the preferred approach, and if shelter is needed, it is used only for short-term placements. Providers now focus on rapid re-housing into permanent affordable housing, with flexible support services, if needed, rather than a "staged approach" to re-housing, whereby homeless individuals moved from emergency to transitional and then permanent housing. Studies on four key special populations indicate that veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and individuals struggling with substance addictions can benefit from transitional housing. Pittsfield currently has sufficient capacity for homeless/at-risk veterans through its 60 units of transitional housing, SSVF prevention, diversion and rapid rehousing program, and 50 units of permanent supportive housing. Areas in which there continue to be high need for transitional housing include: domestic violence victims, substance addictions, and unaccompanied youth.

This is considered a high-priority need because there are not enough transitional shelter beds to serve particular sub-populations targeted by HUD as priority populations for transitional housing. These include: victims of domestic violence, individuals with substance addictions, and unaccompanied youth. According to the data collected for this plan, there are; 60 transitional beds for households with only adults; and 60 transitional beds for Veterans. The information also indicates the following emergency shelter beds that are available: 67 year-round beds for households with adults and children; 20 year round beds for households with adults; 30 voucher/seasonal/overflow beds for households with adults; and 3 year-round beds for Veterans.

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.

There is a high need for the creation of additional permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families because of the statistics recently listed from the Point in Time Count as well as the fact that there are reduced CoC funded housing units in the Berkshire Area.

The CoC promotes both a "Housing First" and Rapid-Rehousing strategy to remediating homelessness in order to reduce the length of stay in shelters and to target the right resources to individuals at the right time. Western MA service providers are piloting a shared coordinated assessment tool that assesses individual needs for permanent supportive housing (typically those who are chronically homeless), to ensure that participants' needs are matched with the appropriate level of support. Many programs use a Self-Sufficiency Matrix tool that measures a participant's resources/gaps across multiple domains (housing, income, education, employment, childcare, transportation, physical, MH and SA healthcare, family connections, etc.) which helps to target and set goals in those areas of greatest need and identify the supports needed to reduce or remove barriers to meeting those needs. Shelter programs focus their

support on three key areas: increasing/achieving health, financial, and housing stability for each participant. Organizations are required to track participants' enrollment in mainstream services, income levels at both entrance and exit, and employment status at entrance and exit, and the number of participants who exit into permanent housing and focus their efforts on developing on-going linkages and supports in order to reduce the risk of becoming homeless again. Staff across most agencies is trained in a number of evidence-based practices that are designed to help build and sustain supportive relationships with participants, including: principles and practices of trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, and strength-based approaches to case management. These skills help to build trust and connections with participants who will then be more likely to seek help from a trusted provider prior to spiraling into homelessness again.

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

This population requires an approach that utilizes the following interventions at the inception of a household's connection with a public institution:

- Development of a housing resume by a trained housing counselor to address all barriers to accessing by subsidized and market rate housing, which includes addressing all CORI, credit, rental history issues. The resume should include identifying current supports for the household as well as securing positive references.
- Mediation with family and friends to repair relationships, creating more stability upon release from an institutional setting, which may also present additional housing and shelter opportunities for the household.
- Applying for all available housing resources, which includes ensuring that the household is on various affordable housing waiting lists and they are receiving the highest priority that they are eligible to receive for each program.
- Working with job and vocational training programs, including MassHires
- Utilize a national best practice model (Critical Time Intervention), assist the household in engaging or re-engaging all mainstream community resources for which they are eligible.

Pittsfield has a well-established strategy for prevention that has long promoted the effectiveness and cost-savings associated with prevention rather than waiting until individuals or families become homeless. It has lobbied for additional funding in this area, in favor of increased resources for family shelter, and has established a highly coordinated approach among providers who provide complimentary rather than duplicative services as part of the region's strategy to end homelessness. Prevention services are coordinated among key agencies: Berkshire Housing Services (BHS), Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA) and Soldier On. The BCRHA Housing and Consumer Education Center is co-located at the offices of BHS and BCRHA and offers assessment/screening services, legal and educational counseling, court and community dispute resolution (mediation,

negotiation, conciliation and facilitation services) designed to prevent homelessness, loss mitigation/foreclosure prevention counseling, tenancy preservation for households with mental health, developmental disabilities and/or substance abuse, housing search and homeless diversion services, consumer protection counseling, representative payee program, and housing counseling for elders aging in place and educational workshops for property owners, tenants, homeowners and human service providers. BHS and BCRHA coordinate their temporary financial assistance funds that are available for at-risk and homeless households to maximize impact and stability among high-risk households. Households have access to an array of affordable housing options through both BHS and BCRHA housing facilities, and established relationships with the Realtors Association. Soldier On has expanded its focus from providing transitional and permanent supportive housing for Veterans to include both homeless prevention, diversion, and rapid rehousing to Veteran families (individuals & families), through outreach, case management, flexible financial supports, employment and peer mentoring to help Veterans maintain stability. All participants are assessed for eligibility for mainstream resources (SSI, SSDI, unemployment, SNAP, MassHealth, EA, TANF, and educational benefits) to maximize income stability and support community linkages and access to job readiness, training, education, and job placement with supports to promote long-term financial stability. In 2024, approximately 900 people in Berkshire County received assistance through the RAFT program. Over 2,000 households received Housing Counseling, specialized Case Management and Housing Service assistance.

DRAFT

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

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

The production of lead-based paint was prohibited in 1978 because it is highly toxic and can cause a range of health problems, particularly to young children under the age of 6. Pittsfield has a high percentage of housing stock built before 1978, the median year a structure in Pittsfield was built was 1946. ACS data estimates 9,376 structures in Pittsfield were built before 1939 and 8,754 structures were built between 1940-1979. MA DPH-Childhood Lead Poisoning Program estimates that 83% of housing in Pittsfield housing was built pre-1978, and unless deleaded, is at risk of containing lead paint.

Pittsfield has taken significant steps to reduce the quantity of housing units with lead paint hazards by improving the quality of the housing infrastructure. A total of 13 housing units have been deleaded with CDBG funds from 2020-2025. The average per unit de-leading cost was \$30,000.00 per unit. Priority has been given to housing units where children under the age of six are living, and particularly to those who have been discovered to have some level of lead poisoning. 73 units of housing were rehabbed through the housing rehab program using lead safe work practices on projects containing lead that did not trigger a full de-leading. An additional 14 buildings were demolished between 2020-2025, thus eliminating those units from the rolls of housing with lead paint. The City of Pittsfield plans to continue to provide CDBG funding through its Home Improvement Program in order to address the City's lead-based paint hazards. Additional actions will include:

- Continue to offer educational workshops and seminars for landlords and tenants.
- Work with Get the Lead Out, the state-sponsored program for deleading, on lead paint abatement projects.
- Offer reimbursement to contractors willing to take the lead safe trainings and qualify as licensed deleaders in order to have a wider pool of contractors able to take on lead paint projects.
- Enforcement of State lead testing requirements for school entry.

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

The City's CDBG funded Home Improvement Program gives priority to applicants where children under the age of six reside and particularly to those applicants where children have some level of lead poisoning. Additional educational workshops and testing programs are promoted in the schools and childcare settings especially located in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside where the oldest housing stock exists. The Childhood Lead poisoning Prevention Program provides free home visits and inspection services to children based on elevated venous levels.

New emphasis is being placed on prevention based on recent data and MA DPH policy changes that now track even very low levels of lead poisoning (5-9 ug/dL), based on research that shows that even very low levels must be addressed through prevention activities to ensure that these children do not develop

higher levels of poisoning. The 10 µg/dL level of concern has now been replaced with a reference level of 5 µg/dL.

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

The City of Pittsfield Board of Health and the Pittsfield Building Inspections Departments participate in the *CDC's Lead-Safe Housing Policy Guidance* framework that organizes lead-safe housing standards in three tiers, based on level of lead hazard risk, in order to provide maximum public health protection. Tier I includes the implementation of a set of low-cost, prevention based standards designed for all properties built before 1978 that contain, or may contain, lead-based paint. Tier II offers criteria, and action triggers that tailor requirements to ensure lead safety in higher-risk properties, and Tier III addresses extremely high risk and dangerous circumstances, by identification of a lead-poisoned child or significant non-compliance by landlords. Education and promotion occurs through the Rental Housing Association of Berkshire County in collaboration with the City Department of Public Health, the Building Inspection Department, the City Department of Community Development, and MA Department of Public Health and MA DHCD tracking systems.

DRAFT

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

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

The City of Pittsfield utilizes HUD's Low/Moderate Income Summary Data (LMISD) to help decide where to invest funds during any given program year. This data indicates that while areas of the City have seen improvements in neighborhood income levels, the urban core of the City (Census Tracts 9001, 9002, and 9006) have an overwhelming concentration of under resourced households as compared to the rest of the City. An analysis of neighborhood data by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission found that Morningside and Westside neighborhoods experience significantly more poverty than the rest of the City. These neighborhoods also have a lower life expectancy, 10-12 fewer years, than other neighborhoods in the City.

Opportunity Insights, a Harvard University based team of researchers and policy analysts, has found that neighborhoods just a few miles apart can have radically different outcomes for the residents, especially children. The percentage of children earning more than their parents has been steadily decreasing over the years and these outcomes are more significant for households of color and households that have less income. Neighborhoods are a significant factor in upward mobility, the data also suggests that the sooner a household move to a neighbor of high opportunity the better the outcomes. "Moving (within the same city) from a below-average to an above-average neighborhood in terms of upward mobility would increase the lifetime earnings of a child growing up in a low-income family by \$200,000. Children who grow up in better areas are also less likely to be incarcerated and are less likely to have teen births." (Creating Moves to Opportunity: Experimental Evidence on Barriers to Neighborhood Choice. Peter Bergman, Raj Chetty, Stefanie DeLuca, Nathaniel Hendren, Lawrence Katz, Christopher Palmer)

Opportunity Insights has looked at three policy changes that cities can address in order to create opportunity for their residents. They are: to reduce segregation by helping low income families move to higher opportunity areas; improving and increasing access to higher education for low income students; and place based investment to increase mobility in low opportunity areas.

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

Poverty reducing goals, programs and policies are coordinated with this affordable housing plan as follows:

1)The City uses a single coordinated screening and evaluation process through its Human Services Committee to screen, evaluate, score and fund programs that are consistent and meet the goals and priorities for homeless, low income, special needs and the affordable housing plan within this document. It ensures that CDBG funds are distributed to programs that can provide measurable outcomes that demonstrate progress towards the City's goals.

2)CDBG funded staff participate in the 3-County HUD Continuum of Care as a Board member and also serve on the CoC's Ranking and Evaluation sub-committee.

3) Finally, The City maintains a Section 3 Policy to ensure that employment and economic opportunities generated by HUD financial assistance (greater than \$200,000) are directed to low/very low income persons.

Several emerging and on-going collaborations focus on asset development and coordinated emergency resources and housing.

BCAC has a clear asset development strategy with four programs that directly attempt to expand access to credit and stabilize housing. First they provide financial literacy counseling for all their LIHEAP clients, either in individual sessions and/or a class. Working with two local lenders BCAC offers a lending program with three options. BCAC also houses the Community Connector program which works on the premise that there is “no wrong door” for residents to receive the help they need. Partnering with 30 agencies, including the city, the referral system links clients with other potential services or programs that can assist their needs. Staff of a participating agency who find that their client is need of other services, such as food, housing, affordable child care, or housing repairs are able to set up a direct referral to a provider who can assist them, eliminating the need for multiple phone calls and journeys to several agencies for assistance.

Over the past eight years, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity has offered the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free federal and state tax return preparation for low-income households to increase the accuracy and amount of tax returns. The Earned Income Tax Credit is an instrumental tool in lifting low income families and children out of poverty and one in five households who are eligible for it fail to claim it.

First Question Cont.

Towards the goal of reducing segregation in neighborhoods, the City will focus on several strategies. Creating affordable housing opportunities outside of census tracts 9001, 9002 and 9006, encouraging the PHA and BHS to continue to provide mobility counseling for residents to move from those census tracts and continuing measures to deconcentrate poverty in Pittsfield by bringing higher income public housing households into lower income developments.

Place based investment will continue to be a strong priority for City. Investment of CDBG funds will be focused on those census tracts with a higher concentration of poverty, census tracts 9001, 9002, and 9006. Targeted investment in those neighborhoods will improve the overall conditions of those neighborhoods, by increasing access to green space, such as parks and public facilities. Investment in demolitions of vacant buildings and streetscape improvements to increase the walkability of the neighborhood will also help to achieve this goal.

Several agencies that operate programs to reduce poverty and promote economic self-sufficiency among City residents have undertaken a number of initiatives to combat poverty using a coordinated strategy of collaboration across agencies. Berkshire Bridges is a cross sector initiative of City residents, nonprofit agencies, and City employees, which Habitat for Humanity is the backbone agency. The initiative is designed to support the journey from poverty to sustainability by collaboratively building community resources and removing barriers. The goal is to improve individual, institutional,

institutional, and social fairness and respect in the community, and thus to support individuals moving out of poverty.

18 Degrees works with underserved families address economic disparity by helping families address their specific challenges using the EMPath Model. The EMPath model, Economic Mobility Pathways, offers group experiences and individual coaching to families through education, fostering connection, and increasing opportunities. The mission of this program is to help families move out of poverty and into a self-sustaining pathway for success. In group sessions, parents collaborate with the group facilitator and each other to identify personal goals and develop a plan to achieve them across the five distinct EMPath pillars: family stability; well-being; financial management; education and training; and employment and career. Families then pursue their goals while monitoring progress, overcoming obstacles, and developing skills through the weekly group sessions. 18 Degrees runs a family resource center that offers individual community-based outreach on a regular basis. Progress across the five pillars is monitored through weekly self-evaluations and observations by group members and the facilitator. As families meet milestones on their plan, they receive incentives to motivate further growth and celebrate success. Incentives are based on the participant's next step on their plan and are usually used to remove barriers to that step when possible. 18 Degrees also runs a Parent Wellness program that fosters connection with the community through guest speakers who share expertise on relevant, wide-ranging subjects to the group such as housing, opening a bank account, WIC and others.

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

In accordance with the regulations at 24 CFR 570.502 (a) (b) and 24 CFR 570.501(b), the City of Pittsfield Department of Community Development (DCD) is responsible for ensuring that CDBG funds are used in accordance with all program requirements. The City of Pittsfield DCD is also responsible for determining the adequacy of performance under subrecipient agreements and procurement contracts, and for taking appropriate action when performance problems arise, such as the actions in 24 CFR 570.910.

The Pittsfield DCD monitoring policy ensures that activities are: 1) Consistent with the Consolidated Plan, 2) Implemented in a timely manner, and 3) Conform to all applicable Federal and State laws, regulations policies, sound management and accounting practices.

Programmatic and financial monitoring of subsequent activities is done in conformance with 2005 Code of Federal Regulations, Title 24, Chapter 5 with additional guidance from HUD publications such as Managing CDBG: A Guidebook for Grantees on Sub-recipient Oversight (March, 2005) and CPD Monitoring Handbook (6509.2 REV 5, March 2008). The purpose of monitoring subrecipients is as follows:

1. Determine if a subrecipient is carrying out its community development program, and its individual activities, as described in the application for CDBG assistance and the Subrecipient Agreement.
2. Determine if a subrecipient is carrying out its activities in a timely manner, in accordance with the schedule included in the Agreement.
3. Determine if a subrecipient is charging costs to the project that are eligible under applicable laws and CDBG regulations, and reasonable in light of the services or products delivered.
4. Determine if a subrecipient is conducting its activities with adequate control over program and financial performance, and in a way that minimizes opportunities for waste, mismanagement, fraud, and abuse.
5. Assess if the subrecipient has a continuing capacity to carry out the approved project, as well as future grants for which it may apply.
6. Identify potential problem areas and to assist the subrecipient in complying with applicable laws and regulations.

7. Assist subrecipients in resolving compliance problems through discussion, negotiation, and the provision of technical assistance and training.
8. Provide adequate follow-up measures to ensure performance and compliance deficiencies are corrected by subrecipients, and not repeated.
9. Comply with the Federal monitoring requirements of 24 CFR 570.501(b) and with 2 CFR Part 200.
10. Determine if any conflicts of interest exist in the operation of the CDBG program, per 24 CFR 570.611.
11. Ensure required records are maintained to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations.

The City of Pittsfield DCD staff will monitor subrecipients using the following general guidelines:

- CDP Manager drafts a scope of services consistent with regulations and the Consolidated Plan that is reviewed by the appropriate staff.
- City legal staff prepares a contract in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- CD Specialist reviews cost reimbursement and expenditure requests for eligibility and reasonableness prior to payment approval.
- CD Specialist oversees program implementation to ensure that it maintains fidelity to the contract.
- All sub-recipients must provide periodic reports that identify beneficiaries, eligibility and service activities carried out during the reporting period.
- An annual desk review of Audit Reports is conducted for every sub-recipient. Sub-recipients not subject to the audit requirements of OMB Circular A-128 or 2 CFR 200 are monitored on-site.

City staff will use the State MBE-WBE lists to conduct outreach when soliciting bids for projects and services.

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

It is estimated that millions of dollars in federal, state, local, and private funding will be utilized over the next five years in order to deliver Pittsfield public and private programs and services and address priority needs. In addition, the funds listed below will also provide public infrastructure and facility improvements. The following table details the estimated types and amounts of resources that are anticipated to be available.

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: \$		

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	1,250,000.00	130,000.00	810,000.00	2,190,000.00	8,000,000.00	CDBG funds will be used for a variety of public service programs; public facility projects; economic development programs; housing rehabilitation; demolition; and admin and planning activities. Annual allocations are anticipated to be around \$1,250,000 annually, with anticipated regular Program Income of \$130,000 per year. \$535,000 is available in revolving loan funds.
General Fund	public - local	Admin and Planning Public Services	251,750.00	0.00	0.00	251,750.00	1,007,000.00	City of Pittsfield general funds will contribute approximately \$200,000 per year towards the salaries of CDBG program related employees. An additional \$51,750 per year of City general funds will be directed towards human (public) service agencies serving low-moderate income residents of Pittsfield.

Table 54 - 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 of Pittsfield leverages federal CDBG funding whenever possible with funding from other public and private sources in order to maximize the effectiveness of the City's CDBG funds. Although CDBG funds do not require a local match, the City tries to leverage its CDBG funds with other grant funding as described below.

- On a yearly basis, the City anticipates local social service agencies will leverage its CDBG grant awards with approximately \$10,000,000 from other federal, state, local, and private sources.
- City property owners receiving assistance through the CDBG funded Home Improvement Program are expected to leverage CDBG funds with an additional \$75,000 through a combination of homeowner contributions; Berkshire Community Action Council funds; and Get the Lead Out.
- The CDBG funded Handicapped Accessibility Loan Program for businesses requires for-profit property owners to provide a minimum 3:1 match and requires non-profit property owners to provide a 1:1 match. Funds leveraged through these CDBG funded loans during the coming year are estimated to total \$250,000.
- CDBG funded economic development programs are structured to involve companion funds from other public and private sources. Technical Assistance grants require a one-to-one match of funds. CDBG small business loan borrowers are limited to receive a maximum of 40% of project costs from CDBG. CDBG funds for economic development activities will leverage other bank and private financing of approximately \$250,000 during the upcoming year.
- CDBG funding will leverage \$200,000 of City general funds during the next year to pay for a portion of Department of Community Development staff salaries and CDBG public service agency grant funding will leverage \$51,750 of City general funds to fund additional public service agency grants.

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

The City funds a Community Gardener to manage several gardens on City owned property at Conte, and Morningside Elementary Schools in the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods, as well as at an affordable housing development, and City park. Volunteers, residents and students help maintain the gardens. Produce is used by the schools, local food pantries, and residents.

The tax title foreclosure process results in the occasional transfer of abandoned property to the City, the Department of Community Development along with other City departments will review and determine whether City owned vacant lots will be transferred or sold for the purposes of developing affordable housing or address other needs identified in the plan.

Discussion

As described above, the City of Pittsfield CDBG funds are estimated to leverage approximately \$13,945,000 during the upcoming five year period. CDBG funded activities that require matching funds from other sources (loans or private funds) are the Economic Development loans and technical assistance grants as well as handicapped accessibility loans. Additionally, the City's housing rehabilitation program generates leveraged dollars each year as well as improvements at the City parks and playgrounds. Public service agencies participating in the City's CDBG funded HSAC public service grants program are anticipated to leverage millions of dollars to support their programs for various federal, state, local and private sources. In addition to the above mentioned leveraged dollars, Pittsfield Department of Community Development staff will continue to pursue other grant funds to help achieve Consolidated Plan goals.

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	Homeless - Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing	2025	2029	Affordable Housing Homeless		Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing		
3	Homelessness Prevention - Public Services	2025	2029	Homeless		Homelessness Prevention, Outreach, Rapid Rehousing	CDBG: \$46,000.00	Homelessness Prevention: 60 Persons Assisted
4	Public Services - CDBG HSAC	2025	2029	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs		Public Services	CDBG: \$142,000.00 General Fund: \$51,750.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 600 Persons Assisted
5	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Morningside Initiative Westside Initiative Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$10,000.00	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Housing Rehabilitation Program	2025	2029	Affordable Housing		Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$725,000.00	Rental units rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Unit
7	Residential Accessible Ramp Program	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$70,000.00	Rental units rehabilitated: 1 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit
8	Public Facilities and Improvements - Parks	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$30,000.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted
9	Public Facilities and Improvements - Neighborhood	2025	2029	Homeless	Morningside Initiative Westside Initiative Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
10	Public Facilities and Improvements - Sidewalks	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$200,000.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
11	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$135,000.00	Jobs created/retained: 2 Jobs Businesses assisted: 1 Businesses Assisted
12	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development			CDBG: \$176,000.00	Jobs created/retained: 7 Jobs Businesses assisted: 7 Businesses Assisted
13	Economic Development - Microenterprise	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$43,000.00	Businesses assisted: 35 Businesses Assisted
14	Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development			CDBG: \$55,000.00	Businesses assisted: 1 Businesses Assisted
15	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Demolition of Vacant Buildings	CDBG: \$245,000.00	Buildings Demolished: 3 Buildings
16	Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation	CDBG: \$10,000.00	Brownfield acres remediated: 1 Acre
17	Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production	2025	2029	Affordable Housing			CDBG: \$100,000.00	Rental units rehabilitated: 12 Household Housing Unit
18	Program Administration and Planning	2025	2029	Program Administration and Planning		Program Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$180,000.00 General Fund: \$200,000.00	

Table 55 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Homeless - Emergency Shelter & Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	There is a high need for the creation of additional permanent supportive housing or transitional housing for homeless individuals and families. The most recent Point in Time Count reported 187 sheltered homeless persons in Pittsfield that could benefit from transitional or permanent supportive housing. The City of Pittsfield will look for opportunities to support creation of new supportive housing units.
3	Goal Name	Homelessness Prevention - Public Services
	Goal Description	Early intervention programs will be provided by Pittsfield social service agencies such as Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (AKA Upside413) and non-profits such as Community Legal Aid. In PY 2025 the goal is to assist approximately 60 persons/households with homelessness prevention assistance with CDBG funding. In addition to CDBG funding, other federal, state, local, and private funding is expected to be utilized to achieve this goal.
4	Goal Name	Public Services - CDBG HSAC
	Goal Description	The City of Pittsfield Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) administers CDBG funding to provide grants to non-profit social service agencies that provide critical services and programs to the City's extremely-low, low, and moderate income households and persons. The City also provides additional funds for human (public) service grants from its General Fund budget. In PY25 it is estimated that approximately 600 persons will be assisted through CDBG funded human service programs and another 500 will be assisted through City general funded human service programs.
5	Goal Name	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be used to provide dumpsters and pay for informational fliers in both of Pittsfield neighborhood initiative areas, Westside and Morningside, during the 2024 fiscal year. CDBG funds of \$10,000 have been budgeted in PY 2025 CDBG funds. The Department of Community Development provides admin staff support in cooperation with local neighborhood based organizations in organizing the clean-ups and arranging for the dumpsters.

6	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Goal Description	The City's goal to improve the quality of existing owner-occupied and rental housing will be accomplished by offering low interest rate loans and grants to HUD income eligible homeowners or landlords with HUD income eligible tenants to make necessary repairs and perform lead paint abatement work. The PY25 goal is to provide financing to approximately 20 housing units through the City's CDBG funded home improvement program. Approximately 5 rental units and 15 homeowner units will be rehabilitated over the course of the program year.
7	Goal Name	Residential Accessible Ramp Program
	Goal Description	The CDBG funded handicapped accessible ramp program is available to HUD income eligible homeowners and renter households citywide. The goal of the program is to provide an exterior handicapped accessible ramp or lift to a disabled household. The PY 2025 goal is to assist approximately 3 persons with mobility impairment through this program.
8	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements - Parks
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, the City plans to utilize a number of different funding sources to improve and create parks throughout the City of Pittsfield. According to the City's Parks and Open Space Five Year Capital Plan, it is estimated that City Capital Funds totaling \$3,695,000 will be utilized for a number of park related improvements. During the upcoming five years CDBG funds will be expended to improve parks in income eligible areas of the City. In PY25 CDBG funds will be utilized to leverage other federal, state, and local funding to help create or improve parks expected to benefit at least 1,000 residents in income eligible neighborhoods.
9	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements - Neighborhood
	Goal Description	The City plans to provide CDBG funds to support improvements including neighborhood facilities such as public schools, recreational facilities, senior centers, libraries, health centers or facilities for persons with special needs such as emergency shelters for homelessness or victims of domestic violence, and group homes. Approximately \$100,000 will be directed towards this activity over the next five years.

10	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements - Sidewalks
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be used to fund sidewalk reconstruction and the installation of curb cuts in income eligible neighborhoods. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 linear feet of sidewalks and approximately 10 curb cuts will be constructed with CDBG funds in the next five years in HUD income eligible neighborhoods benefitting approximately 1,000 residents.
11	Goal Name	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program
	Goal Description	In PY25 CDBG funded economic development loans will be available to small businesses that create job opportunities for low-moderate income persons. The PY25 goal for this activity is to assist approximately 1 businesses and create approximately 2 new jobs by providing small business loans to start-up businesses or expanding small businesses. The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) will administer and provide underwriting services for this CDBG funded program as a subrecipient and will provide loan funding utilizing its existing revolving loan fund, income from loan payments expected to be received (program income), and a carryover balance of CDBG funding from previous years.
12	Goal Name	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program
	Goal Description	in PY25 the City and PERC will administer CDBG funds budgeted to provide technical assistance grants in order to assist both start-up businesses and existing small businesses that are expanding which will create jobs for low-moderate income persons. The PY25 goal is to assist 5 businesses and create approximately 7 new jobs, and assist 2 microenterprises.
13	Goal Name	Economic Development - Microenterprise
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be used to provide eligible microenterprise businesses with technical assistance and access to consulting services to develop operational capacity and attain sustainability. Approximately \$43,000 will be budgeted for this activity in PY25, expecting to assist approximately 35 new or existing businesses.
14	Goal Name	Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program
	Goal Description	In PY25 CDBG funds will be budgeted to provide deferred payment loans to business property owners (for profit and non-profit) to help pay for handicapped accessible improvements to their publicly accessible properties. In PY25 it is estimated that this program will assist approximately 1 business with financial assistance to help make their buildings accessible.

15	Goal Name	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be expended over the next five years to demolish vacant, condemned structures that have been ordered removed by the local code enforcement team and the Pittsfield Board of Health, and only when heirs or responsible parties are unable to remove the hazardous structure.
16	Goal Name	Brownfields Evaluation and Remediation
	Goal Description	Brownfield assessment and remediation can facilitate economic development activities and help address blighting influences in residential neighborhoods. The City will use limited CDBG funds as projects are identified where targeted investment in brownfield assessment and remediation can facilitate greater investment or achieve positive outcomes by reducing environmental hazards for residents. The City anticipates approximately \$50,000 will be made available for this goal over the next 5 years with the intent to facilitate assessment or remediation on up to 1 acre of formerly industrial land.
17	Goal Name	Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production
	Goal Description	The City intends to make funding available to facilitate the creation of new affordable housing units or preservation of existing restricted or naturally occurring affordable housing through downpayment assistance programs for new homeowners or rehabilitation of existing units in exchange for long term affordability restrictions.
18	Goal Name	Program Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be used to pay for Department of Community Development staff salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, and associated administrative costs related to administering the City's CDBG funds as well as other federal, state, and local grants. City General Funds will also pay for a portion of the salaries of some CDBG staff within the Department of Community Development. CDBG funds will also be used for planning purposes as needed.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects will be undertaken during the 2025 CDBG Program Year with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in order to assist the City in accomplishing its community development goals as outlined earlier in this Consolidated Plan. Some of the following CDBG funded projects will also utilize other federal, state, local, and private grants or funds.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Sidewalks and Curb Cuts
2	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Park Improvements
3	PUBLIC SERVICES: Human Services Grants and Activities
4	PUBLIC SERVICES: Neighborhood Cleanups
5	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Removal of Architectural Barriers
6	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Technical Assistance Grants
7	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CDBG ED Loan Program
8	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PERC
9	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: E for All PY25
10	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Housing Rehab Program
11	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Residential Accessible Ramp Program
12	AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Residential Rehab multifamily
13	CLEARANCE: Demolition of Vacant Buildings
14	PROGRAM ADMIN AND PLANNING

Table 56 – Project Information

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

When preparing the City's yearly CDBG budget, allocation priorities for specific activities are determined by referring to priority needs identified in the City's 5-Year Consolidated Plan. Priority needs are assigned a priority need level of High or Low for specific areas such as: public facility needs; infrastructure needs; public service needs; housing needs; economic development needs; and planning needs. Examples of activities or projects that received funding allocations for the 2025 Program Year and that were assigned a "High" priority need level in the City's 5-Year Consolidated Plan are as follows: Public Facility projects such as sidewalk improvements and neighborhood initiative improvements. Public (Human) Services funding such as neighborhood clean-ups; and Human Service Agency grants including funding for homeless needs.

Housing activities such as owner occupied and rental occupied housing rehabilitation including lead paint abatement; residential accessibility grants; temporary relocation; and miscellaneous rehabilitation expenses.

Economic Development activities such as funding to small businesses and non-profits for accessible improvements; technical assistance grants to small businesses and micro-enterprises; and loans to small businesses.

Demolition activities such as demolition of vacant, condemned buildings.

The City continues to see the greatest underserved needs in the area of human (public) services, particularly programs that address the growing homeless population in the City either with emergency and winter shelter, homelessness prevention programs and permanent supportive housing. Other priority needs include affordable child care, programs for youth, mental health and substance abuse services. Sidewalks, Neighborhood Clean ups and Demolition of Vacant Buildings are also a priority need.

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AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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1	Project Name	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Sidewalks and Curb Cuts
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Improvements - Sidewalks
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$245,791.00
	Description	A total of \$245,791 CDBG funds will be used to replace failing or install new sidewalks and add curb cuts/ramps in CDBG eligible service areas in the City, funds include \$50,000 in CDBG PY25 fund, \$150,000 in prior year funds and an additional \$457,991 of PY24 funds in activity delivery costs
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimate that 1,000 persons with mobility impairments, elderly, and residents of low-mod income neighborhood will benefit with improved access to community resources.
	Location Description	Projects will be undertaken in CDBG eligible service areas throughout the City, primarily in the targeted Morningside and Westside neighborhoods.
2	Planned Activities	Sidewalk and curb ramp installation in income eligible neighborhoods.
	Project Name	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Park Improvements
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Improvements - Parks
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000.00
	Description	A total of \$30,000 CDBG funds will be used to improve or create new parks and features in CDBG eligible service areas in the City, funds include \$25,000 in prior year funds and an additional \$5,000 of PY25 funds in activity delivery costs
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimate that 1,000 residents of low-mod income neighborhood will benefit with access to new or improved community resources.
	Location Description	Projects will be undertaken in CDBG eligible service areas throughout the City, primarily in the targeted Morningside and Westside neighborhoods.

	Planned Activities	This activity will support the design and installation of a splash pad and water features in a park located in an eligible CDBG neighborhood.
3	Project Name	PUBLIC SERVICES: Human Services Grants and Activities
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Homelessness Prevention - Public Services Public Services - CDBG HSAC
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness Prevention, Outreach, Rapid Rehousing Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$189,182.00 General Fund: \$51,750.00
	Description	HUD YEAR 2025 CDBG funds in the amount of \$189,182 will be allocated to human service programs, this figure includes \$154,500 in direct grants to social service agencies and \$34,682.09 in activity delivery costs. Agencies receiving funds in PY25 include: Elder Services, 18 Degrees, Upside413, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Berkshire County Kids Place, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Community Legal, Berkshire County HeadStart, Roots Rising, Adlib Inc, RFK Community Alliance, and the BCC Foundation.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 660 Income Eligible or otherwise presumed eligible households will be assisted with these funds.
	Location Description	Activities will occur city-wide.

	Planned Activities	<p>CDBG Funds will support social service agencies providing services to low income residents. The City solicits grant applications yearly and engages in a review process using a 10 member volunteer board to review applications and set funding recommendations. Anticipated agencies and their programs are listed below:</p> <p>18 Degress - Parent Wellness Program - Provides youth and adult family counseling services for income eligible families with abused or neglected children.</p> <p>Elder Services - Meals on Wheels & SHINE Programs - These two programs separately provide: prepared meals and engagement for eligible Seniors Citizens; Counseling services to facilitate health care coverage for eligible Senior Citizens</p> <p>Berkshire County Kids Place - Trauma Recovery Program - Provides clinical services to abused and at-risk youth.</p> <p>Upside413 - Housing Services and Mediation Program - Provides mediation and counseling to preserve tenancy and avoid evictions for income eligible families.</p> <p>Elizabeth Freeman Center - Homelessness Response/Prevention Program - Provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for domestic violence survivors.</p> <p>Community Legal Aid - Homeless Prevention Through Legal Aid - Provides pro bono legal representation for income eligible tenants in eviction matters</p> <p>Berkshire County Headstart - Early Childhood Education program - Provides transportation and full day childcare/early education for preschool age children of income eligible families.</p> <p>Roots Rising - Youth work crew program provide hands on learning in agriculture production and operating a stand at the farmers marketing providing job training and social benefits to eligible youth.</p> <p>Adlib - Independent Living Program and Personal Care Attendant programs for persons with disabilities to assist with independent living.</p> <p>BCC Foundation - Operating an ESOL program supporting those without access through BCC's academic channels.</p> <p>RFK Community Alliance - Providing peer mentoring to youth victims of human trafficking or domestic or sexual abuse.</p>
4	Project Name	PUBLIC SERVICES: Neighborhood Cleanups
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups

	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$12,000.00 General Fund: \$51,750.00
	Description	CDBG PY25 funds in the amount of \$12,000 will be budgeted to fund a neighborhood cleanup to benefit residents of income eligible neighborhoods. This includes PY25 funds in the amount of \$10,000 for direct costs and \$2,000 for activity delivery costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Approximately 100 residents will make direct use of the activity, which will also provide an area benefit to at least 1,000 income eligible neighborhood residents.
5	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$55,000.00
	Description	\$55,000 in CDBG funds will be expended to remove architectural barriers for commercial property owners. \$20,000 of PY25 funds as well \$5,000 in activity delivery costs from HUD YEAR 2025 program funds, \$30,000 of anticipated RLF/PI will also be available for this project.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 businesses/commercial or non-profit owned buildings open to the public will be directly assisted with these funds, making them accessible for the estimated 7,033 disabled members of the community.
	Location Description	Activity will occur city-wide
	Planned Activities	CDBG Funds will be used to remove architectural barriers to accessibility.
6	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Technical Assistance Grants

	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$148,657.54
	Description	CDBG funds in the amount of \$148,657.54 will be expended to provide grants to small businesses for technical assistance. This includes \$50,000 in HUD PY25 funds, \$50,000 in prior year funds and \$48,657.44 in PY25 activity delivery costs
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	7 micro-enterprises and/or small businesses will be assisted and 7 jobs for low/moderate income persons will be created/retained with these funds
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to provide technical assistance for microenterprises and small businesses
	7 Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CDBG ED Loan Program
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000.00
	Description	\$150,000 in CDBG funds are available for this activity. \$135,000 of existing revolving loan funds will be available for small business loans as well as \$15,000 in PY25 funds for Activity Delivery Costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	At least 1 businesses will be assisted with these funds, resulting the creation of 2 jobs for low-mod income residents of Pittsfield.
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be used to provide small business loans to grow their business and create jobs for low-mod income residents.

8	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PERC
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program Economic Development - Accessibility Loan Program
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$12,000.00
	Description	\$12,000 in PY25 CDBG funds will be used to support direct costs and project delivery costs for the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation who performs the underwriting services for the CDBG economic development programs including applications for Technical Assistance grants and CDBG Economic Development Loans.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	9 businesses will benefit from PERC underwriting as part of their small business/microenterprise TA grants or loans.
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be used to support project delivery costs for the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation who perform the underwriting services for the CDBG economic development programs.
9	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: E for All PY25
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - Microenterprise
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$35,000.00
	Description	\$35,000 in CDBG PY25 funds will be used as matching funds for the E for All program to be benefit entrepreneurs in Pittsfield. The program focuses on microenterprises. The goal is to bolster the city's economic vitality and in particular strengthen economic opportunity for residents, especially in lower-income, under-represented, and immigrant communities. The program meets the national object for low mod limited clientele in that all program participants supported with CDBG funds will be income qualified microenterprises.

	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	35 microenterprises will be assisted with these funds.
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be used to assist microenterprises, primarily operated by low-income and under-represented community members
10	Project Name	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Housing Rehab Program
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Needs Addressed	Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation Maintain Existing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$720,430.64
	Description	\$720,430.64 in CDBG funds will be used to fund the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program for owner occupied or rental housing. This figure includes \$120,430.64 in PY5 funds for Activity Delivery costs, \$70,000 in PY25 funds for Hardship and Lead Paint grants, \$50,000 in prior year funds for Hardship and Lead Paint grants, \$5,000 in PY25 funds for miscellaneous rehab program costs, \$400,000 of existing RLF funds and \$75,000 in anticipated Revolving Loan Funds/Program Income are also available for grants and loans for this activity.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 income eligible families will benefit from this activity; an estimated 5 rental households will benefit from this program and an estimated 15 owner occupied households will benefit.
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used to rehabilitate 1-4 unit ("Single Family" as defined by HUD) residential properties for eligible renters and homeowners.
11	Project Name	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Residential Accessible Ramp Program
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Residential Accessible Ramp Program

	Needs Addressed	Residential (1-4 Family) Housing Rehabilitation Maintain Existing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,000.00
	Description	\$70,000 will be made available for this project. CDBG PY25 funds of \$25,000 along with an additional \$25,000 of RLF/PI will be available for residential ramp construction to assist disabled homeowners and tenants with accessibility improvements. \$20,000 in PY25 funds will be available for Activity Delivery Costs.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3 households will benefit from this activity; an estimated 1 rental housing unit and 2 owner occupied housing units will benefit from this program.
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide.
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used to construct accessible entranceways and ramps for wheelchair using and other mobility impaired residents.
	12	
	Project Name	AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Residential Rehab multifamily
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing - Preservation & Production
	Needs Addressed	Creation of Affordable Housing Maintain Existing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000.00
	Description	\$100,000 will be made available to assist with the rehabilitation of an existing structure for the preservation and creation of 12 affordable housing units. \$75,000 of PY25 funds will be made available for this activity, with an additional \$25,000 of PY25 funds directed towards Activity Delivery Costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 12 income eligible households will benefit from this activity through the production or rehabilitation of affordable housing.
	Location Description	This activity will occur city-wide.

	Planned Activities	This activity will result in the rehabilitation, preservation, or assist with the production of affordable housing units.
13	Project Name	CLEARANCE: Demolition of Vacant Buildings
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings
	Needs Addressed	Demolition of Vacant Buildings
	Funding	CDBG: \$245,147.19
	Description	\$245,147.19 in PY25 CDBG funds has been allocated for demolition of vacant buildings, this figure includes \$200,000 in CDBG PY25 funds, and an additional \$45,147.19 for activity delivery costs associated with this activity.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3 vacant and condemned structures will be removed.
	Location Description	Activity will occur city-wide
	Planned Activities	Activity will include demolition and removal of vacant structures reducing slum and blight
14	Project Name	PROGRAM ADMIN AND PLANNING
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Program Administration and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$176,749.00
	Description	\$176,749 in CDBG PY24 funds will be used for project administration costs and planning activities.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	
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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

On a year to year basis, most of the City's CDBG funds are allocated on a project-specific basis, but a majority of CDBG funding is spent within CDBG income eligible areas of the City. Additionally, some individuals qualify for CDBG funded programs and assistance based on their income. Programs such as the City's Home Improvement Program require that the household receiving assistance be income eligible no matter what area of the City the housing unit is located.

The Westside and Morningside neighborhoods are both areas of low-income concentration and areas of minority concentration. The Westside neighborhood can be geographically described as Census Tract 9006: Block Groups 1, 2, and 3 and Census Tract 9001: Block Group 2, and part of 3. The Morningside neighborhood can be geographically described as Census Tract 9001: Block Groups 1, and part of 3, and Census Tract 9002: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Historically, the greatest numbers of beneficiaries of the Department of Community Development's housing rehabilitation program are located in the Westside and Morningside areas. These are areas of the City that reflect the greatest need, given the age of the housing stock and relative incomes of the residents. Two organizations that are based in these neighborhoods, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity and Westside Legends, focus on housing rehabilitation; home ownership opportunities; code issues; infrastructure improvements; clearance of vacant, dilapidated structures; and disposition of vacant lots.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Morningside Initiative	
Westside Initiative	
Both Westside & Morningside Areas	50

Table 57 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Pittsfield utilizes HUD's Low/Moderate Income Summary Data (LMISD) to help decide where to invest funds during any given program year. HUD published its updated LMISD in 2024 which enabled the City of Pittsfield to update its CDBG income eligible areas and produce a new map showing the areas of the City in which a majority of the residents have incomes below 80% of Pittsfield's area median income. Included in the attachments to this Consolidated Plan, labeled "Grantee Unique Appendices", is a copy of a map that defines the boundaries of the CDBG eligible areas within the City of Pittsfield. A CDBG eligible area is a specific block group within a census tract in which at least 51% of its population has median family incomes at or below 80% of the median family income for Pittsfield. This map is utilized in assisting the City of Pittsfield staff in making official determinations of activity compliance with the low-moderate income area (LMA) benefit national objective which is used to help locate

activities like sidewalk reconstruction, park improvements, and demolitions.

CDBG eligible areas (census tracts and block groups) within the City of Pittsfield as of PY 2024 are as follows:

Census Tract 9001 Block Groups: 1, 2, and 3
Census Tract 9002 Block Groups: 1, 3, and 6
Census Tract 9003 Block Group: 1
Census Tract 9004 Block Groups: 1 and 2
Census Tract 9005 No block groups are eligible
Census Tract 9006 Block Groups: 2, 3, and 4
Census Tract 9007 Block Group: No block groups are eligible
Census Tract 9008 No block groups are eligible
Census Tract 9009 Block Groups: 2 and 3
Census Tract 9011 Block Group: 3
Census Tract 9352 Block Group: 3

Discussion

The following is a listing of the PY 25 funded activities followed by an explanation as to where the assistance is to be directed or targeted:

Sidewalks and Curb Cuts: 100% will be expended in HUD – CDBG eligible areas.

Westside and Morningside Neighborhood Clean-ups: 100% of funding will be expended in the HUD – CDBG income eligible Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.

Removal of Architectural Barriers: 100% will be expended city-wide to assist non-profit and for-profit businesses in making handicap accessible improvements.

Public (Human) Services Grants: 100% will be expended to assist HUD – CDBG income eligible persons city-wide.

Housing Rehabilitation: 100% will be expended to assist HUD – CDBG income eligible homeowners and tenants city-wide. Approximately 50% of the funds will assist income eligible homeowners and tenants located in the City's two HUD – CDBG income eligible Neighborhood Initiative areas.

Residential Handicap Accessible Ramps: 100% will be expended to assist HUD – CDBG income eligible households city-wide. Approximately 50% of the funds will assist households in HUD – CDBG income eligible Neighborhood Initiative areas.

Economic Development Loans and Technical Assistance Grants: 100% to be expended to assist eligible businesses city-wide who agree to create jobs for low-income persons.

Clearance: 100% will be expended City-wide for clearance activities with approximately 75% of that expended in HUD – CDBG income eligible Neighborhood Initiative areas.

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Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

in PY25 it is estimated that a total of 89 renter and owner households will be provided with affordable housing assistance that meets the HUD Section 215 definition of affordable housing. The following is the HUD Section 215 affordable housing criteria for rental housing and homeownership that are used for determining if a household assisted with housing meets the HUD Section 215 affordable housing definition:

Rental Housing: A rental housing unit is considered to be an affordable housing unit if it is occupied by an extremely low-income, low-income, or moderate-income family or individual and bears a rent that is the lesser of (1) the Existing Section 8 Fair Market Rent for comparable units in the area or, (2) 30% of the adjusted income of a family whose income equals 65 percent of the median income for the area.

Homeownership:

(a) Housing that is for purchase (with or without rehabilitation) qualifies as affordable housing if it (1) is purchased by an extremely low-income, low-income, or moderate-income first-time homebuyer who will make the housing his or her principal residence; and (2) has a sale price that does not exceed the mortgage limit for the type of single family housing for the area under HUD's single family insuring authority under the National Housing Act.

(b) Housing that is to be rehabilitated, but is already owned by a family when assistance is provided, qualifies as affordable housing if the housing (1) is occupied by an extremely low-income, low-income, or moderate-income family which used the house as its principal residence, and (2) has a value, after rehabilitation, that does not exceed the mortgage limit for the type of single family housing for the area, as described in (a) above.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	89
Special-Needs	0
Total	89

Table 58 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	50
The Production of New Units	2
Rehab of Existing Units	37
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	89

Table 59 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

A description of the number and types of households projected to be assisted is as follows:

Rental Assistance:

50 renter households (0-30% of MFI) will be provided with Section 8 Vouchers

Rehabilitation of Existing Units (Residential Rehab Program, 1-4 Units):

- 20 households will receive rehabilitation assistance as follows: 6 owner households (0-30% MFI); 4 owner households (31-50% MFI); 5 owner households (51-80% MFI); 2 renter households (0-30% MFI); 2 renter households (31-50% MFI); and 1 renter household (51-80% MFI).
- 2 special needs households will be provided with accessible ramps: 1 renter households (0-30% MFI); and 1 owner households (31-50% MFI)

Affordable Housing Rehabilitation (Multi-family Rehab): Hearthway will rehabilitate an existing structure containing 15 residential units

Production of New Units:

- 2 owner households (31-50% MFI) will purchase new homes through Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity.

DRAFT

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Mission: The Pittsfield Housing Authority is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for families and individuals in our community by providing safe, decent and affordable housing opportunities. We are committed to fostering vibrant and sustainable communities through compassionate service, effective management and collaborative partnerships.

Vision: Our vision is a community where everyone has access to safe, affordable housing and the opportunity to thrive in a supportive and inclusive community. We aspire to be a leader in affordable housing solutions and a champion for assisting the unhoused in our area.

Pittsfield Housing Authority owns and operates public housing serving over 600 families in the city of Pittsfield. The current needs analysis by the PHA shows that cost burden remains an issue for elderly, individuals with disabilities and families. In Program Year 2025 the PHA will continue to seek innovative ways to assist their clients in being self-sufficient and will continue to collaborate with many other agencies which provide supportive services that contribute to the success of the elderly, disabled, and families who participate in the PHA's programs

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

Pittsfield Housing Authority administers the following housing programs:

Federal Public Housing: 163 units (3 Properties)
Housing Choice Voucher Program: 585 Vouchers
State Public Housing: 535 units (14 properties)

The current needs analysis by the PHA shows that cost burden remains an issue for elderly, individuals with disabilities and families. In fiscal year 2026, HUD Year 2025, the PHA will continue to seek innovative ways to assist their clients in being self-sufficient and will continue to collaborate with many other agencies which provide supportive services that contribute to the success of the elderly, disabled, and families who participate in the PHA's programs.

Actions planned during FY 2026 to address the needs of public housing include: The roof replacement for Essex St, Jubilee Terrace and the Elizabeth Freeman Center. The fire doors at Providence Court and Columbia Arms will be repaired or replaced. Wilson park will have the outdoor stairs repaired or replaced.

The PHA's has several key strategies for addressing priority housing needs and to get residents involved in management and homeownership as described in the PHA Five Year Plan FY20. The PHA has identified objectives and goals in HUD Year 2025 to involve residents in management and homeownership.

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

The PHA plans to continue to undertake actions to encourage public housing residents to become involved in management. Each fiscal year, the PHA solicits the opinions and input of residents of their public housing developments and voucher holders. A flyer is mailed annually to request participation on the Resident Advisory Boards (RAB). The PHA tries to have at least two people from each housing development on the Resident Advisory Boards as well as three people from the Section 8 rental voucher program. The PHA also utilizes the Resident Advisory Boards in order to solicit input from the residents regarding the issues and procedures they feel should be included in the PHA's Annual and 5-year HUD plans. Currently, there are two separate Resident Advisory Boards, one for public housing development residents and one for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher recipients. These two Resident Advisory Boards are brought together yearly when the PHA solicits input for the HUD Annual and the 5-year plans. Also if there are issues within a specific development then the development specific board can be convened to address those issues. If there are program wide issues that affect all of the PHA developments and voucher recipients, then the Resident Advisory Boards may be convened more than once a year. The PHA has strengthened their enforcement efforts to have residents file an "anonymous" complaint against a neighbor for noise issues or other tenancy violations. They will continue to pursue this strategy during next fiscal year

The PHA will continue to seek innovative ways to assist their clients in being as self-sufficient as possible. Their objective is to increase the number of percentage of employed persons in assisted families, and provide or attract supportive services to improve assistance recipients' employability. For that purpose, the PHA has implemented a program incentive to increase the number of working households in PHA programs. Any resident that does not have young children that they are caring for and is not elderly or disabled and unable to work is now being encouraged to work. Residents with school age children must work 20 hours of community service per year. Due to the limited time these residents have available and the lack of transportation, the PHA allows them to provide the community service hours at their development, doing maintenance at the developments such as raking or cleaning up common areas. PHA tries to connect their residents with a variety of community resources to help meet their needs. PHA also offers Supportive Housing Services in the PHA's elderly apartment complexes and in the improved living environment, they will continue to pursue through modernization of state aided units.

Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) continued to provide "mobility counseling" to their mobile Section 8 rental program voucher recipients. PHA encourages voucher holders to exercising housing choice, and to seek housing in areas of the City of where there is a smaller concentration of low-income households. All voucher holders seeking housing are provided with rental listings in higher income areas of the City. PHA provides a packet with a map and landlords name and addresses of properties outside of areas of low income concentration. PHA does not currently offer programs to facilitate homeownership but residents who qualify can utilize first time homebuyer programs available through Berkshire Housing and local lenders that provide homebuyer classes and access to additional resources for closing cost or payment assistance.

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

provided or other assistance

The PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) continued to provide “mobility counseling” to their mobile Section 8 rental program voucher recipients. PHA encourages voucher holders to exercising housing choice, and to seek housing in areas of the City of where there is a smaller concentration of low-income households. All voucher holders seeking housing are provided with rental listings in higher income areas of the City. PHA provides a packet with a map and landlords name and addresses of properties outside of areas of low income concentration.

PHA paid landlords participating in the Section 8 rental voucher program anywhere from 100% to 110% of the HUD fair market rent for Pittsfield. Utilizing this standard and continuing to pay a higher rental amount on the Section 8 rental vouchers enables tenants to have a wider choice of apartment rentals and also encourages renter households to search for apartments outside of low-income and minority areas. The fair market rents enabled the Section 8 rental voucher program to be more appealing to property owners and encourage voucher holders to exercise housing choice. As in prior years, the Pittsfield Housing Authority continued to utilize local residential preferences in their tenant selection for Section 8 and public housing waiting list criteria, the local preference includes not only Pittsfield residents but residents of Berkshire County as well.

Any person that meets the State and Federal income eligibility guidelines may apply to live in and rent public housing. Flat rent changes yearly, therefore public housing development residents are responsible of completing an annual recertification.

Waitlists:

The waitlist for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) is currently closed. We are currently issuing vouchers to applicants from January 2022. Federal family and elderly applicants are currently being selected from January 2023 and October 2023, respectively.

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

Introduction

The Three County Continuum of Care (CoC) is the regional planning and implementation body serving all of Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire counties in Massachusetts. Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) is the Collaborative Applicant for the HUD CoC Program Competition NOFO. CAPV also acts as the CoC Lead for both HMIS and Coordinated Entry. In these roles, CAPV is responsible for managing data systems, collection and reporting as well as overseeing the assessment, referral and service access protocols for people experiencing homelessness in the region.

As the Collaborative (or Lead) Applicant, CAPV is responsible for preparing and submitting the consolidated application to HUD on behalf of the CoC. The application includes an evaluation of project and system-wide performance, as well as detailed proposals for any new projects or funding. Other responsibilities of the Collaborative Applicant include providing projects and partners with technical assistance, monitoring the ongoing performance and compliance of all projects, and engaging the community in collaborative efforts to reduce and end homelessness in the region.

In addition to the program staff team, the Three County CoC is comprised of a Board of Directors, several committees, subcommittees and working groups as well as CoC members. Membership may include representatives from CoC funded programs, Coordinated Entry Partners and any other community member or organization. The Board of Directors maintains the CoC's Governance Charter and facilitates six committees and their respective workgroups who meet regularly to discuss and plan CoC initiatives and community projects. The role of the Three County CoC in our region is to promote the goal of Ending Homelessness by supporting and coordinating aligned activities, evaluating practices and encouraging collaboration. The City of Pittsfield has a staff person on the Three County CoC Board and is also represented in the Ranking and Evaluation Committee.

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

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

The City of Pittsfield, along with the rest of Berkshire County, is part of the region of Western Massachusetts served by the Three County CoC. The CoC facilitates regular meetings with service providers to discuss strategies to engage individuals experiencing homelessness, with particular focus on those who meet HUD's guidelines for Chronic Homelessness and those who are unsheltered. In collaboration with the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, sub-group meetings are also conducted regularly to discuss the individual needs of specific populations such as youth, veterans, families and others as appropriate.

The CoC has developed three workgroups to strategize new ways to engage unhoused and unsheltered

persons within the region. Two of the workgroups are a part of the CoC's Community Success Committee and are geared towards improving representation, feedback opportunities, and cultural partnerships.

The EMERG Coalition focuses on identifying specific challenges and resources for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, particularly those in encampments. The second is the Persons with Lived Experience (PLE) Action Board. The PLE Action Board encourages individuals who have experienced homelessness, many of whom have attended CoC funded programs, to engage in various parts of the CoC planning, evaluation and community engagement processes. PLE members are encouraged to sit on committees, engage in program or CoC activities, and are an essential part of our ongoing goals to reach those experiencing homelessness on a personal and supportive level. PLE members are paid a stipend to participate and offer their expertise to the CoC.

Our third, and newest workgroup, is the Re-Imagining Interim Housing workgroup. The objective of this group is to create tools that can help communities envision and pursue transformation of their approaches to sheltering people within their efforts to end homelessness. The workgroup includes people with lived experience of homelessness and is supported by several national partners including the Center for Budget and Policies Priorities, the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Pittsfield and the municipalities in the 3 County region have experienced major challenges providing for the unsheltered population who seek encampments close to town and resources. This has provided additional opportunities for community efforts to meet the needs of this underserved group but also identifies gaps in available services and housing options. There are limited available units in these rural communities, making available units in the realm of fair market rents scarce. In addition, Pittsfield has seen a sharp escalation in rents over the past years, putting housing out of reach for many residents. cost of housing.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grante Unique Appendices.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Pittsfield and the Three County CoC have established Diversion and Prevention as preferred housing supports with shelters being used only for short-term placements. Despite this intention, Pittsfield, as well as the rest of Berkshire County, have limited opportunities for permanent housing beyond the CoC funded units, resulting in extended shelter and transitional housing stays.

Housing, including additional shelter beds and permanent supportive housing units, are a priority for the City of Pittsfield. In PY 2024, the City lead a strategic planning group to understand the needs of housing insecurity in Pittsfield. As a result, gaps in services emerged and needs were identified. \$7 million in local American Rescue Plans were allocated towards 4 projects that directly address housing instability. These projects include a new individual shelter, two new permanent supportive housing projects and a housing resource center.

In PY 2023, ServiceNet opened a new emergency and transitional shelter for individuals, the Pearl. The newly refurbished shelter is located in downtown at the First United Methodist Church. The space will provide 40 year-round beds for homeless individuals and replaces the temporary shelter opened under COVID. The project was funded with local ARPA funds and City CDBG funds. EOHLC awarded contracts under the state procurement method for single adult shelters, ServiceNet is under contract for individual shelter services in PY25. Funding for shelters that historically received 65% of their cost from the state has increased to fully fund all shelter services including increased case management. ServiceNet increased shelter capacity in January of 2025 by operating a warming shelter through the end of April. Efforts are underway for overflow winter shelter for PY25 as the City has seen a strong need for additional shelter capacity in the coldest months of the year. Each year, the City works with ServiceNet to find available space that can accommodate additional space. MA Building Code allows for some temporary uses for buildings in the form of a warming shelter for limited times of the year, these requirements do not extend to the use of cots.

ServiceNet is the provider of family shelter in Pittsfield, services include enhanced housing search, stabilization and longer term outreach services. In PY 2025, ServiceNet will provide 16 beds at the Our Friends House Family Shelter, 42 beds at their Our Friends House scattered sites program and 44 beds for families at their Onota Family Shelter. The Onota Family Shelter was opened in PY2024 to respond to the escalating numbers of families in need of shelter.

The construction of 28 units of permanent supportive housing that will redevelop a parcel of vacant land adjacent to the downtown on West Housatonic Street, begun in PY2024, will be completed in PY25. The project will include on site supportive services. Permanent supportive housing with on-site supportive services has been proven to make a significant positive impact on the ability of those experiencing homelessness or those who are at risk of being homeless to have their emergent and longer-term needs met. The apartments will be approximately 350 square feet and are single occupancy. Space will also be provided for community space and office and consultation space. Hearthway is the local nonprofit housing developer undertaking the development. City ARPA funds are included in the funding for this project. The Pittsfield Housing Authority will be project basing 28 federal Section 8 housing vouchers for this project.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

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 CoC utilizes strategies that prioritize housing-based solutions and Rapid-Rehousing opportunities to reduce the length of stay in shelters and to target the right resources to individuals at the right time.

Western MA service providers use the CoC's Coordinated Assessment tool to determine level of need, vulnerability and eligibility for services. By utilizing a third-party technical assistance provider as well as collaborating with partners, the CoC has made improvements to our Coordinated Entry process including expanding access for those experiencing homelessness who are also experiencing Domestic Violence and offering Coordinated Entry case conferencing to Victim Services Providers. While county-specific Case Conferencing occurs weekly, specific Conferences are held to review Veterans, Youth, and Domestic Violence survivors. By maintaining the universal use of Coordinated Entry while also assessing each specific population when reviewing potential placements, the goal is to decrease waiting periods for those on the By Names list and make more expedient and thoughtful transitions into appropriate programs.

ServiceNet is the operator of the individual and the family shelter in Pittsfield and participates in the Coordinated Entry system via the 3 County CoC by entering their clients into the by names list and case conferencing. In PY 2025, ServiceNet will continue to work with both subsidized housing providers, Pittsfield Housing Authority and Hearthway, to facilitate the transition from homelessness to subsidized housing, which increases opportunity for a successful transition into permanent and stable housing. Unfortunately the rapid escalation in rents has resulted in less vouchers being available.

The City is providing \$5,750,000 in local ARPA funds to support the development of a Housing Resource Center at 74 First Street to support the complex needs of residents experiencing homelessness. With financial support from the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA), an independent assessment of available local and regional resources serving people experiencing homelessness, completed in 2022, confirmed the need for a space that could provide a welcoming, non-judgmental environment for those experiencing housing insecurities. The HRC will provide comprehensive resources out of the elements to navigate housing, employment, and legal needs, and be connected with vital services as well as address day-to-day needs such as phone charging, laundry, cleanliness, and nourishment. The project was under construction in PY24 and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2026.

The following programs will be available at Hearthway, Inc. in PY'25.

- RAFT funds: This program is for renters and homeowners experiencing a housing crisis or homeless individuals and families. Household income must fall under 50% of AMI (60% of AMI for those experiencing a housing crisis related to fleeing domestic violence). Historically this program renews at the start of each fiscal year. These funds serve renters with arrears, moving and move-in costs and utilities (sometimes furniture and transportation costs depending on the circumstances). The benefit max is \$7,000 within a 12-month period. Homeowners are also served with RAFT funds to pay back mortgage payments. UpSide413 provides foreclosure counseling concurrently with the RAFT application process.
- Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has continued to provide private funds for Neighbor to Neighbor, a grant under \$500 for emergency rental assistance. These funds can be used to preserve housing if the issue can be cured with a smaller grant of this kind. There is flexibility in how the funds are

used and this is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

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

In Western Massachusetts, particularly across Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire counties, the Three County CoC, plays a key role in preventing homelessness and supporting extremely low-income individuals and families by making advocates and frontline staff aware of available resources in the community such as RAFT, and Homebase. This includes a targeted focus on those existing publicly funded institutions and systems of care such as skilled nursing facilities, mental health or substance misuse rehabs, or hospital settings, correctional programs, foster care, and other youth facilities.

Through a coordinated network of partners and service providers, the CoC ensures that individuals at risk of homelessness are identified and connected to resources early—often before discharge from these institutions—using tools like the Coordinated Entry Assessment and then presented in Case Conferencing. These efforts are aligned with HUD’s goals of reducing the risk of homelessness among vulnerable populations by prioritizing timely housing placements and access to supportive services.

Community Action Pioneer Valley and its family and youth specific programming offer wraparound services including housing search and stabilization, employment support, mental health and substance use treatment referrals, youth services, and connections to education and benefits programs. The organization also manages homelessness prevention programs that provide flexible financial assistance and case management to help stabilize housing situations before they escalate into crises.

This regional approach ensures that at-risk individuals and families—especially those receiving assistance from public or private agencies—are not only supported in securing housing but also in sustaining it, promoting long-term stability and self-sufficiency

The HUB is a multidisciplinary team consisting of social service agencies and public safety providers that meet weekly to discuss families and vulnerable individuals that are at risk of harm, whether this is due to mental health issues, substance abuse, housing instability or other issues. The team works together to provide a compassionate and collaborative solution to help people access resources and avert a crisis. Members include 18 Degrees, the Brien Center, the Juvenile Resource Center, ServiceNet, County Ambulance, as well as medical and law enforcement entities like Berkshire Health Systems and the District Attorney’s Office. In PY25, the HUB will meet monthly at the public library to make sure adequate services are being provided.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

Discussion

Upside413 (formerly BCRHA) is a HUD approved “Housing Counseling Agency”, and Berkshire County’s primary provider of housing stability and homelessness prevention services. Upside413 is also a court certified mediation program. Upside413’s staff includes four housing counselors that are HUD Certified counselors, having passed HUD’s national housing counseling certification exam. As previously noted, Upside413/Hearthway administer the Housing and Consumer Education Center.

Assessment/Screening Services are available for at-risk and homeless households, providing comprehensive assessment with specific inter and intra-agency service and resource referral recommendations, which may include linkage to financial resources.

Legal and Housing Counseling Services are provided on housing and consumer related issues. Counseling also includes a comprehensive review of the federal and state fair housing requirements. These services are provided to rental property owners, tenants, homeowners, and homebuyers. Court Dispute Resolution (Mediation and Conciliation) Services offered through the HCEC Dispute Resolution Center are provided to resolve housing, neighbor, landlord/tenant, real estate, foreclosure, consumer/creditor, small claims matters, other civil disputes and criminal show cause cases.

Community Dispute Resolution (Mediation, Negotiation, and Facilitation) Services offered through the HCEC Dispute Resolution Center are provided to resolve housing, neighbor, utility, consumer/creditor, real estate, foreclosure disputes, and school based disputes.

Loss Mitigation/Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Services are provided to develop and implement forbearance agreements, loan modifications, reinstatement and payment plans.

Homeless and At-Risk Unaffiliated Youth Program is available to at risk and homeless individuals are the age of 25, providing intensive case management, advocacy, mediation, housing search, and linkage to mainstream resources.

Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) is available to at-risk Berkshire County households that are experiencing housing instability due to mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and/or substance abuse. The TPP project offers intensive case management to client households. The Specialized Case Management, which includes a client assessment and the development of a related service plan for each client. Services often include the development of a reasonable accommodation plan.

Housing Search Resources/Homelessness Diversion Services available to assist homeless and at-risk households in accessing safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. This program provides training and support to case managers working with veterans in four states under the SSVF program operated by Soldier On as well as to all Berkshire County households. All housing search case management, counseling, and self-help materials include information on the fair housing requirements.

Consumer Protection Counseling and Mediation Program provides free voluntary phone based mediation and counseling services to consumers who have submitted complaints concerning problems they may have encountered with businesses.

Financial Resources may be available for at-risk and homeless households. Under certain financial assistance programs (e.g., Home Base), Stabilization services are provided to eligible households for a minimum of twelve months to lessen the chance of future housing problems and homelessness.

Educational Workshops are provided to rental property owners, tenants, homeowners, and human service providers in the following substantive areas: housing, consumer, and dispute resolution issues.

DRAFT

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

Introduction:

Federal and State Fair Housing Laws prohibit discrimination in housing for protected class members. Protected class members include individuals based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or the presence of children in the household. In Pittsfield, fair housing services for fiscal year 2024 will be provided by two main entities, the City's Department of Community Development and Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority. In addition, Mass Fair Housing Center will also provide fair housing services on an as needed basis. There are also many local organizations that will be offering public programs and services on related fair housing topics, such as first-time homebuyer workshops or financial literacy classes, all of which contribute to the City reaching its goal of affirmatively further fair housing and creating equal opportunities in housing.

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority will continue to offer educational workshops and seminars for various organizations, landlords and tenants. Seminar topics include discussions regarding lead paint, housing law and related topics. Additionally, BCRHA is offering a variety of mediation training opportunities, including an annual Basic Mediation Training. In FY24, BCRHA will partner with Pittsfield Housing Authority to offer free mediation services to PHA tenants who have issues like non-payment, behavior, noise, parking, property conditions, communication; and neighbor disputes.

In PY24, the City completed an Assessment of Fair Housing/ Equity Plan in Pittsfield. The City engaged Berkshire Regional Planning under their local technical assessment program. The plan incorporates community outreach and participation into the planning process and assesses the current state of fair housing issues within the City.

The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development, through their Fair Housing Officer will assist in the processing of housing discrimination complaints and follow up with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination; distribute a fair housing guide for tenants and landlords; continue to provide a telephone "hotline" service for landlords and tenants to answer questions about housing laws and issues; and refer the public to the appropriate agencies.

Even though prevalence of information is available on the internet, this last year has a slight increase in the number of calls to the City's telephone hotline service compared to last year. Therefore, in program year 2025 it is expected that approximately 150 landlords, tenants and community advocates workers will be assisted through the telephone hotline service. The revised landlord/tenant handbook is distributed to the public free. In program year 2025, it is estimated that approximately 50 fair housing guidebooks will be distributed. More guidebooks are distributed via email and as a free download on the City's website. Funding for these fair housing responsibilities will be provided from the Department of Community Development's annual CDBG administrative budget.

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

The City continues to evaluate land use regulatory policies that are inclusionary in nature and remove barriers to development. In FY21, the City passed an amendment to its zoning code that simplifies and streamlines development in the downtown area. The Downtown Creative District, a hybrid form-based code, expands projects considered by-right that do not require zoning permitting, simplifies the process for parking management, enhances affordable housing requirements for providing units in relation to overall housing projects, and overall provides a framework that illustrates development the City wishes to encourage. This zoning requires 20% of new residential units be affordable, or that a developer make a contribution to the City for the development of future affordable housing. In FY2024, the City will extend this form based code into the Westside neighborhood. Funded with a grant from the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, this process will result in zoning that is focused on flexibility, predictable permitting, expanded by-right uses, and inclusionary practices. This effort will also include Inclusionary zoning text that will apply to residential development throughout the City. Pittsfield was awarded assistance under MassHousings Neighborhood HUB program. The program provides Gateway Cities two years of technical assistance up to \$200,000 to assist with planning initiatives. Specifically, the Neighborhood Hub program will provide technical assistance grants for the identification and implementation of strategies to address the challenges presented by abandoned and deteriorated properties.

In FY2023, the City established an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which could receive contributions from developers, as well as receive funding directly from the City's Community Preservation Act fund. The Trust received an infusion of ARPA funding in the amount of \$500,000, which it will begin administering in FY24. Since 2018, the City's Community Preservation Act fund has been utilized to fund the creation of eleven new housing units. In FY2025, the CPA will fund three affordable housing projects, these include 6 units of affordable rental housing in a mixed use development, additional funds to support the Affordable Housing Trust and a first time homebuyer project on the Westside. The City will have CPA funds solely dedicated to affordable housing development and will solicit proposal in FY2025.

The Pittsfield Department of Community Development organizes monthly meetings of the City code enforcement employees in an effort to stay on top of vacant building problems. These monthly meetings help to address code enforcement issues that arise and also help to prioritize the worst properties, and determine future steps that may include demolition. Also discussed at these meeting is possible candidates for receivership. City staff, especially the Health Department code inspectors, have been working closely with the Assistant Attorney General from the Springfield, MA office in bringing owners and lenders to court to clean up their vacant properties. If the properties are good candidates for the receivership program, the Assistant Attorney General works to obtain a receivership appointed by the Housing Court to rehabilitate the property and resolve the code violations. The property is then returned to productive use. The City has \$200,000 available to loan to receivers appointed through this program. The funds are part of a revolving loan fund from a 2014 Grant received from the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General provides offered a grant.

Discussion:

Berkshire Fund, Inc. Berkshire Fund, Inc. runs a first-time homebuyer certification program. The cost is \$50 for an 8-hour program, typically split between two consecutive Saturdays or two evening weekdays.

The program brings in professionals associated with the housing market, usually an attorney, a lender, a housing inspector and an insurance professional, each discuss their area of expertise as it relates to homeownership. These workshops are being offered four times a year.

Berkshire Housing's main door will now be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00-3:00 to the public. Prior our doors remained closed or with very limited hours due to the pandemic. Staff are able to assist all via phone, email, fax or text as well. All of the housing applications and financial assistance applications are on the website for all to access easily. These forms are fillable and when completed, applicant just hits the submit button. Applicants have the option to print, fill out and mail, scan or fax these applications/forms as well. The vacancy turnover in our managed property portfolio has remained at a normal percent.

Berkshire Bank plans on hosting and/or participating in 4-6 first time homebuyer seminars (FTHB)/general home buying and financial education programs. Additionally, Berkshire Bank partners with GreenPath Financial Wellness that offers online and over the phone FTHB/financial education counseling. Berkshire Bank also participates in the At Home Pittsfield Program to encourage homeowners to improve their property. Further Berkshire Bank has a financial wellness microsite, which offers education, tools and resources on a variety of topics, including home buying.

In PY25, the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center will provide free legal services and accepts housing discrimination complaints for Berkshire County residents. In 2022, this organization received more than 200 applications from people who have experienced housing discrimination and were seeking legal services. MFHC will continue to protect children by enforcing the Mass Lead Law to create lead-safe housing, and continue advocating for residents experiencing housing instability due to the pandemic, who are threatened with eviction, homelessness, and housing instability. MFHC also preserves homeownership, by advocating for distressed homeowners in mortgage lending cases, and by assisting victims of foreclosure rescue frauds.

In January 2022, MFHC and three other fair housing organizations began a new collaboration to enforce the state's anti-discrimination laws. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded MFHC, Community Legal Aid, SouthCoast Fair Housing, and the Suffolk Housing Discrimination Testing Project funding to enforce the state's anti-discrimination laws. This exciting new project will provide everyone in the Commonwealth with greater access to fair housing services, regardless of their location.

In program year 2025, Greylock Federal Credit Union plans to hold 8 first-time homebuyer workshops in Pittsfield -6 in English and 2 in Spanish. These consist of a 3-hour class, and have an attorney, real estate agent, insurance representative and a home inspector address the class in addition to the mortgage lender. Workshops are planned to happen on a regular basis throughout program year 25.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

As stated previously in section AP-15 of this plan entitled Expected Resources, the Department of Community Development will continue to utilize other state and federal grant funding to meet yearly and long-term needs. As part of its continued effort to assist Pittsfield low-income populations, the City plans to carry out the following types of strategies during the 2025 Program Year as detailed below.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Local non-profit agencies are constantly challenged with the ever-growing demands of a City whose population is 54% low-moderate income according to the most recently released HUD Low Income Summary Data (LIMSD).

In PY 2022 \$6 million of American Rescue Funds was awarded to meet Pittsfield's underserved needs under the criteria of negative economic impact suffered as a result of the COVID pandemic. The City set forward the following guiding principle for the allocation of these funds, that investment in people and places through shared community engagement can transform Pittsfield into a city of social and economic resiliency for everyone, especially for people who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by racial inequity and generational poverty. 37 agencies were awarded funding that will be spent over the next three years. The projects consists of a wide range of social service programs that include funds for weatherization projects, child care and education programs, substance abuse prevention programs, mental health services, food security programs, arts education programs for underserved youth in the City, to name a few. The funds from the American Rescue Plan allowed the City to make strategic investments in a diverse array of meaningful initiatives and projects that align with the Cities guiding principles, serve a wide spectrum of our community and meet many of the needs that were voiced during the community engagement process.

In PY 2025, the City of Pittsfield will continue to budget general funds for human service grants and will once again budget \$51,750 for the 2025 Program Year to combine with the CDBG funding of \$154,500. There are several things that local human service agencies also do to maximize the effectiveness of available funds in order to do more with less. Constant internal evaluations of their programs sometimes result in the reallocation of resources to address current client needs. Most importantly, strong collaboration among human service agencies occurs, promoting better efficiency in the delivery of services to residents of the City. The human service agencies providing services to City residents have a good track record of collaboration and the process utilized by the City when allocating CDBG funds to agencies each year encourages this collaboration process.

Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) will be funded in PY2025, E for All's mission is to accelerate economic and social impact through entrepreneurship in Gateway Cities. The program introduces entrepreneurship into the local culture using pitch contests and other public events, utilizing community members and leaders as experts, judges, mentors, leadership advisory board members and by partnering with other community groups. The program provides a year-long accelerator program that starts with a 12-week intensive session, it provides a mentor team, advice and guidance and a built-in professional network. E for all will then invest in the most promising ventures through monetary

incentives and awards. The program will leverage other sources of funding, include private foundations and state funds. In PY 2025 35 Pittsfield residents will be expected to benefit from this program.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Recognizing the importance of and the shortage of affordable housing in Pittsfield, in PY23, \$ 8 million in ARPA funds were committed to a variety of housing projects, designed to address a range of affordable housing options for Pittsfield residents. These projects consist of moving the temporary emergency and winter shelter facility to a new location, providing additional funding for housing rehabilitation for homeowners, and funding for the City's Affordable Housing Trust. CDBG funds were combined with ARPA funds to redevelop three fire ravaged apartment building in the downtown into 41 units of affordable housing, 16 units of which will be targeted to formerly homeless individuals and Department of Mental Health clients. This project will be leasing in late spring of 2024. ARPA funds will also leverage additional resources for the development of 35 units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

In 2022, the City ordained an Affordable Housing Trust. The seven member Board actively address housing needs that disproportionately impact under-resourced residents, many of whom pay more than 30 percent of their household income toward housing. This trust helps to provide housing assistance, including rental assistance programs, first-time homebuyer and workforce housing programs for residents who may benefit from these resources. The trust also serves as a planning board to understand the cities housing needs and how the community can meet those needs. In PY2024, the Board awarded \$850,000 to three projects. These projects include three vacant city owned lots have been donated to Habitat for Humanity to create five units of affordable housing for first time homebuyers, Hearthway will rehab 4 units of existing affordable housing, including lead abatement work and Westside Legends, a nonprofit developer, will create one unit of affordable housing in the Westside. These projects will be under construction in PY26.

In 2019, the City created the At-Home in Pittsfield program to provided homeowners of 1-2 family homes with crucial funding for exterior home improvements. Eligible improvements include roofing and gutters, window and door replacement, porch and chimney repair and siding installation. The program was designed to assist residents who do not have access to traditional financing, without the burden of an additional monthly payment if the owner resides in the home. In addition, the program sought to improve the quality of life for the residents and neighborhoods as well as building wealth by increasing the homeowner's equity in their home. \$1,000,000 in local funding has been allocated through this program and funds will be available in PY25 for eligible households.

PY25 CDBG funds will be allocated to the Linden Street Apartments, a 45 unit mixed income affordable housing project in downtown Pittsfield. The project includes three new construction passive house buildings and the rehabilitation of an existing, historic building located close to public transportation.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The statistics provided by Massachusetts Department of Public Health 2023 Annual Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Report presents the following information:

- Lead paint is the primary source of childhood lead exposure and Massachusetts has the 4th oldest housing stock in the country, making lead exposure a significant health risk for Massachusetts children. • The lead poisoning prevalence for children 9 months to less than 4 years of age was 416, or 2.5 per 1,000 children, a reduction from 2.8 per 1000 children in 2022 and the lowest prevalence to date. • The impact of lead poisoning is disproportionately seen among high-risk communities, and this disparity continued among 16 high-risk communities identified in 2023 (Pittsfield is one of those high-risk communities) Children living in low-income communities are 3.3 times more likely to have elevated BLLs. To address health inequities in childhood lead exposure, the CLPPP is targeting expanded outreach to high-risk populations and family care practitioners.
- The screening rate increased to 73% in 2023 from 70% in 2022, and above 2019 pre-pandemic level of 72%
- The prevalence of BLLs ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ decreased from 13.4 per 1000 children in 2022 to 12.1 per 1000 children in 2023.

CLPPP has a dedicated hotline, 800-532-9571, for lead-related questions. In 2023, CLPP answered 1844 hotline calls, an increase from the previous year. CLPPP educates the public about lead poisoning prevention, and offers materials in 14 languages, has staff who can communicate in seven languages in addition to English, and provides interpreter services as needed.

CLPPP authorizes owners and agents (who work on behalf of owners) to safely do low- or moderate-risk deleading work. Nearly 19,000 owners and agents have become trained and authorized to fix the lead hazards in their homes. In 2023, CLPPP continued to offer free virtual moderate-risk de-leading classes in English and Spanish to property owners under an order to de-lead their homes. In PY 2022, MassHousing's Get the Lead Out loan program provided \$3,720,205 in loans to qualified property owners to de-lead their homes.

CLPPP publishes the LeadSafeHomes database, which includes inspection and de-leading data for homes built before 1978 from both code enforcement and private inspections. The database was recently upgraded to include downloadable copies of inspection reports and compliance documents. In 2023, the databases had 532,487 hits. The upgraded database allows the public to learn about a home's lead history and enables users to make important decisions about buying, selling, or renting a home, with a goal of increasing preventative deleading and encouraging lead-safe renovations. It is especially helpful for parents of young children, rental assistance programs, realtors, and rental property owners. In 2023 MA Department of Public Health responded to and supported the rising number of migrant families. CLPPP presented possible exposure sources to these immigrants, and assist to draw clinics to test newly arrived children for lead exposure, and distributed tests and educational materials to them. MassHousing "Get the Lead Out" Program is used in conjunction with the City's CDBG funded Home Improvement Program to help reduce the total amount of loan and grant funding into each project and it also resulted in more reasonable financing for homeowners.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to participate in the monthly Community Connector meetings. A multidisciplinary

team meets to discuss the resources available that help the most vulnerable residents manage their needs for healthcare, social, and financial services. Agencies that participate are BCAC, WIC, Berkshire Housing, E for All, Greylock Federal Credit Union, MassHire Career Center, Berkshire Immigrant Center, Child Care of the Berkshires, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, Elizabeth Freeman Center, DTA, Berkshire Health Systems, Pittsfield Adult Learning Center, Berkshire Community College, United Cerebral Palsy, and many others.

The VITA Program began January 29, 2025, and went on to April 4, 2025. Offers free tax preparation through a drop-off service or through Virtual VITA. The program helps people who: Make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities, limited English-speaking taxpayers, and those who are 60 years of age and older.

DTA continues administering DTA Connect to apply for benefits, submit documents, request an EBT card or benefit verification letter, speak with specialized units for help with domestic violence, employment, training, and disability access; or to reach the division of hearings, program integrity, or the recoveries unit. Services can be online, by phone or in person.

Western Mass EOC, helps first-generation, low-income individuals get into college. Helping with FASFA, general financial aid, scholarship, admissions, can do presentations and workshops. Bilingual advisors available.

MassHire Center's website offers virtual and in person events about information sessions and hiring events. Some of the topics include Career Assessments, Resume Writing, Interview Techniques, Networking, Introduction to the Personal Computer, Online Job Search, Using social media, such as LinkedIn and many more.

Some of the programs they offer are: High School Equivalency Programs and GED (AGES 16-24) Assists with tutoring and study skills training, high school credential preparation, HiSET, and GED, or dropout recovery services, leadership development, and peer-focused activities. Young Parent Program (YPP) (AGES 16-24) offers educational, vocational, career readiness, and family support services to young parents and their families to help them achieve their educational, life, and parenting goals.

Pittsfield Community Connection and West Main Connection work with young people in Pittsfield and North Adams to provide support, guidance, and advocacy, so they have access to opportunities to build a life of possibility and hope. Staff provide support and guidance, and advocacy to overcome barriers. Through the Mentoring Program, PCC hopes to foster relationships with young people, their families, and the wider community.

Berkshire County Head Start's REACH Program (Resources to Empower and Advocate for Children & Households) addresses the longstanding economic disparities for families adversely affected by racial inequity & generational poverty by providing access to affordable childcare, dedicated family support, community resources, & health/wellness partners. The REACH program is intended to be a bridge for families who do not have help paying for childcare and need help transitioning onto sustainable childcare funding.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

In 2021, the City was designated a Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) District for North Street/ Downtown Corridor by MassDevelopment. As part of this initiative, MassDevelopment provides Pittsfield with a 3 year planning fellow to provide on-the-ground economic development expertise and collaborative leadership in cities and help TDI partnerships utilize an arrangement of tools to catalyze development, such as technical assistance, grants to support local market development, arts and cultural infrastructure, collaborative workshops, placemaking, and more. TDI convenes a monthly stakeholder meeting, participants include downtown businesses, the local theaters, community development staff, the transit authority and local housing developers. Since 2021, MassDevelopment has invested \$1,157,000 in funding to support local businesses with marketing, technical assistance and space activation in downtown. In addition the TDI fellow has provided technical support in the form of staff capacity and engaging a consultant to support the Mayor's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force.

The task force was convened by the Mayor to address the challenges and gaps in services in Pittsfield regarding substance abuse and mental health. Representatives from the following agencies and community groups are part of the Task force: Berkshire Health Center, Brien Center, Berkshire Harm Reduction, 18 Degrees, ServiceNet, NAMI, Berkshire Regional Planning, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Solider On as well as the Sheriffs Department, Pittsfield Police Department, Health Department and the faith based community. The task force meets monthly and collaborates on solving the issues of safety, substance abuse, mental health and quality of life issues in Pittsfield. Their mission statement is " Our task force is a group of citizens from many walks of life who passionately want to help others living in the community. We have come together for an urgent problem, but we are focused on long term solutions on a community level. By dismantling stigma around mental health, addiction, and poverty, we will create a community where all citizens have the opportunity to thrive and live fulfilling lives. Together, we will build a Pittsfield where compassion and understanding pave the way for healing and growth "

The City continues to partner with the Blackshires Community Empowerment Foundation, a community-focused organization led by people of color, to empower and enrich the Black community in the Berkshires and surrounding areas. One of Blackshires goals is to help build a strong and healthy economic ecosystem while also providing community empowerment opportunities for current and future leaders and organizations. Each year a cohort of participants is selected for their Leadership Accelerator program. The City holds a session with the group to provide access to potential resources to support the cohort. A goal of the program is to identify and eliminate racialized barriers that deter the Berkshire Black community from serving on nonprofit or municipal boards, a goal the City shares. In PY25, the City will continue to work with the following agencies, committees, corporations, and associations to contribute to the development of the institutional structure to deliver needed services and activities:

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

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

The existing coordination between public and non-profit housing providers, private and governmental health, and mental health and social service agencies within Pittsfield is considered strong and there is a high level of inter-agency referrals. Both the local public housing authority and the local non-profit housing providers continue to work closely with the homeless shelters and local public mental health agencies in coordinating housing rental assistance and supportive services to homeless households and persons as well as special needs populations. The City's Homelessness Advisory Committee consist of representatives from the local social services agencies such as Solider On, Elder Services, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Berkshire Health Systems, Shelter providers and public housing providers. City officials and other public partners such as the Sheriff's and Police Department, Housing Authority representatives and the Department of Mental Health also are represented. The HAC provides a public space to discuss issues around housing and homelessness, to increase coordination between community partners and advocate for resources for the community.

The Pittsfield Housing Authority partners with Upside 413 Authority on a residential service coordinator that works with families, elderly, disabled and high risk residents to remain in their apartments and improve their quality of life by connecting them to social service providers and provide support. In PY26, Upside 413 will provide mediation services in housing authority projects to resolve issues between neighbors, rent delinquencies and other issues that have the potential to lead to evictions.

Pittsfield Police Department and the Berkshire County Sheriffs department convene the HUB table, a multidisciplinary team consisting of social service agencies and public safety providers that meets bi-weekly at the public library. Participating agencies include the Sheriffs Dept, Probation, Substance Abuse and Health Care providers, mental health providers, and housing and shelter providers. The group encourages a collaborative approach where providers break into smaller tables if they can offer resources that are relevant to the individual or family at risk. The smaller group works together to design a coordinated response that is reported back to the larger table. The process ensures accountability, coordination of resources and dedicated follow through and will be active in the upcoming Program Year.

In PY25, a Community Health Worker and two Social Workers, one under the Department of Public Health and one under the Police Departments Co-responder program, will provide outreach services in Pittsfield. The aim of these positions are to help the City coordinate a response between vulnerable populations and local service providers. These positions aim to help Pittsfield residents move from case management to self-management by providing them with health, education, empowerment, and appropriate resources to help them improve their quality of life.

Habitat for Humanity partners with the City by providing Community Navigators to help residents access resources, services and information. City staff works with Habitat's Community Navigators to solicit public input, hold community meetings on issues that affect residents, such as the zoning update work being conducted in the Westside, and to spread the word about available resources through local social service programs.

Due to character limit additional text response can be found in Grantee Unique Appendices.

Discussion:

The existing coordination between public and non-profit housing providers, private and governmental health, and mental health and social service agencies within Pittsfield is considered strong and there is a high level of inter-agency referrals. Both the local public housing authority and the local non-profit housing providers continue to work closely with the homeless shelters and local public mental health agencies in coordinating housing rental assistance and supportive services to homeless households and persons as well as special needs populations. The City's Homelessness Advisory Committee consist of representatives from the local social services agencies such as Solider On, Elder Services, Elizabeth Freeman Center, Berkshire Health Systems, Shelter providers. City officials and other public partners such as the Sheriff's and Police Department, Housing Authority representatives and the Department of Mental Health also are represented. The HAC provides a public space to discuss issues around housing and homelessness, to increase coordination between community partners and advocate for resources for the community.

As in prior years, there remains a high level of intergovernmental cooperation within Pittsfield. The City continues to provide staff support and attends meetings for numerous committees and organizations such as the Human Service Advisory Council; Berkshire Bridges/Working Cities; the Commission on Disabilities; the Homelessness Advisory Committee; the 3 County Continuum of Care; monthly Code Enforcement meetings; Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation; Pittsfield Economic Development Authority; Pittsfield Parks Commission; the Green Commission; the Pittsfield Historical Commission; the Agricultural Commission; the Westside Initiative Steering Committee and its sub-committees; and the Morningside Initiative Steering Committee and its sub-committees. These committees and organizations are invaluable to the City of Pittsfield regarding their input and comments especially regarding the budgeting and use of federal funds like CDBG.

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	13,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	13,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
<TYPE=[text] REPORT_GUID=[A698417B4C924AE0218B42865313DACF] DELETE_TABLE_IF_EMPTY=[YES]>	
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.	81.00%

1. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). <TYPE=[text]
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DRAFT

The City of Pittsfield has elected to use a consecutive period of three years (HUD program years 2025, 2026, and 2027) in order to determine the overall benefit to persons of low-to-moderate income. This will help to ensure that a minimum of at least 70% of the amount of CDBG funds are expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period. Program Income in the amount of \$130,000 from ongoing RLF activities is anticipated in the upcoming fiscal year. In addition \$1,250,000 in Hud Year 2025 entitlement funds will be available along with approximately \$535,000 in available RLF funds received prior to PY25.

Attachments

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COMMENTS

- Human Services Advisory Council Public Comment Period: notices & comments
- Community Survey: notices and results
- Community Input meetings: notices and comments
- Draft Plan Comment Period and Public Hearing



THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

CONTACT:

Nate Joyner, Program Manager
Department of Community Development
(413) 499-9358
njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org

For other media inquiries:

Catherine Van Bramer
Director of Administrative Services/Public Information Officer
Office of the Mayor, City of Pittsfield
(413) 499-9322
cvanbramer@cityofpittsfield.org

Public comments sought on human service needs in Pittsfield

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (December 30, 2024) – The City of Pittsfield, through its Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), is asking the public to comment on the human service needs in Pittsfield.

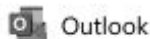
The Human Services Advisory Council is an 11-member advisory committee that provides funding recommendations to the mayor on how the city should allocate its human services funding. One of the considerations that the council uses to make those recommendations is the input of Pittsfield residents and others.

Public comments will be accepted now through 4:00 p.m. on January 31, 2025.

Comments may be submitted several ways: by email to Nate Joyner at njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org; by phone at (413) 499-9358; by fax at (413) 499-9340; or by regular mail to Department of Community Development (attention to Nate Joyner), 70 Allen St., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

For more information, visit the Community Development page on the city's website, www.cityofpittsfield.org.

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Outlook

Input on Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County

From Bob Pious <bob.pious@gmail.com>
Date Wed 2/19/2025 2:19 PM
To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>
Cc Denise Roszkowski <denise@literacyberkshires.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon Nate. I am a new Literacy Volunteer of Berkshire County (LVBC) volunteer and am writing to you with regards to the Public Input Session for the Community Development Block Grant, to be held the evening of Wednesday February 26. I have a prior commitment that evening and would like to provide my input here.

I am impressed with the mission and scope of LVBC and its model of one-on-one tutoring for students who are motivated to learn English and/or improve their already existing English language skills. The organization has a long-standing history of effective work in Berkshire County, touching many lives individually, which also improves our overall community; giving people concrete English language skills. These skills, especially in conversational English, have resulted in many students securing meaningful employment, furthering their education (whether at Berkshire Community College, MCLA, or securing a GED), and improving their ability to converse with professionals, including medical staff, teachers, and first responders).

It is exciting to know that LVBC has grown significantly over the past three years especially, in the number of students reached and the number of volunteers trained and matched.

The LVBC staff works diligently in making all this happen and relies heavily on volunteer staff and tutors to ensure the mission of LVBC is reached in the most cost effective manner. I highly recommend that LVBC be able to continue its good work for the Berkshire County community.

Thank you, Nate, for the opportunity and privilege to provide this input.

Bob Pious
17 Aspen Way
Pittsfield, MA

Public Comments Sought on Human Service Needs in Pittsfield

10:24AM / Thursday, January 02, 2025

PITTSFIELD, Mass. — The City of Pittsfield, through its Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), is asking the public to comment on the human service needs in Pittsfield.


The Human Services Advisory Council is an 11-member advisory committee that provides funding recommendations to the mayor on how the city should allocate its human services funding. One of the considerations that the council uses to make those recommendations is the input of Pittsfield residents and others.

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For more information, visit the Community Development page on the city's website, www.cityofpittsfield.org.

iBerkshires • 102 Main Street
North Adams, MA 01247 • tel: 413.663.3384 • fax: 413.664.4251 • info@iberkshires.com

 Outlook

use of human service funds

From Duchaine, Ctaci <cduchaine@ccberkshire.org>
Date Mon 12/30/2024 12:19 PM
To njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

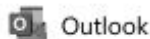
Good Morning,

I would love to see funds used for our early education programs, we do not have the room in our current programs for the amount of kids who need them. I am talking preschool and pre kindergarten, 3 and 4 year old programing, at the public level. Private care is far beyond most families' reach. and research has proven the benefits for children that have access to early education

thank you

--

Ctaci Duchaine
Healthy Families Program
Child Care of the Berkshires
cduchaine@ccberkshire.org
Office 413-445-4324
Cell 413-446-7751



Outlook

Urgent Need for a Women's Residential Program for SUD Recovery

From Leon Gabriela <gleon@BHS1.ORG>

Date Tue 12/31/2024 11:28 AM

To njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council,

I am writing to bring to your attention a critical gap in services for women in our community who are struggling with substance use disorders (SUD). Currently, there are no halfway houses or residential programs available locally for women seeking recovery. As a result, women are forced to leave the area to access treatment, which often means being separated from their families, children, and vital service providers.

This lack of resources not only places an undue burden on these women but also disrupts their ability to maintain essential community connections and achieve lasting recovery. While men in our community have access to a variety of housing and support options, women face significant inequities in this regard.

We urgently need a women's residential program that not only supports recovery but also facilitates reunification with their children. Such a program would provide a safe and supportive environment where women can focus on healing while maintaining and strengthening family bonds, a key factor in successful recovery.

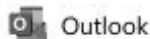
I respectfully urge the council to prioritize the establishment of a women's residential program in Pittsfield. This investment in our community's women and families would represent a meaningful step toward equity and better outcomes for all.

Thank you for considering this urgent need. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further or provide additional information to support this effort.

Sincerely,
Gabriela Leon

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Outlook

Public comments sought on human service needs in Pittsfield

From Rae Langsdale <rlangsdale@berkshirecc.edu>

Date Wed 1/1/2025 1:00 PM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Happy New Year, Nate, and thank you for your work as Pittsfield's Community Development & Housing Program Manager.

I have lived in Berkshire County for the last 48 years (first in Pittsfield, now in Dalton), and I have always worked in Pittsfield.

I love Berkshire County, but I must admit that downtown Pittsfield and the surrounding areas have seen a lot of changes, mostly not for the better, in that time.

Homelessness is rampant, along with **substance abuse**, **mental illness**, poverty and income inequality, and the affordable housing shortage. The first three are the most important in my opinion, so any money we can give to organizations that can help with those issues would be helpful not only to those individuals, but to the city itself.

Pittsfield is never going to be what it was long before I got here, but we cannot ignore people sleeping on the streets, in the parks, and in tents by the side of the road. It will only help us as a community to help these people.

Take care,

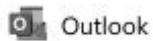
Rae Langsdale (she/they)
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
at Berkshire Community College (BCC)
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-236-2190
rlangsdale@berkshirecc.edu

www.BerkshireOLLI.org

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City suggestion

From Christopher Pimentel <ChristopherRPimentel@outlook.com>

Date Wed 1/1/2025 2:09 AM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

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Expansion of the green way to Lake Onota

Dedicated land for suburb communities

Rank choice voting for elections

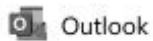
3rd party bus stop location

Provide more support for homeless

Promote cooperative housing projects

Expand marketing for why people should to Pittsfield Across the state

Expand marketing on business opportunities for Pittsfield Across the state




Crane building

From Robert Pierce <skippystem1234@gmail.com>
Date Thu 1/16/2025 3:10 PM
To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

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They are really helpful. Kelly referred to a place called habitat for humanity. I was looking for a job so she sent me there. Aaron gives me rides to NA meetings when I need them. The cup of coffee before the NA meeting is the best. I like our little talks.

 Outlook

Public Comment on Human Service Needs

From Reynolds, Jennifer <jreynolds@cityofpittsfield.org>

Date Tue 1/21/2025 3:18 PM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

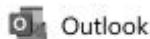
Hi Nate, I am the new Executive Director at the Pittsfield Senior Center and wanted to give feedback on human service needs. I wanted to share my thoughts on needing to be more inclusive for people that are hearing impaired. More and more people are hearing impaired, especially older adults. I have noticed trends with cultural council grants and Massachusetts Council on Aging grants wanting things to be geared towards people that are hearing impaired. If it was a perfect world I would love to get a hearing loop installed at the Senior Center.

Thank you for accepting this input! Have a wonderful day!

Jennifer Reynolds
Director Of Pittsfield Senior Center & COA
330 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413)499-9346

Jennifer Reynolds
Executive Director of Council on Aging

Council on Aging
City of Pittsfield
330 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-499-9346
jreynolds@cityofpittsfield.org
www.cityofpittsfield.org



Outlook

Human Services needs

From Tiffany Corwin <tiffanyjill@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/3/2025 5:13 PM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

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Hi Nate,

My name is Tiffany Corwin and I live on Wilson Street in Pittsfield. I am writing in regards to the human service needs in Pittsfield. Before I list my recommendations I thought I would point out my qualifications. I have more than 10 years working in public health specifically in Tampa, Florida and Saint Petersburg Florida. I worked at the Hillsborough County health department as a case manager so I was involved with various organizations throughout the county.

The program I worked for was a nonprofit, but it was funded by the county and the state and the feds. We received funding from all of them so we had to be accountable to all of them.

I have a masters degree in organizational management from Springfield College. I have a bachelors degree in anthropology with minor in sociology, women studies, and race studies. I specifically worked with those infected with HIV and that comes with many comorbidities such as mental health and substance abuse issues.

The kids are out of control. I am terrified to send my child to middle school and high school. We are in urban city and we should treat the security of our schools like other urban cities and install metal detectors and assign resource officers full-time in the schools. There needs to be an anonymous tip line for people/ kids to call in and report issues so that they can be investigated and not fear retaliation.

My family moved to Pittsfield in 2018. I find the city very difficult to navigate. There's one Berkshire loveberkshire, iBerkshire.... And there isn't mention of any of these on the city website.

You need to look at your website with fresh eyes like somebody from out of town and make it easier to find access to stuff . Not to mention all the different councils-which one do I go to for what need they are so specific. Can some of these departments be consolidated? It seems like overkill.

There seems to be buildings all over the place funded by a different people offering duplicate services. I don't know where to go if I become homeless and needed help. I would probably go to the library and ask someone there.

The United Way had a 211 hotline that would give people access to resources in the community. Does that exist here? Why doesn't the city have a public service department and if they do where are they?

It seems to me that Pittsfield needs assistance with domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, and something to look forward to (activity, indoor space) that won't get damaged. I don't feel safe here. I don't know what my kids are going to do after school in high school & in middle school unless they play sports.

How much does the city spend on housing these various programs and is it possible to put them all in one location? Is it possible to consolidate some departments?

This would make it easier for the residence to get to all of the resources they need under one roof and it would save the city money. You could even have a food pantry, and clothing donations available in that same space.

It is very disappointing that things that are donated get stolen, the skate park gets vandalized, the waterpark gets vandalized. The carousel

The kids are bored. There needs to be more activities for older children, not at the YMCA or the boys and girls club. It would be nice to have a space for people to walk inside and gather during the winter.

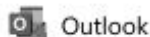
The city itself is not approachable. I want to go explore all the old buildings and they've got security and you're not allowed to go look at anything. The city is missing tourism revenue by using these old buildings for modern purposes.

I have a lot of love for the city and see the potential.

I am happy to chat further. I am a stay at home. Mom and I am happy to volunteer my time. Also, sorry for any mistakes. I am using voice to text while in the school pick up line.

Kind regards
413-770-0333

Tiffany Corwin



Outlook

Human Service Needs; Suggestions for Allocation of Funding

From Amy Schirmer <amyschirmer@rocketmail.com>

Date Sun 1/5/2025 9:24 AM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I retired from the Brien Center in 2021. While there I had a variety of responsibilities. These included case management for children & their families, case management for adults receiving counseling thru the Adult Mental Health program, and case management at the Keenan House for Women. When I retired I was running the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for adults in early recovery. In my experiences working with people, I became painfully aware of the scarcity of low income housing as well as the difficulties in navigating the system designed to allegedly help people obtain that housing. Years on a wait list was standard if you jumped thru all the hoops correctly. If not, you got dropped off lists & had to start over.

As far as I can tell, the situation has gotten worse since then. Aside from a lack of permanent housing, there are not enough shelters or community type centers for people to attend during the day.

I advocate strongly for more low income housing (which is not the same as so called "affordable" housing), & more clean, well run shelters that also provide additional services such as help with applications for housing, food, financial assistance, etc. There is also a big need for a community type center where people who are unhoused or staying in shelters can find respite & help during the day. It could have a recreational component as well as provide a space to wash bodies & clothing, staff or volunteers to assist with various applications & share information on resources, & meals such as breakfast & lunch. I realize there is a plan in the works for the latter type of program & I know nothing about it but I suspect it will not be big enough to help everyone in the community who wants & needs help.

Please feel free to reach out if I can help in any way.

Amy Schirmer

City of Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council
70 Allen St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
January 24, 2025

Dear City of Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the grant application submitted by the Berkshire Community College Foundation for the **Berkshire Community College Pittsfield Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program**. As Director at Northern Berkshire Adult Education, I have had the privilege of witnessing the impactful work and dedication of Berkshire Community College's ESOL programs firsthand.

Besides for my first-hand knowledge of the dedication of Ms. Suffish and her staff, I support this application because it meets a major need in our Berkshire County community, specifically the City of Pittsfield. Each of the three English Speakers of Other Language Programs in the county have waitlists for ESOL services. The demand for classes is much higher than the offerings.

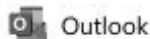
The successful execution of this project will undoubtedly contribute positively to the immigrant community in Pittsfield and aligns closely with our shared goals and priorities. I believe that Berkshire Community College's ESOL program possesses the expertise, passion, and commitment needed to bring this project to fruition, and I wholeheartedly endorse their application.

Please feel free to contact me at apecor@napsk12.org or 413-412-1118 if you require further information or have any questions regarding this letter of support. I trust that the grant committee will recognize the value and potential of the BCC ESOL program and consider it a worthy recipient of your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annie Pecor, Ed.D
Director
Northern Berkshire Adult Education
apecor@napsk12.org



Outlook

Input on Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County

From Bob Pious <bob.pious@gmail.com>
Date Wed 2/19/2025 2:19 PM
To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>
Cc Denise Roszkowski <denise@literacyberkshires.org>

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Good afternoon Nate. I am a new Literacy Volunteer of Berkshire County (LVBC) volunteer and am writing to you with regards to the Public Input Session for the Community Development Block Grant, to be held the evening of Wednesday February 26. I have a prior commitment that evening and would like to provide my input here.

I am impressed with the mission and scope of LVBC and its model of one-on-one tutoring for students who are motivated to learn English and/or improve their already existing English language skills. The organization has a long-standing history of effective work in Berkshire County, touching many lives individually, which also improves our overall community; giving people concrete English language skills. These skills, especially in conversational English, have resulted in many students securing meaningful employment, furthering their education (whether at Berkshire Community College, MCLA, or securing a GED), and improving their ability to converse with professionals, including medical staff, teachers, and first responders).

It is exciting to know that LVBC has grown significantly over the past three years especially, in the number of students reached and the number of volunteers trained and matched.

The LVBC staff works diligently in making all this happen and relies heavily on volunteer staff and tutors to ensure the mission of LVBC is reached in the most cost effective manner. I highly recommend that LVBC be able to continue its good work for the Berkshire County community.

Thank you, Nate, for the opportunity and privilege to provide this input.

Bob Pious
17 Aspen Way
Pittsfield, MA



160 North Street • Pittsfield, MA 01201 • 413.499.2220

December 30, 2024

City of Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council
70 Allen St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear City of Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the grant application submitted by the Berkshire Community College Foundation for the **Berkshire Community College Pittsfield Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program**. As Executive Director at MassHire Berkshire Career Center, I have had the privilege of witnessing the impactful work and dedication of Berkshire Community College's ESOL programs firsthand.

MassHire Berkshire Career Center supports this project due to the amount of customer we are seeing at the career center that need basic ESOL training programs. The waitlist in Berkshire County is approximately nine months for ESOL classes and services. The current ESOL classes from Berkshire Community College are in Lee, MA and Great Barrington, MA where transportation for Pittsfield residents is a major barrier due to lack of transportation. These services would be a great asset to English language learners. Learning English is essential in obtaining employment and self-sufficiency. Berkshire Community College is a major partner of MassHire Berkshire Career Center. Both organizations work closely together to coordinate services to Berkshire County residents. Berkshire Community College was instrumental in the development of the MassHire Berkshire Career Center English for Employment ESOL workshop. They provided us with information about curriculum, learning platforms, and regional ESOL resources. MassHire customers who are utilizing Berkshire Community College current ESOL services frequently share their positive experience with the program and usefulness of the lessons they are learning. With this proposal, Berkshire Community College can replicate their success in Pittsfield.

The successful execution of this project will undoubtedly contribute positively to the immigrant community in Pittsfield and aligns closely with our shared goals and priorities. I believe that Berkshire Community College's ESOL program possesses the expertise, passion, and commitment needed to bring this project to fruition, and I wholeheartedly endorse their application.

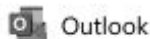
www.MassHireBerkshireCC.com

Please feel free to contact me at, 413.499.2220 x183 if you require further information or have any questions regarding this letter of support. I trust that the grant committee will recognize the value and potential of the Berkshire Community College ESO1 program and consider it a worthy recipient of your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Pamela R. Wojtkowski
Executive Director
MassHire Berkshire Career Center
pwojtkowski@masshireberkshirecc.com
P: 413.499.2220 x183



Outlook

Allocate human service funding recommendations

From Nicole Walden <nicwal3382@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 12/31/2024 1:13 PM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Human Services Advisory Council,

The increasing demand for effective, localized treatment options for women struggling with substance use disorders (SUD) calls for targeted intervention and resource allocation. This proposal suggests the creation of a women's substance use residential home that focuses on providing supportive care and rehabilitation services while keeping women within their local community. By allocating human service funding to establish and maintain this facility, the city can reduce barriers to recovery, ensure better long-term outcomes, and promote a safer, more inclusive environment for women in need.

Substance use disorder disproportionately affects women, and women with SUD often face unique challenges such as trauma, mental health issues, economic instability, and lack of access to gender-specific treatment programs. Current resources available in the city does not adequately address the needs of local women and forces them to leave their families, homes, and support systems to seek treatment out of the area.

A residential facility specifically designed for women in need of substance use treatment could fill a critical gap in service provision. Such a facility can integrate addiction treatment with supportive services like mental health care, trauma-informed care, parenting support, and life skills training—all of which are essential for women's recovery.

Objectives

1. **Improve Local Access to Treatment:** Ensure women struggling with substance use disorders do not need to travel long distances to access treatment, fostering better continuity of care and reducing treatment barriers.
2. **Provide Gender-Specific Services:** Address the unique challenges women face in addiction recovery, including trauma, childcare, and societal stigma, by creating a safe, supportive environment.
3. **Support Family and Community Reconnection:** Keep women connected to their families, jobs, and social networks, which are essential for successful recovery and reintegration into society.
4. **Enhance Long-Term Recovery Success:** By offering an integrated approach that includes mental health services, peer recovery and parenting support, social support and educational opportunities, the facility will help women achieve sustained sobriety and independence.

5. **Reduce Relapse and Recidivism:** Through holistic treatment and community-based support systems, the proposed residential home will help reduce the likelihood of relapse and re-incarceration among women with SUD.

Benefits

1. **Cost-Effectiveness:** By keeping women local the city will improve access to community-based resources, and reduce recidivism and re-hospitalization rates, leading to long-term savings.
2. **Empowerment of Women:** Localizing treatment provides women with the opportunity to stay close to their families, communities, and support systems, leading to greater empowerment and a higher chance of successful reintegration.
3. **Improved Public Health:** The reduction in substance abuse and mental health crises, as well as fewer incidents of drug-related crimes, will positively affect the overall health and safety of the community.
4. **Strengthened Families:** By supporting women in their recovery, the city will help strengthen families, reduce child welfare involvement, and improve outcomes for children of women with substance use disorders.

Investing human service funding in a women's substance use residential home that keeps women local will significantly impact both individuals and the broader community. By addressing the specific needs of women with substance use disorders through comprehensive, gender-sensitive treatment, the city can provide a critical service that fosters healing, stability, and long-term success. This proposal aims to create a sustainable, effective solution that empowers women, strengthens families, and improves the overall well-being of the community.

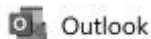
I request that city leadership and funding bodies prioritize the allocation of human services funding to establish and support the women's substance use residential home. We are confident that with the proper resources, this initiative will transform lives, promote community health, and build a foundation for lasting recovery.

Sincerely,

Nicole Walden

□

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Outlook

Input on Human Services Needs

From Tracey <tmr061974@gmail.com>
Date Tue 12/31/2024 4:13 PM
To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

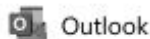
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Good Afternoon Nate,

Happy New Year! I wanted to just submit some feedback on the request for input. I have two main items for consideration. First I wonder how we might be more inclusive with the definition of human rights to extend this to those who may have a medical condition such as addiction. I am not sure that is included as a disability so I think we need to ensure rights extend to those folks who deal with addiction and sobriety. The second is consideration of funding to assist with food and daytime shelter such as the community program being done by Danielle Munn at Witch Slapped to give her financial support in their creation of a safe space to get warm, have something to eat, use the restroom and just be with others as community. I know working on human rights has many layers in approaching the serious issues we face but I can't help but hope that some portion of the money being used to keep people warm and fed each day would be within that scope.

Thank you,
Tracey Richards
48 Imperial Ave
Pittsfield
413-344-3796

Sent from Tracey's iPhone
"Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible."
- Dalai Lama



Helping Human Services Making Our Community (Pittsfield) Better For Homelessness and Mental Health.

From geraldine butler <butlergeraldine00@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/2/2025 8:17 PM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

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Here are some ways to help human services support out community:

Donations

1. ***Financial Donations*:** Donate money to reputable human service organizations, enabling them to provide essential services.
2. ***Goods and Services*:** Donate goods like food, clothing, and household items, or offer services like professional expertise or transportation.

Volunteering

1. ***Time and Skills*:** Volunteer your time and skills to help human service organizations with daily operations, events, or specific projects.
2. ***Mentorship*:** Offer mentorship or coaching to individuals served by human service organizations.

Advocacy

1. ***Raise Awareness*:** Share information about human service organizations and their work on social media, with friends, and family.
2. ***Advocate for Policy Change*:** Support policy changes that benefit human service organizations and the populations they serve.

Partnerships

1. ***Collaborate with Local Businesses*:** Partner with local businesses to secure donations, sponsor events, or provide employment opportunities.
2. ***Interagency Collaboration*:** Encourage collaboration between human service organizations to share resources, expertise, and best practices.

Education and Training

1. ***Educate Yourself*:** Learn about the issues addressed by human service organizations, such as poverty, homelessness, and mental health.
2. ***Training and Capacity Building*:** Support training and capacity-building initiatives for human service organizations to enhance their effectiveness.

Community Engagement

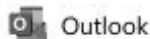
1. *Community Events*: Organize or participate in community events that promote human service organizations and their work.
2. *Neighborhood Initiatives*: Develop neighborhood initiatives that bring community members together to support human service organizations.

Technology and Innovation

1. *Digital Literacy*: Support digital literacy programs that help human service organizations and their clients access technology and online resources.
2. *Innovative Solutions*: Encourage the development of innovative solutions, such as mobile apps or online platforms, to support human service organizations.

By implementing these strategies, we can help human services support our community and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you, have a most wonderful day.

Best,
Geraldine Butler



Outlook

Re: Human Services Funding

From Copoulos, Julie <jcopoulos@massdevelopment.com>

Date Fri 1/3/2025 10:48 AM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Thanks for this, Nate. We are using some TDI funds to pilot a collaboration between DPI and ServiceNet (The Pearl) this year. The program will take volunteers from the Pearl and train them to be downtown ambassadors. They will participate in beautification efforts downtown and will receive a stipend for their work (\$20/hour).

If this collaboration is successful, I can see it extending to other areas of the downtown and potentially including other collaborators (theaters?). This could be categorized as homelessness prevention/workforce development.

We are investing \$10,000 for 2025 and can keep you posted on progress.

Thanks for bringing it up to the group!

Julie

[Click here to set up a meeting.](#)

Julie Copoulos (she/her), LEED Green Associate

Pittsfield Fellow, Transformative Development Initiative (TDI)

MassDevelopment

The Commonwealth's Development Finance Agency & Land Bank

99 High Street, Boston, MA 02110

Mobile: 781-299-0555

jcopoulos@massdevelopment.com

massdevelopment.com

From: Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 3:07 PM

To: Copoulos, Julie <jcopoulos@massdevelopment.com>

Subject: Re: Human Services Funding

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Hi Julie,

Thanks for reaching out, and Happy New Year to you too! Our funding is a mix of local funds (25%) and an allotment from our annual CDBG grant (75%), and generally we adhere to the CDBG guidelines for public services expenditures, which requires certain levels of record keeping and documentation that the funds utilized primarily benefit low-moderate residents of Pittsfield. We have some additional flexibility for the City funds that allows us to assist smaller organizations or certain programs that may not be able to provide all of that documentation but we still require reports with metrics identifying the number of beneficiaries of the funds and documenting costs.

We are seeking comments from the public to help prioritize or identify categories of services or specific programs that should be supported by the Human Services Advisory Committee and incorporated into our CDBG annual and five-year planning documents and that meet these requirements:

- Offered by a non-profit organization or public entity (like the Housing Authority)
- Provides services to low-moderate income persons/families or presumed eligible populations (including persons experiencing homelessness, AIDS patients, survivors of domestic violence, disabled adults, and the elderly), as determined by HUD.
- Funds granted by the Pittsfield HSAC must be applied to Pittsfield residents

Some of the categories of services we have identified in the past have included:

- Youth Activities /Youth Services for At Risk Youth
- Mental Health Services
- Homeless Prevention, Housing and Support Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Transportation
- Neglected / Abused Kids
- Affordable Child Care
- Domestic Violence Services
- Elderly Services
- Health Services
- Services for the Disabled
- Tenant Landlord Counseling
- Immigrant Services
- Legal Services

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks!

-Nate J.

From: Copoulos, Julie <jcopoulos@massdevelopment.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 2:34 PM

To: Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

Subject: Human Services Funding

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Hi Nate!

I'd like to think about this a little more, but can you tell me what the restrictions on the human services funding are?

Thank you and Happy New Year.

Julie

[Click here to set up a meeting.](#)

Julie Copoulos (she/her), LEED Green Associate

Pittsfield Fellow, Transformative Development Initiative (TDI)

MassDevelopment

The Commonwealth's Development Finance Agency & Land Bank

99 High Street, Boston, MA 02110

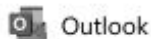
Mobile: 781-299-0555

jcopoulos@massdevelopment.com

massdevelopment.com

Nathaniel Joyner
Housing Program Manager

Community Development
City of Pittsfield
70 Allen Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-9358
njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org
www.cityofpittsfield.org



Outlook

In regards to the community outreach coordinator,BRPC at the crane !

From Mathew Marauszwski <marauszski7@icloud.com>

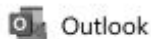
Date Tue 1/7/2025 12:57 PM

To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

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I'm writing to speak on behalf of the team there and the amazing work they do for the community that services to the community of addiction and mental health . I'm one of them who has had the opportunity to work with Kellie Meisl and Erin Elzner who has been there for me through many times and has helped me with referrals, references, and communication for school , job , and getting housing on my behalf I believe in there place at the crane and would recommend them to anyone!
For any reason of support in the community that people may need help in their journey..

Sincerely best wishes, Mathew marauszwski



Hi

From Dee M <kingkameronm16@gmail.com>
Date Tue 1/7/2025 1:09 PM
To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

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Kelly and Aaron have been wonderful people in community. They have served a lot of people with there needs. Homelessness needs as in winter accessories, food, snacks, water and etc. Helping out with housing applications when people didn't know how to do a applications. Giving out resources to the community which helped people navigate the city and find what they are seeking. Gathering people together to meet and have a part in the community to speak to all walks of life. The Crane Center is a awesome place where people that are struggling can come feel welcomed and get a coffee. All diversities are welcomed and there is no judgement at the center. People that are in addiction that have mental struggles they have meetings where people cqn open up to and be themselves.

Dwayne M



THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

CONTACT:

Nate Joyner, Community Development & Housing Program Manager
Department of Community Development
(413) 499-9358
njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org

For other media inquiries:

Catherine VanBramer
Director of Administrative Services/Public Information Officer
Office of the Mayor, City of Pittsfield
(413) 499-9322
cvanbramer@cityofpittsfield.org

City of Pittsfield seeks public input on CDBG Annual Action Plan and 5-Year Consolidated Plan

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (January 24, 2025) – The City of Pittsfield, through its Office of Community Development, is preparing to write its 2025 Annual Action Plan and 2025-2029 (5-year) Consolidated Plan, which will determine how the City allocates its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds next year and over the next five years. CDBG funds are provided annually to the City of Pittsfield through an entitlement grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

The Annual Action Plan and 5-year Consolidated Plan are designed to help states and local jurisdictions assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions. The consolidated planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the CDBG formula block grant program.

To engage the entire community in this critical conversation, the City is holding a public hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Berkshire Athenaeum (1 Wendell Ave) to gather input on the City's greatest priority needs that can be addressed with CDBG funds.

Additionally, an online survey is available now through February 27, 2025. It can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVJQRZF>. The information provided will assist in the development of the 2025 Annual Action Plan and the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. This survey should take about ten to fifteen minutes to complete.

Under Federal guidelines, at least 70% of CDBG funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals. Each funded activity must meet one of three national objectives: 1) benefits low- and moderate-income individuals, 2) aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or 3) addresses an urgent need that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare

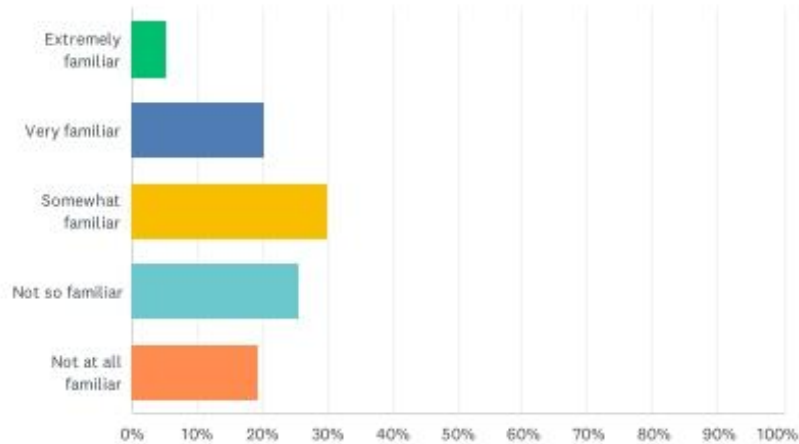
of the community which occurred within the last 18 months and for which other funding is not available.

For questions related to the Consolidated Plan or the survey, or to request accommodations at the public hearing, please contact Nate Joyner in the Pittsfield Department of Community Development by email at njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org or by phone at (413) 499-9358.

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Q1 How familiar are you with the CDBG program?

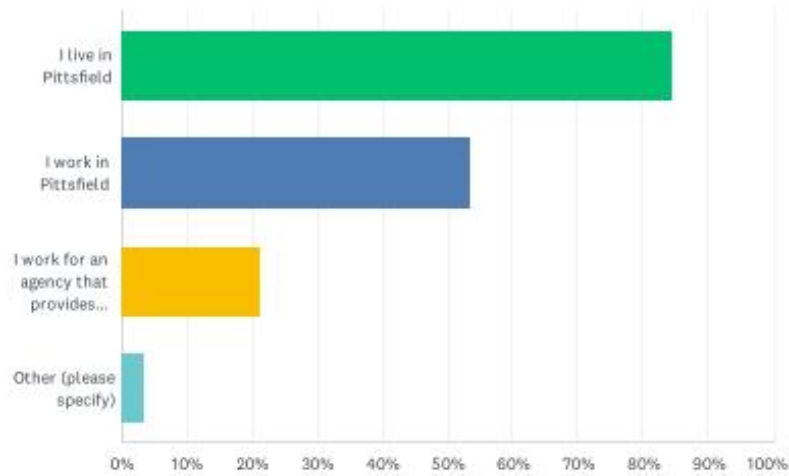
Answered: 94 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely familiar	5.32%	5
Very familiar	20.21%	19
Somewhat familiar	29.79%	28
Not so familiar	25.53%	24
Not at all familiar	19.15%	18
TOTAL		94

Q2 Which of the following best describes you?

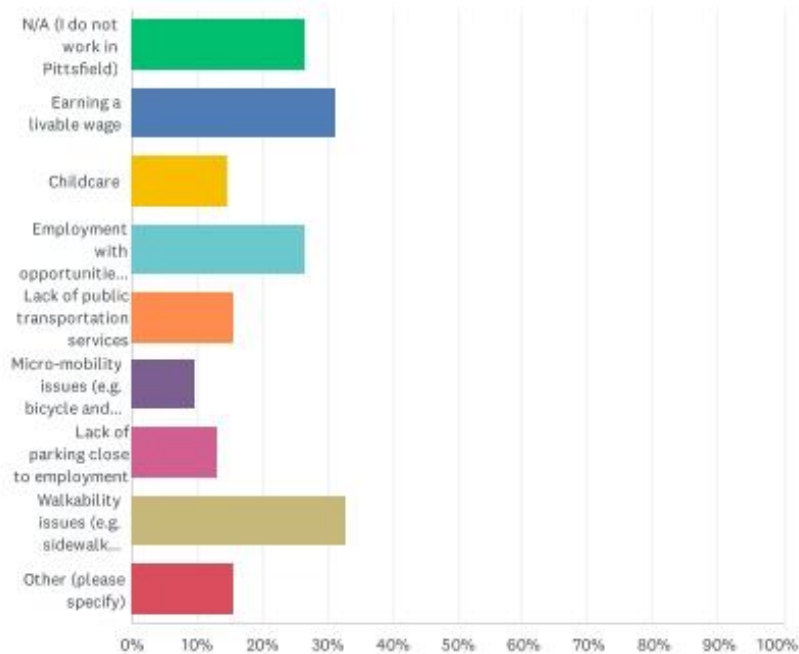
Answered: 90 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Pittsfield	84.44%	76
I work in Pittsfield	53.33%	48
I work for an agency that provides service to Pittsfield residents	21.11%	19
Other (please specify)	3.33%	3
Total Respondents: 90		

Q3 If you work in Pittsfield, what challenges do you face?

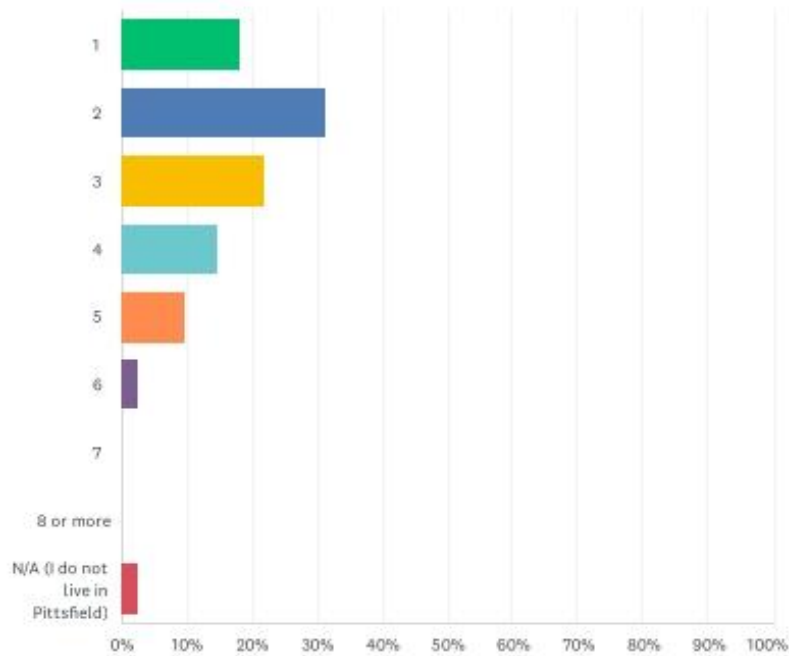
Answered: 83 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A (I do not work in Pittsfield)	26.51%	22
Earning a livable wage	31.33%	26
Childcare	14.46%	12
Employment with opportunities for advancement	26.51%	22
Lack of public transportation services	15.66%	13
Micro-mobility issues (e.g. bicycle and scooter infrastructure)	9.64%	8
Lack of parking close to employment	13.25%	11
Walkability issues (e.g. sidewalk conditions, safe crossings, etc)	32.53%	27
Other (please specify)	15.66%	13
Total Respondents: 83		

Q4 How many people are in your household? (Including yourself.)

Answered: 83 Skipped: 11

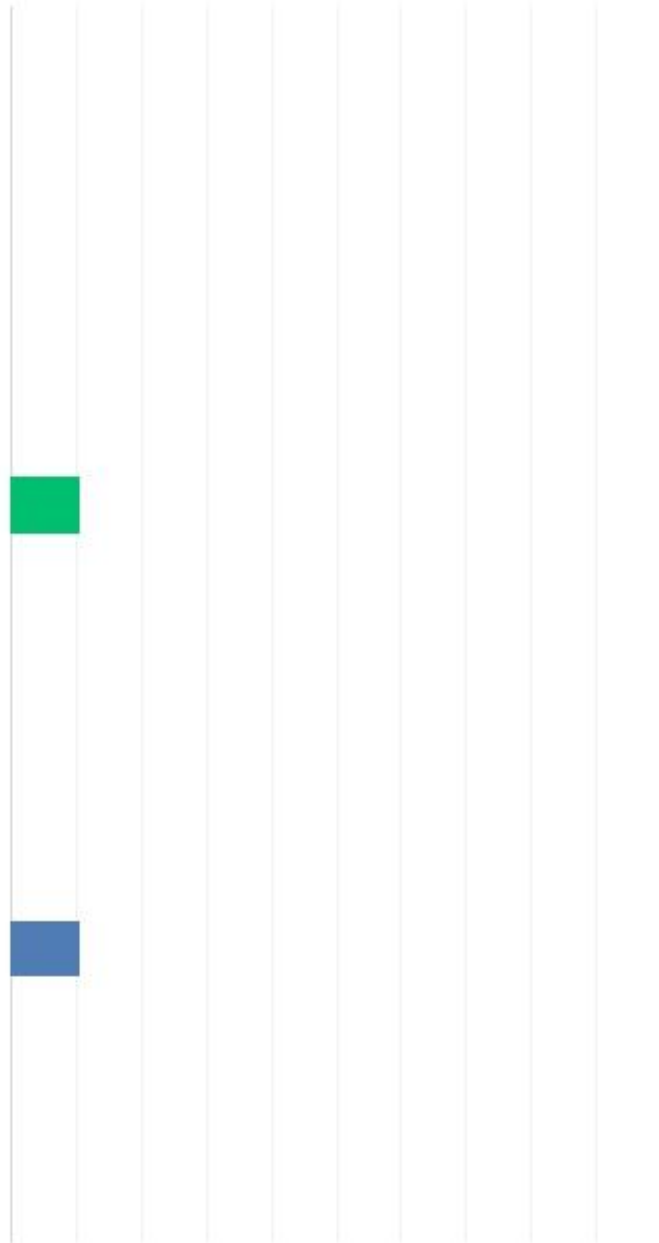


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	18.07%	15
2	31.33%	26
3	21.69%	18
4	14.46%	12
5	9.64%	8
6	2.41%	2
7	0.00%	0
8 or more	0.00%	0
N/A (I do not live in Pittsfield)	2.41%	2
TOTAL		83

Q5 What is your approximate annual gross household income?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 21

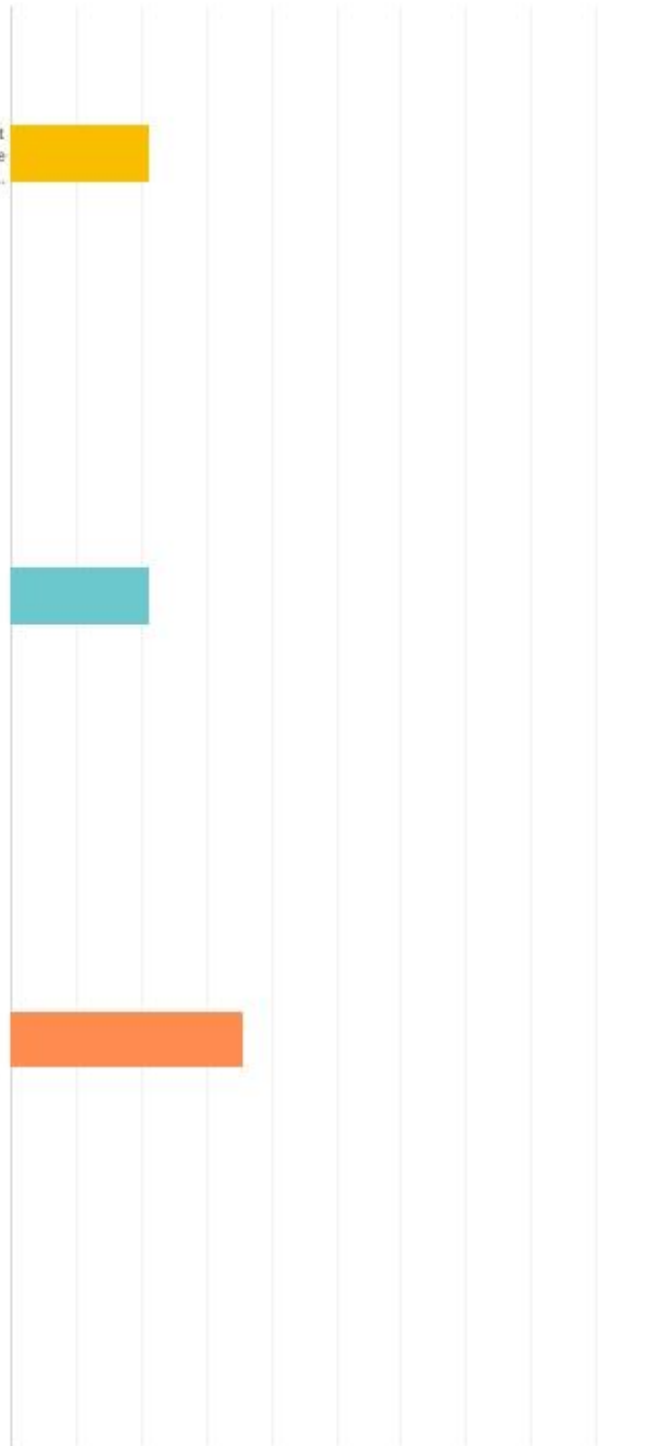
Household size of 1



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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

*Please select
approximate
income...

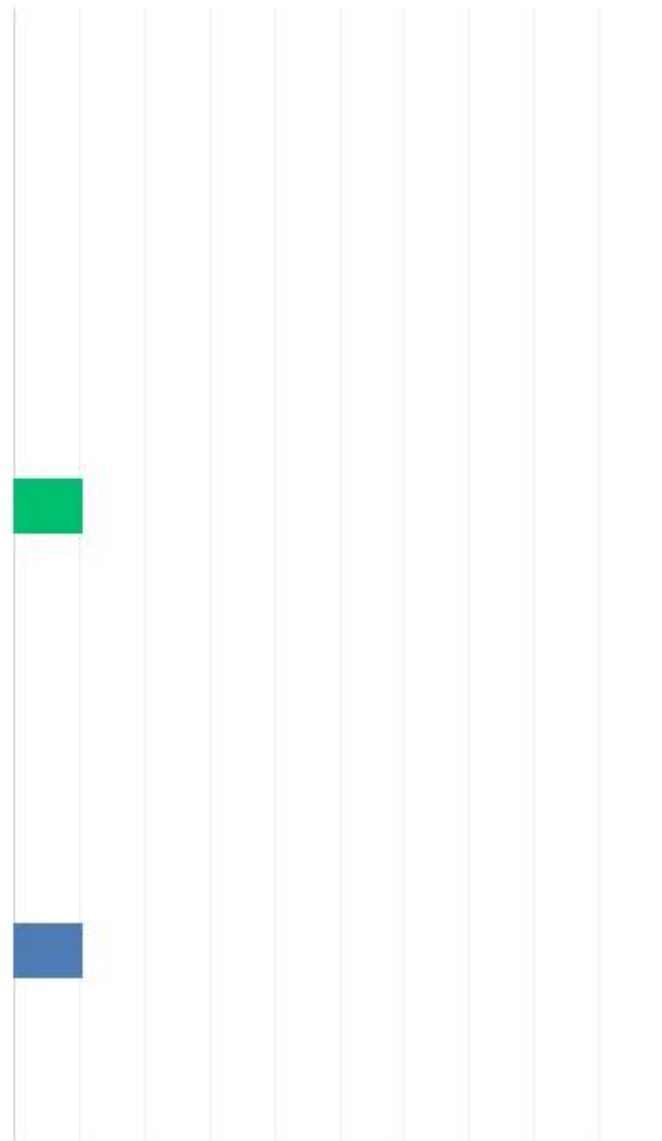


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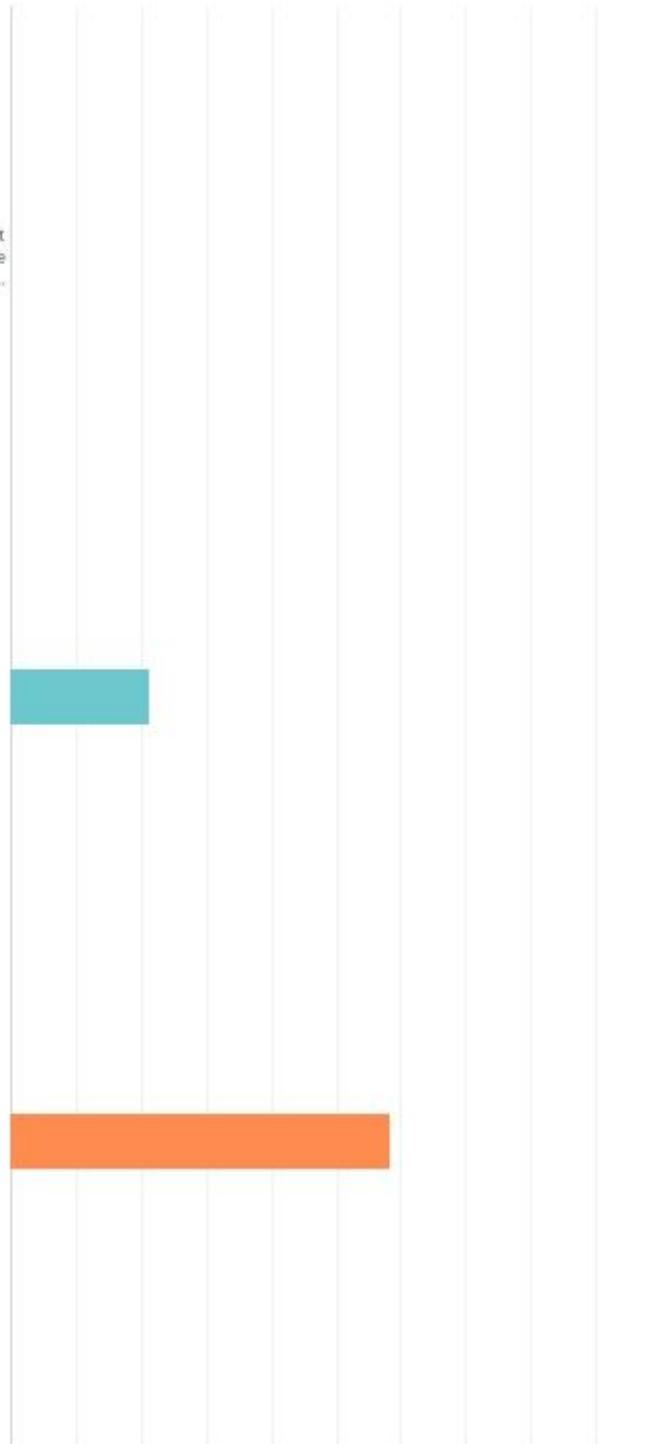
Household size of 2



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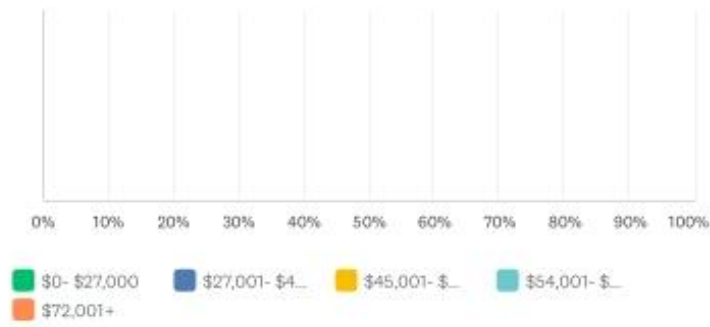
Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

*Please select
approximate
income...

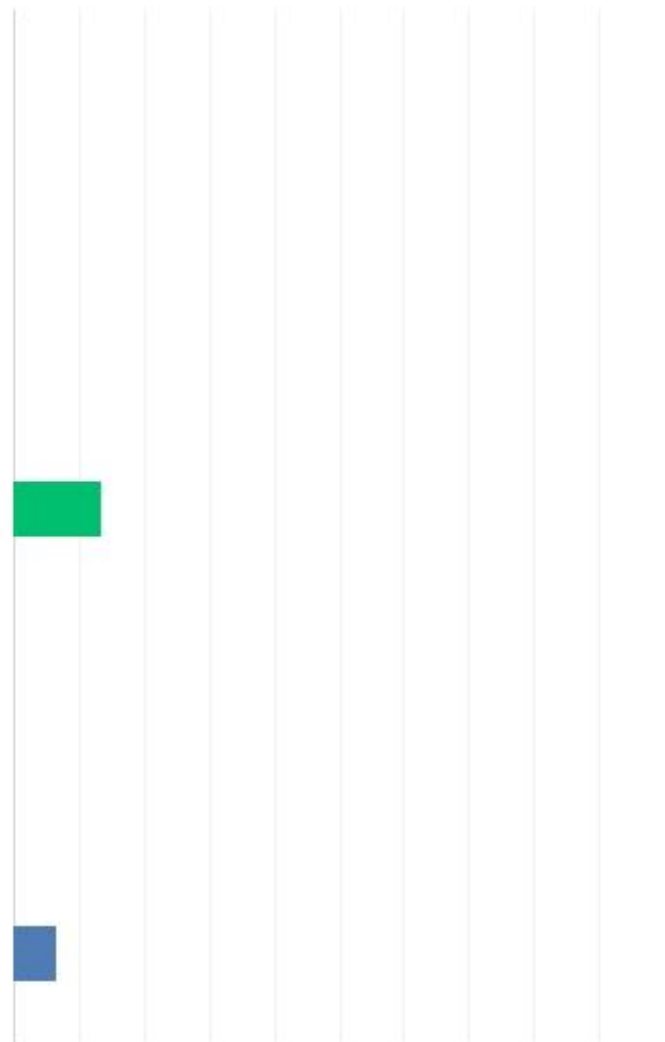


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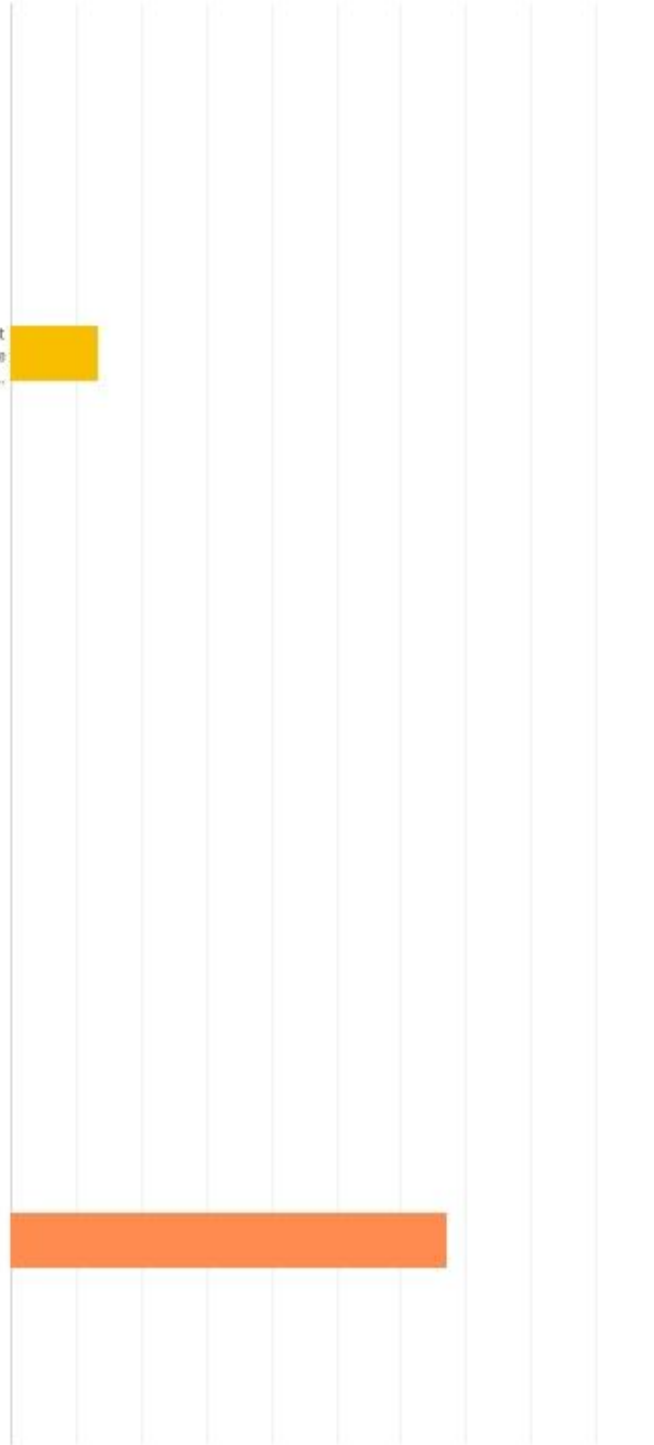
Household size of 3



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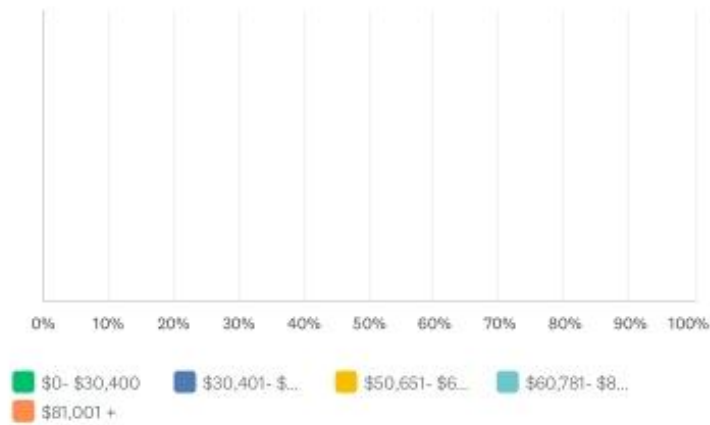
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*Please select
approximate
income...

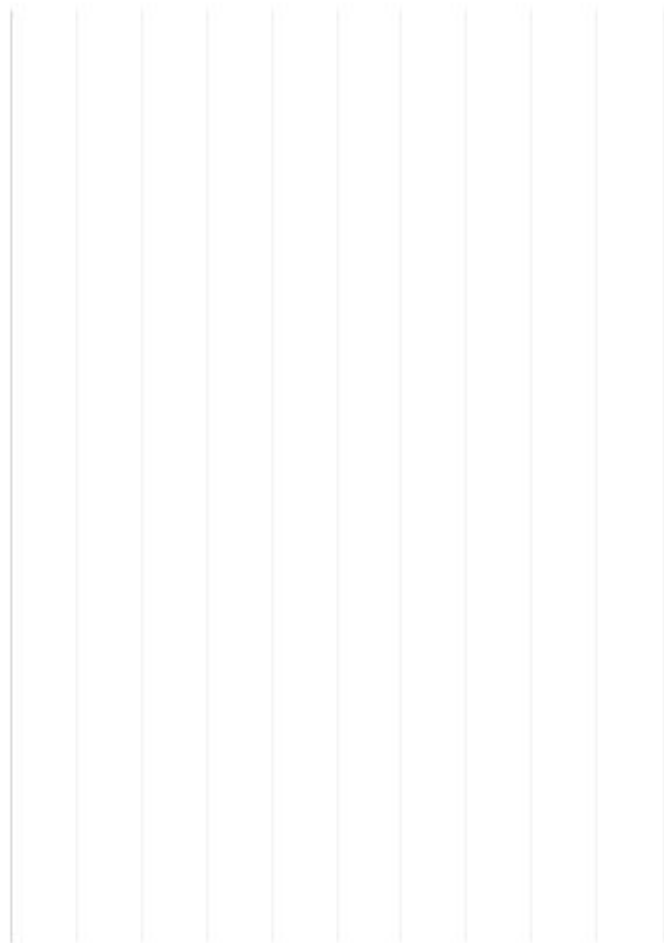


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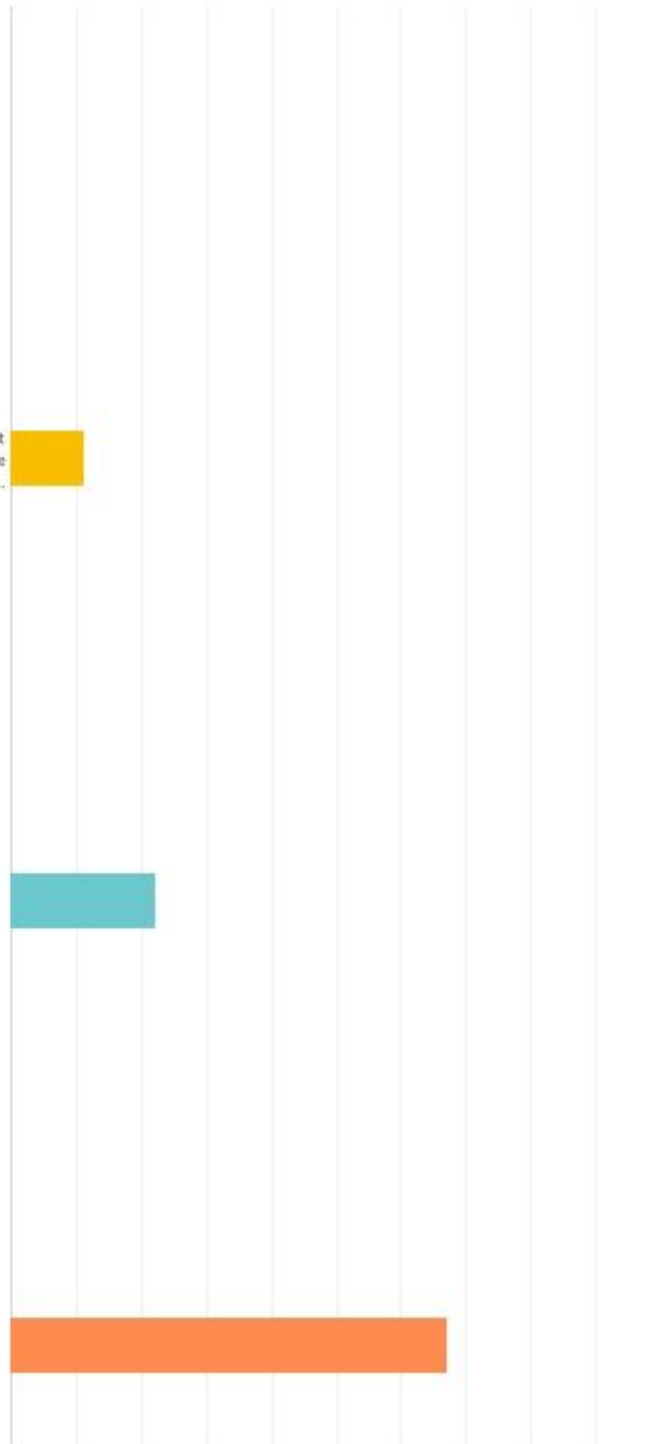
Household size of 4



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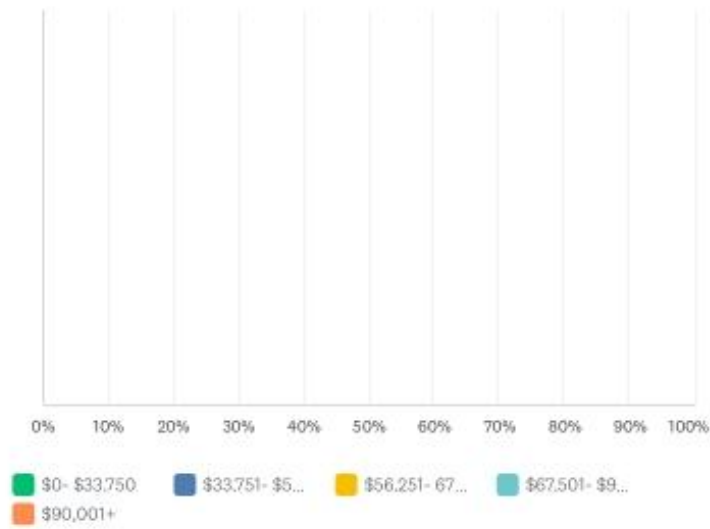
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*Please select
approximate
income...



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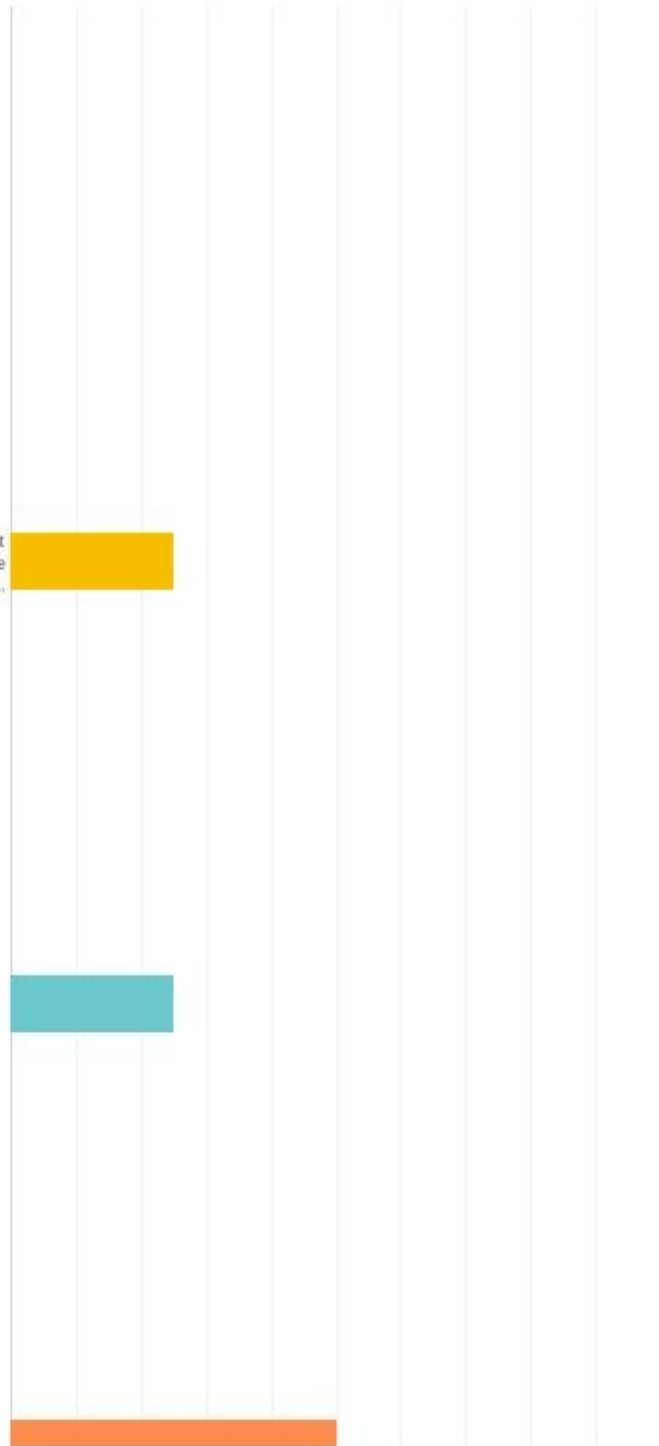
Household size of 5



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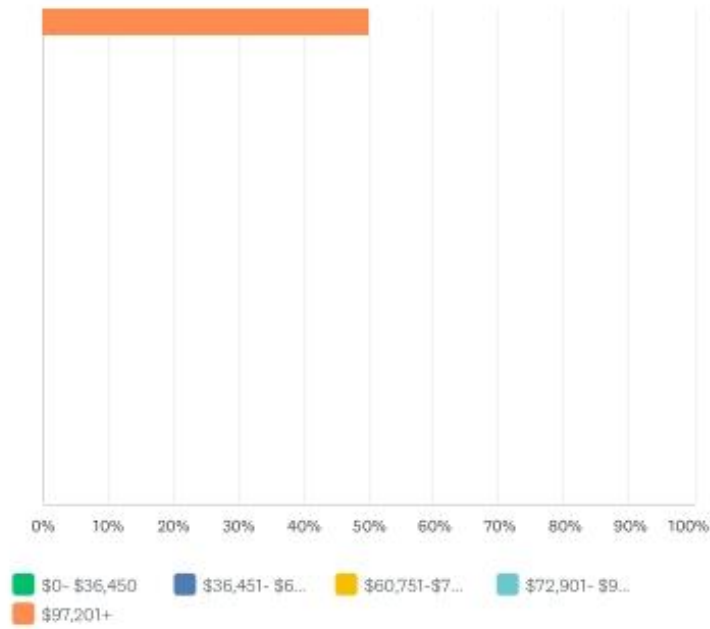
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*Please select
approximate
income...



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Household size of 6



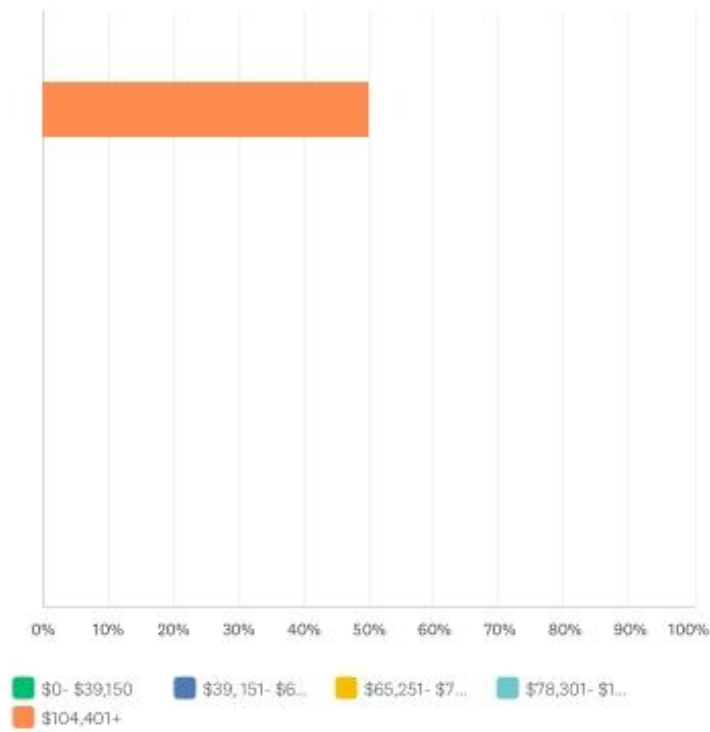
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*Please select
approximate
income...



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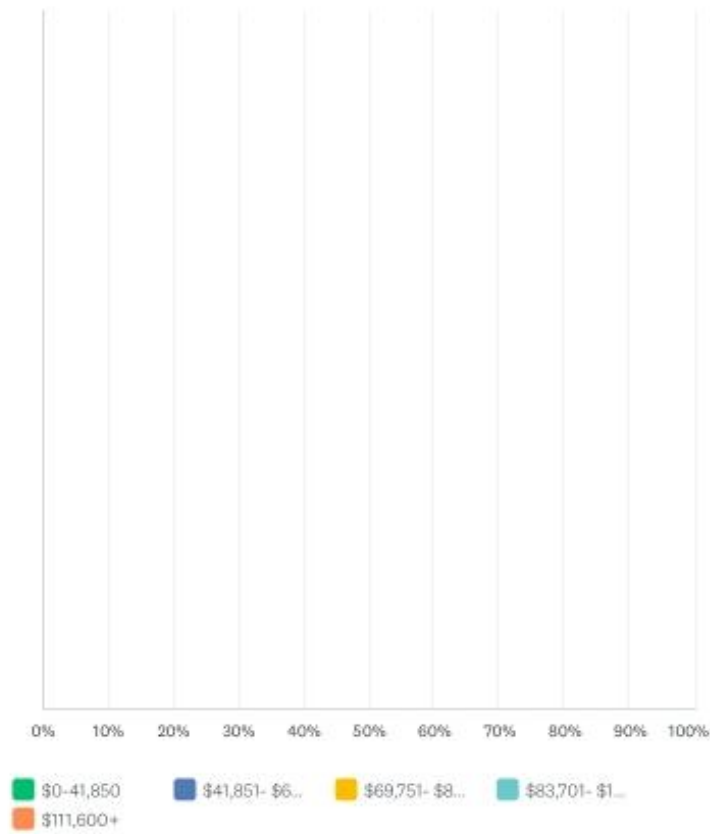
Household size of 7

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*Please select
approximate
income...

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Household size of 8 or more

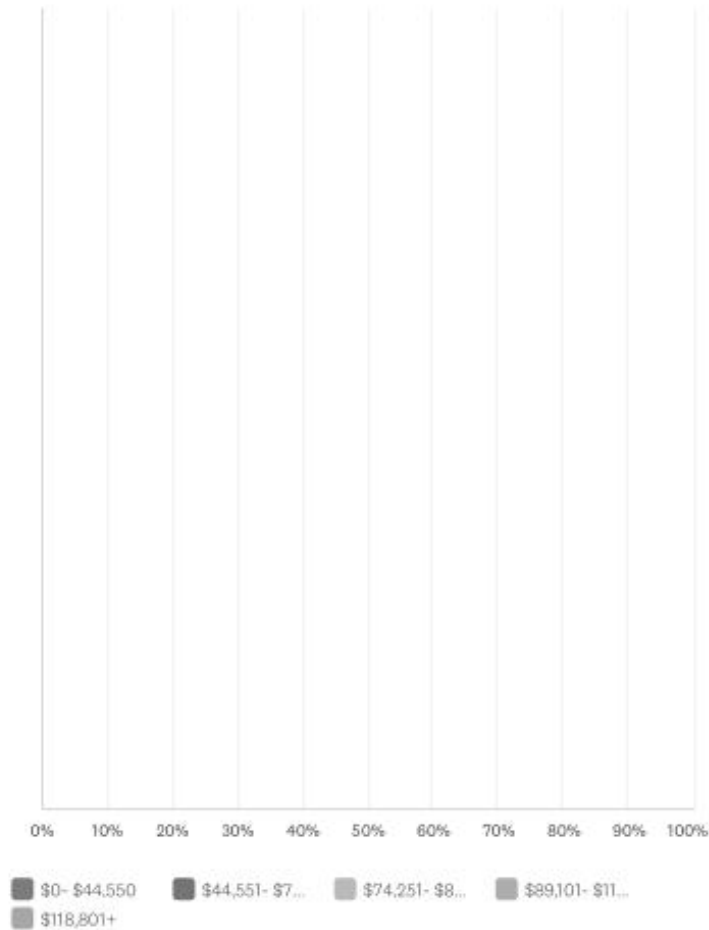


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*Please select
approximate
income...

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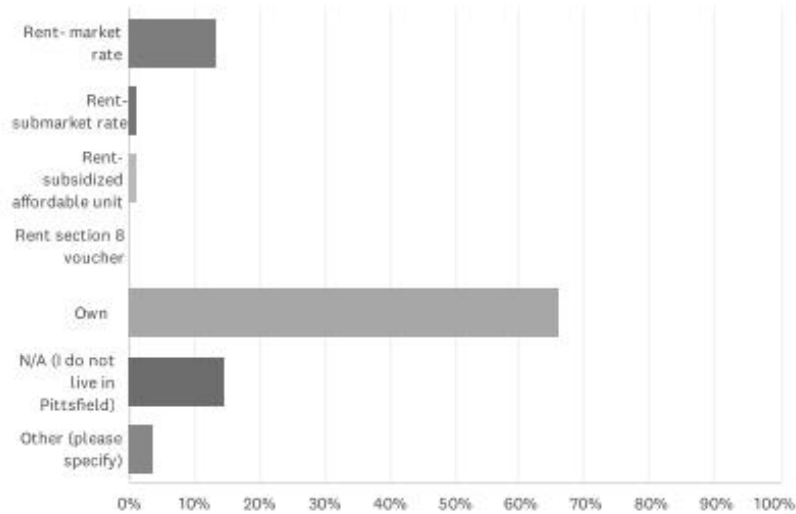
Household size of 1						
	\$0-\$23,650	\$23,651-\$39,400	\$39,401-\$47,280	\$47,281-\$63,000	\$63,001+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	10.71% 3	10.71% 3	21.43% 6	21.43% 6	35.71% 10	28
Household size of 2						
	\$0-\$27,000	\$27,001-\$45,000	\$45,001-\$54,000	\$54,001-\$72,000	\$72,001+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	0.00% 0	21.05% 4	57.89% 11	19
Household size of 3						
	\$0-\$30,400	\$30,401-\$50,650	\$50,651-\$60,780	\$60,781-\$81,000	\$81,001+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	13.33% 2	6.67% 1	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	66.67% 10	15

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Household size of 4						
	\$0- \$33,750	\$33,751- \$56,250	\$56,251- 67,500	\$67,501- \$90,000	\$90,001+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	66.67% 6	9
Household size of 5						
	\$0- \$36,450	\$36,451- \$60,750	\$60,751-\$72,900	\$72,901- \$97,200	\$97,201+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	25.00% 1	50.00% 2	4
Household size of 6						
	\$0- \$39,150	\$39,151- \$65,250	\$65,251- \$78,300	\$78,301- \$104,400	\$104,401+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	50.00% 1	2
Household size of 7						
	\$0- \$41,850	\$41,851- \$69,750	\$69,751- \$83,700	\$83,701- \$111,600	\$111,600+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
Household size of 8 or more						
	\$0- \$44,550	\$44,551- \$74,250	\$74,251- \$89,100	\$89,101- \$118,800	\$118,801+	TOTAL
*Please select approximate income according to your family size.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0

Q6 If you live in Pittsfield, do you rent or own your place of residence?

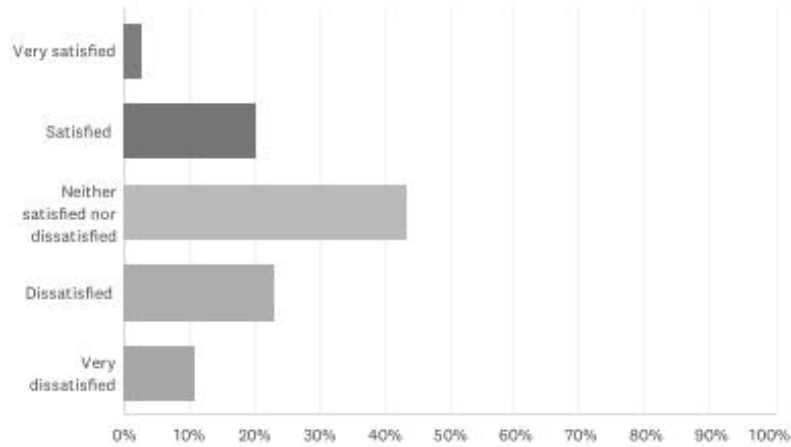
Answered: 82 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rent- market rate	13.41%	11
Rent- submarket rate	1.22%	1
Rent- subsidized affordable unit	1.22%	1
Rent section 8 voucher	0.00%	0
Own	65.85%	54
N/A (I do not live in Pittsfield)	14.63%	12
Other (please specify)	3.66%	3
TOTAL		82

Q7 How satisfied are you with the use of CDBG funds for the past 5 program years (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024) as shown in question 3?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	2.70%	2
Satisfied	20.27%	15
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	43.24%	32
Dissatisfied	22.97%	17
Very dissatisfied	10.81%	8
TOTAL		74

Q8 If you answered "very satisfied", which CDBG priorities did you most agree with?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 87

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Q9 If you answered "very dissatisfied", what changes do you think need to be made to CDBG funding priorities?

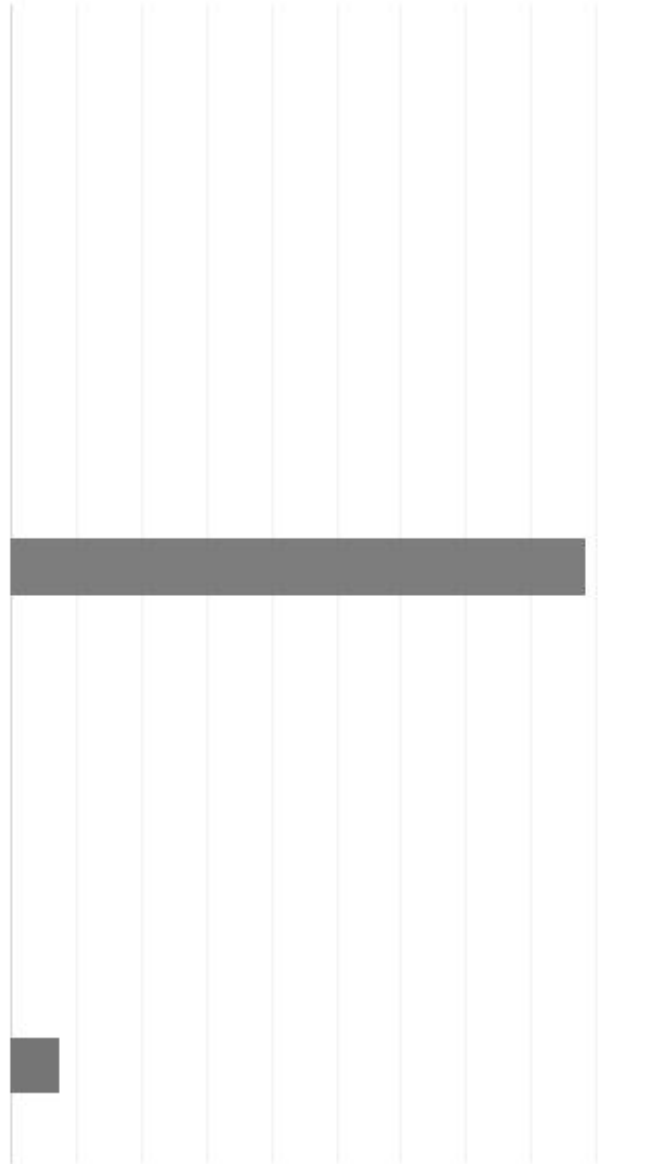
Answered: 16 Skipped: 78



Q10 Based on your experiences, and the experiences of those around you, to what degree is there a need for housing and homelessness services in Pittsfield?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 26

Affordable housing



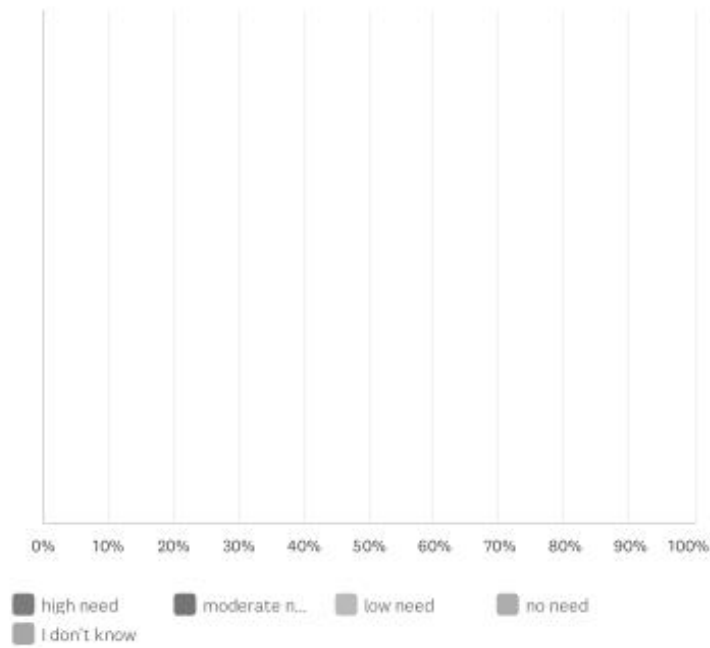
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Please select
high need,
moderate nee...

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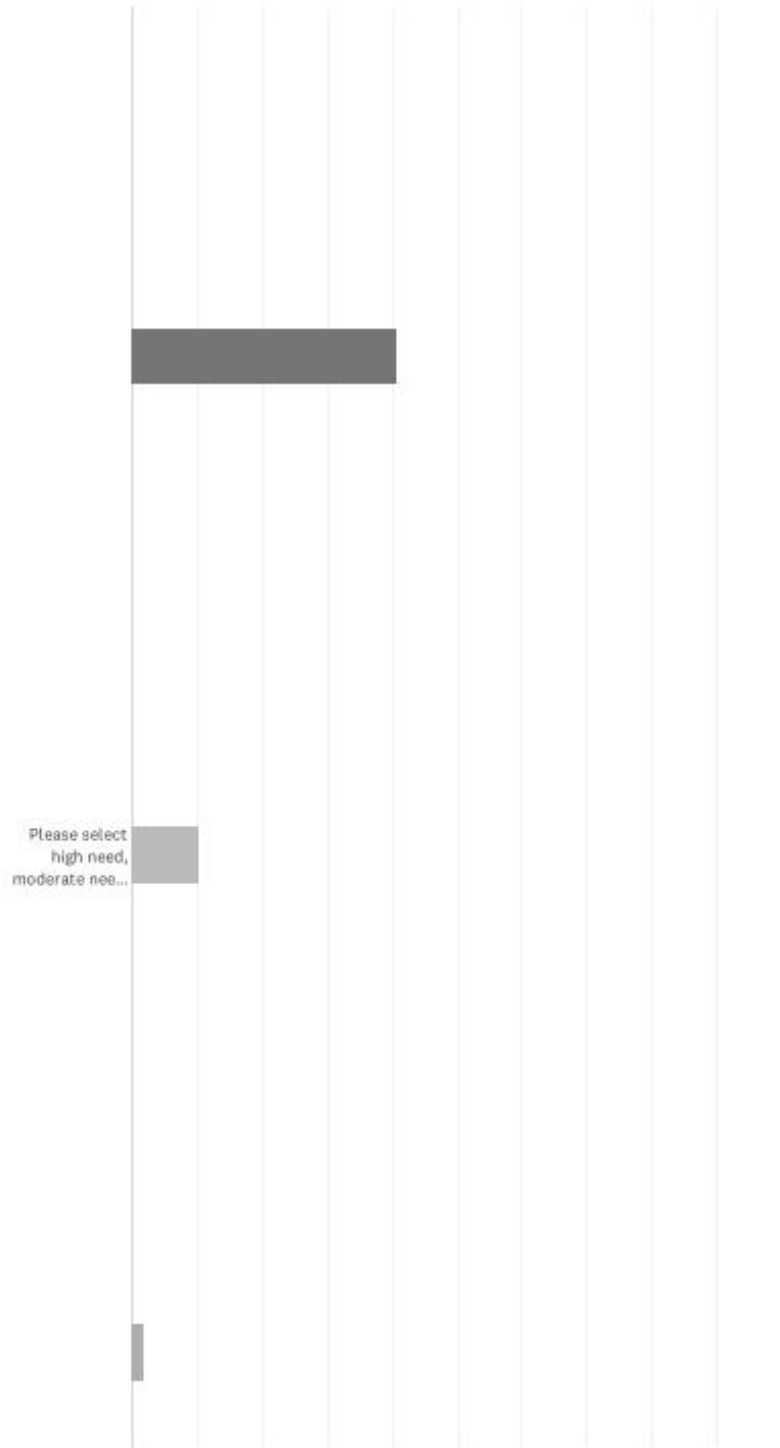


Elderly housing



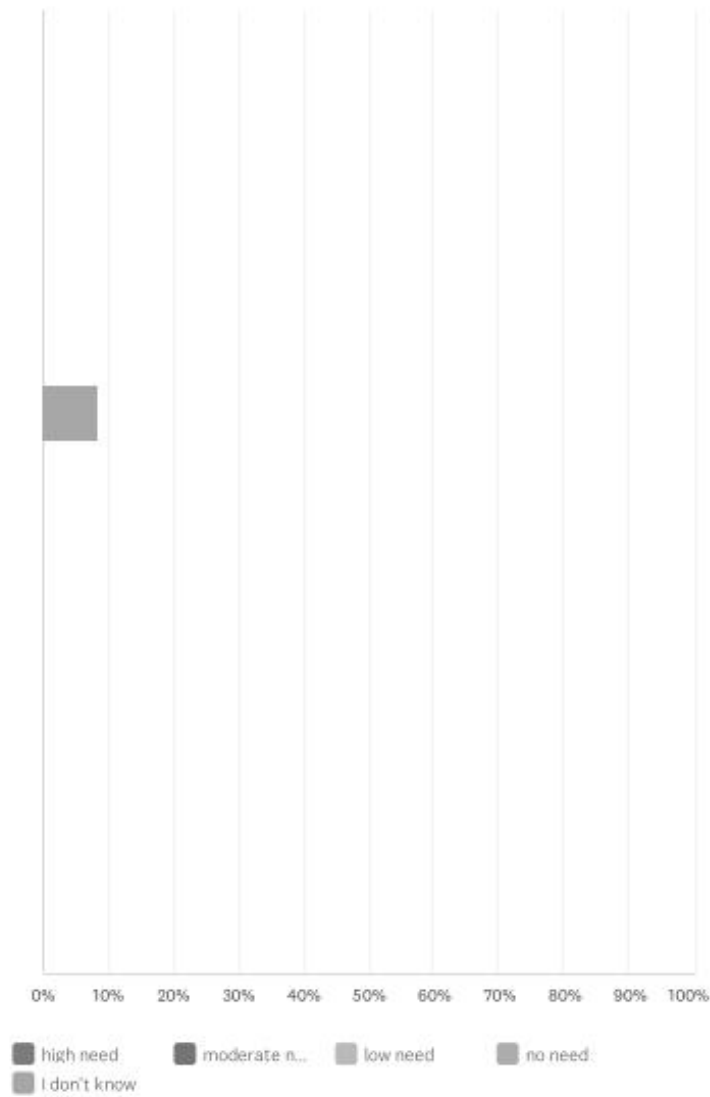
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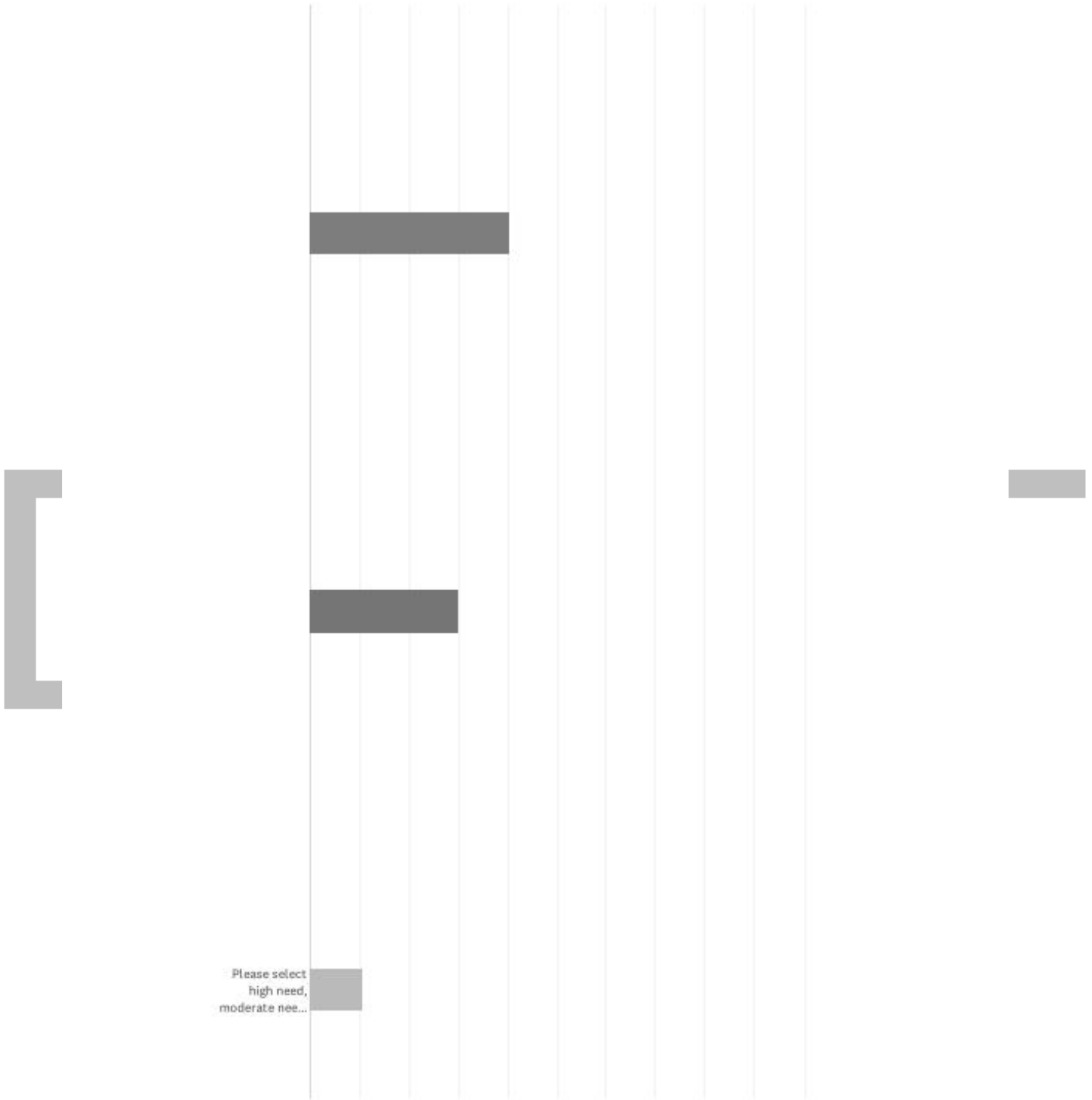
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Disabled housing

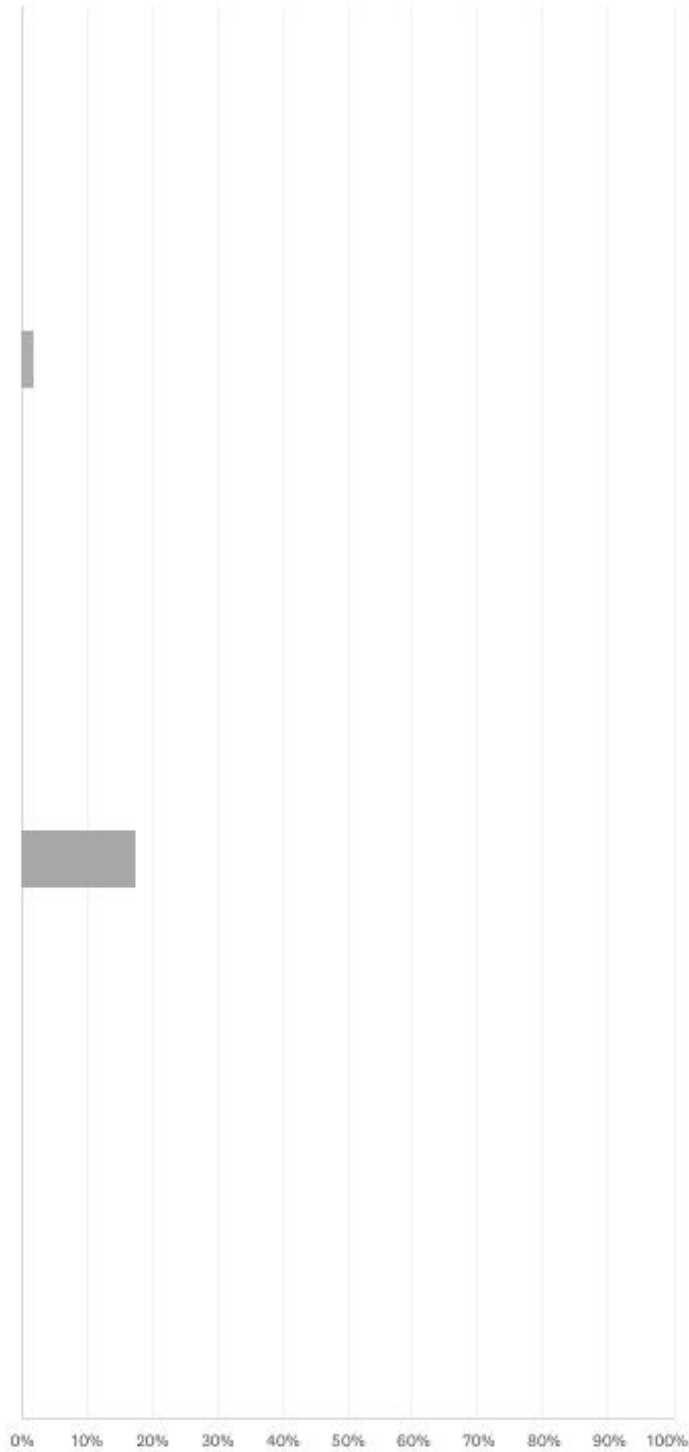
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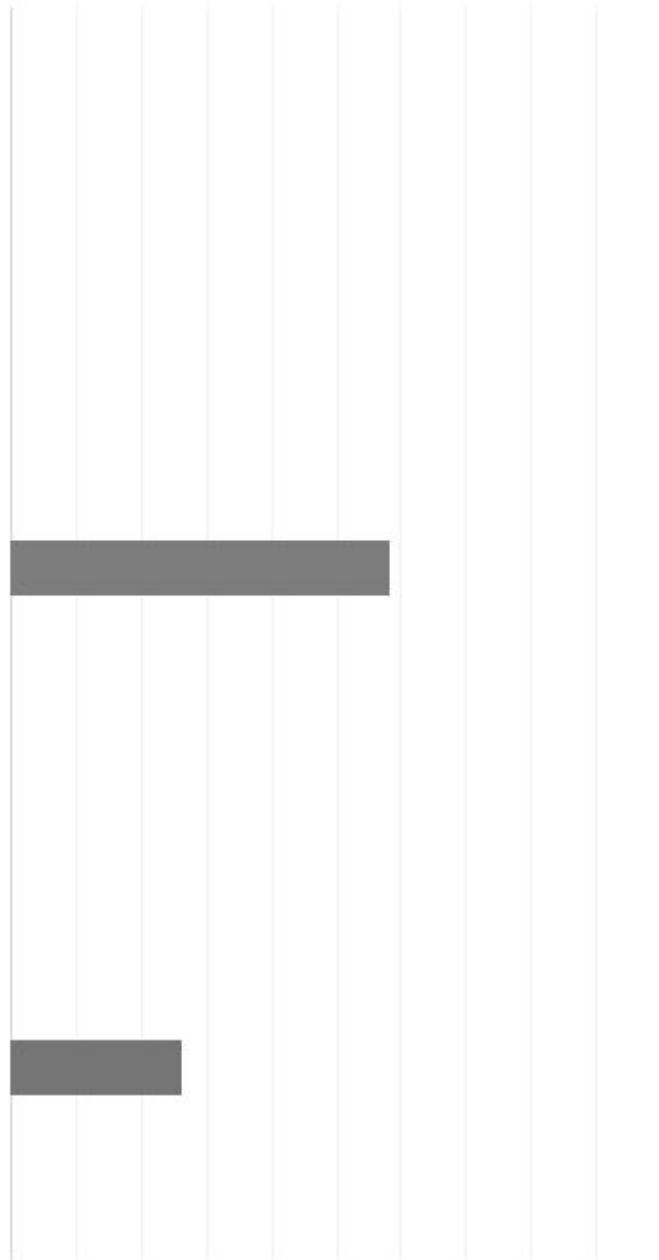


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■ high need ■ moderate n... ■ low need ■ no need
■ I don't know

Housing rehabilitation



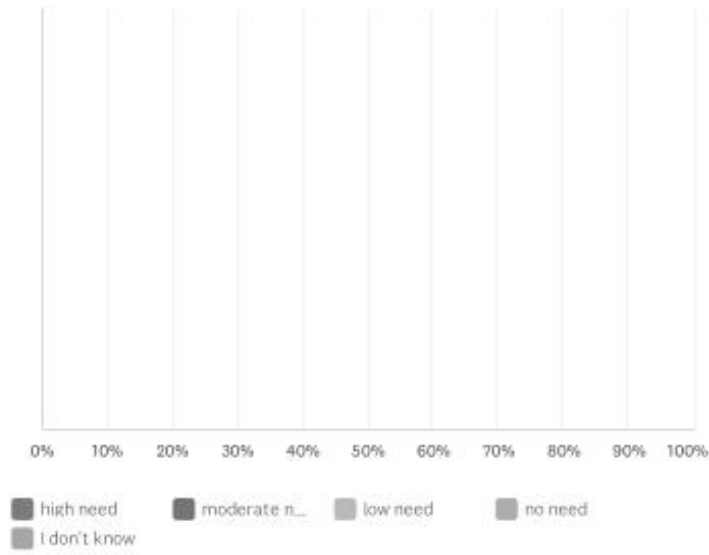
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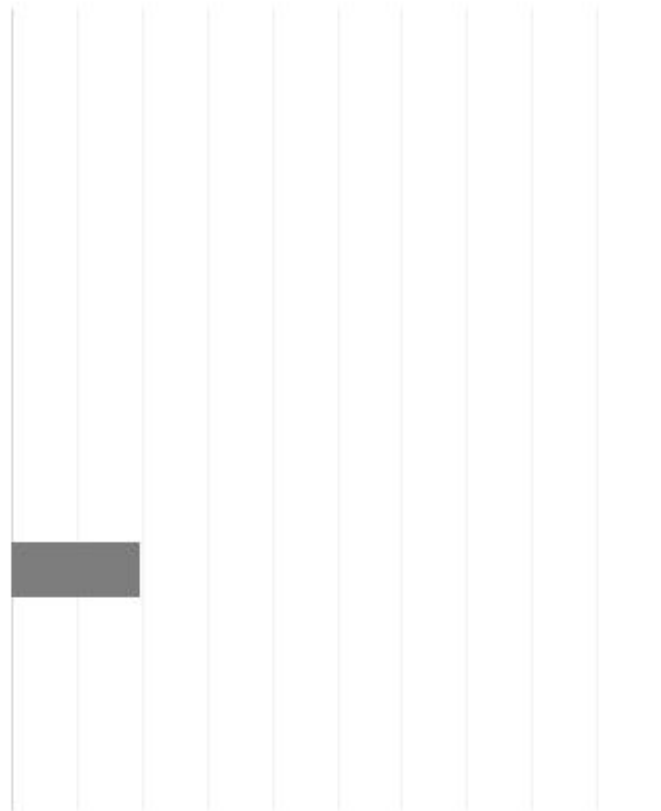
Please select
high need,
moderate need...

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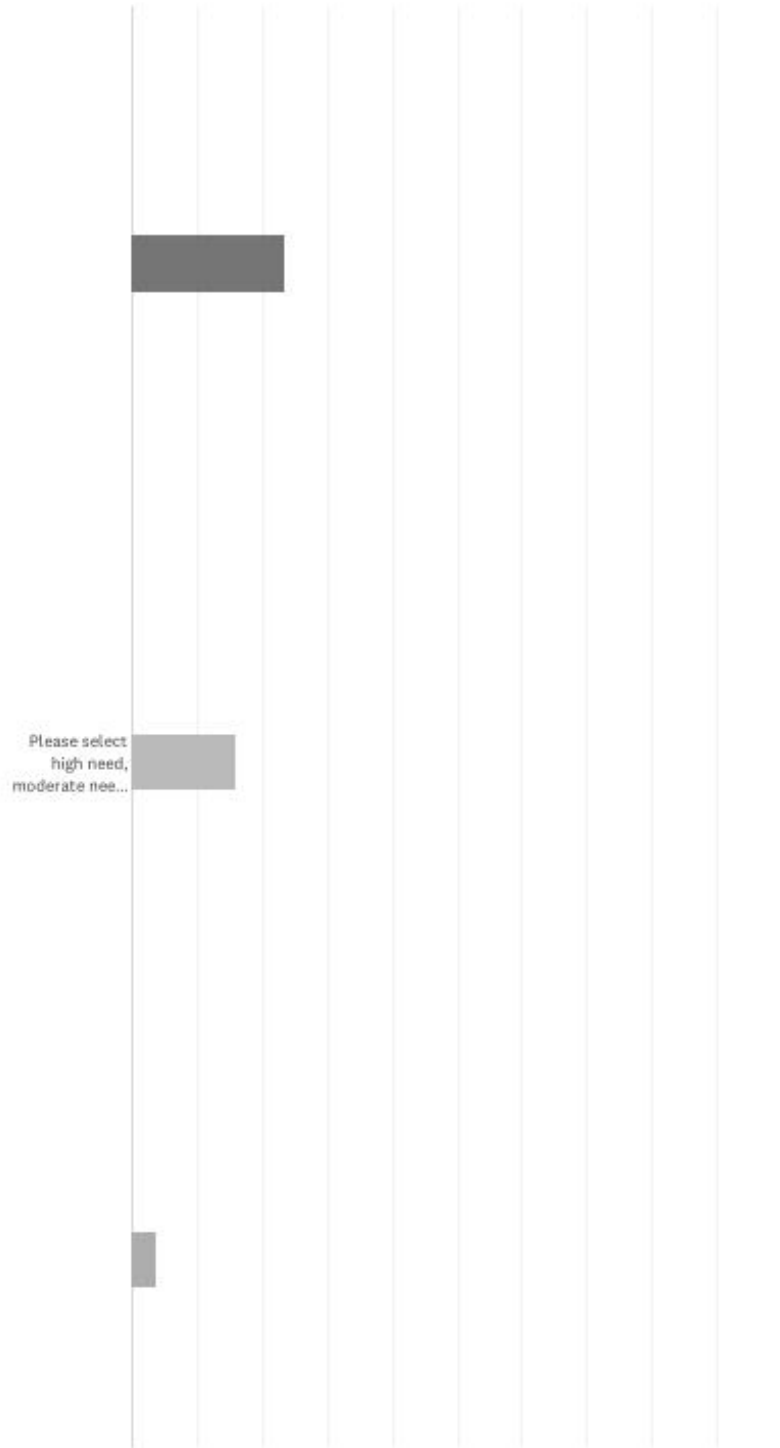


Lead paint remediation



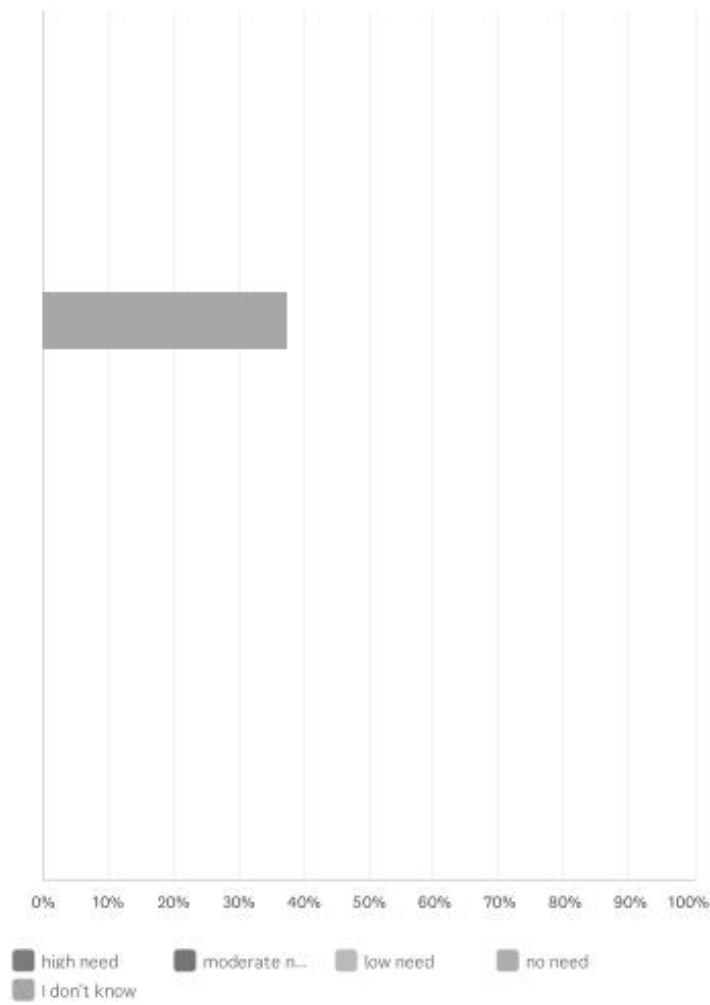
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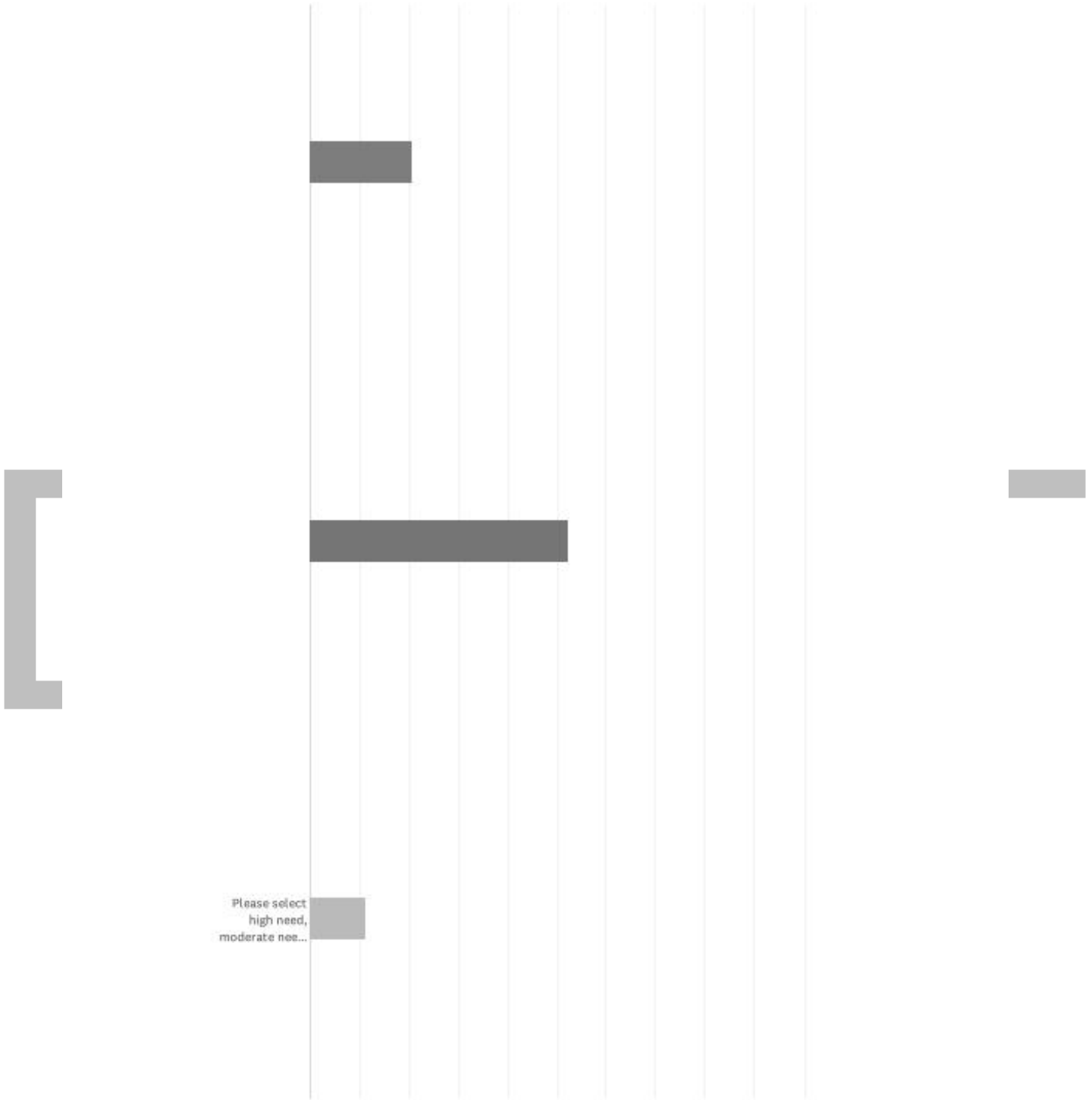


Energy efficient improvements



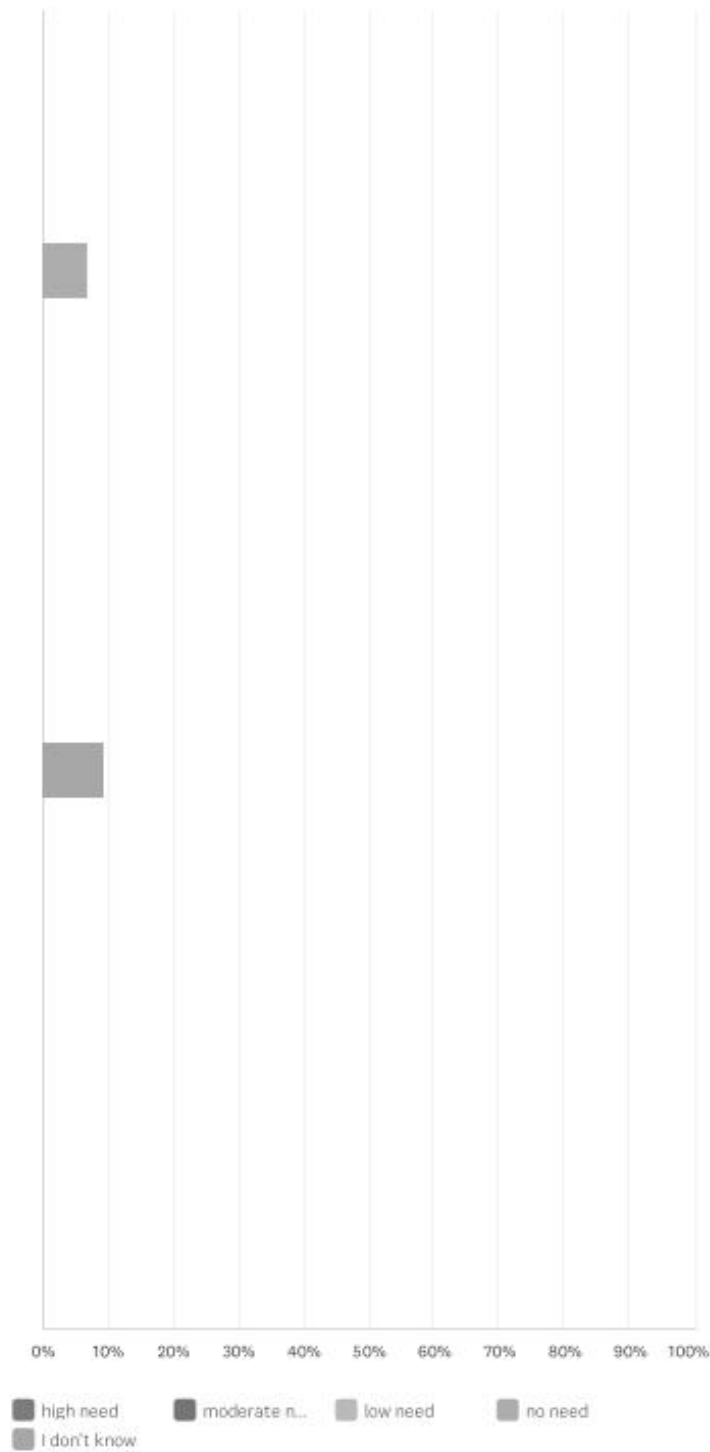
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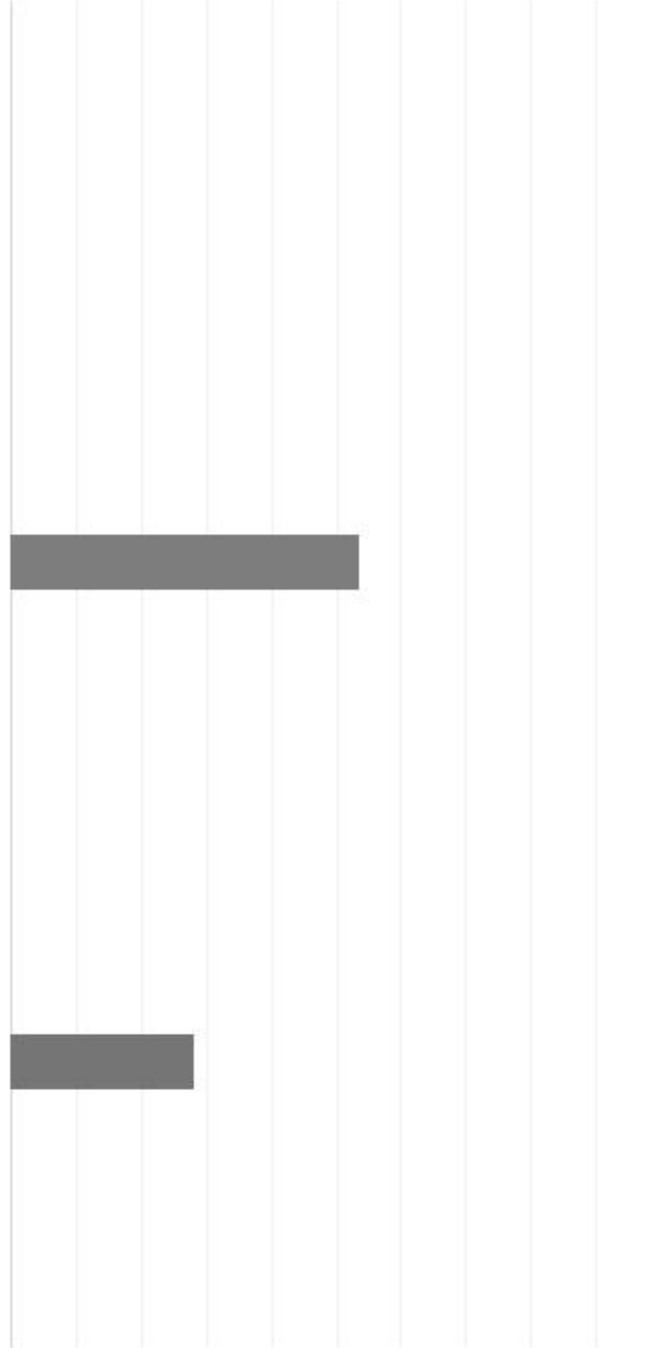
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Rental assistance programs



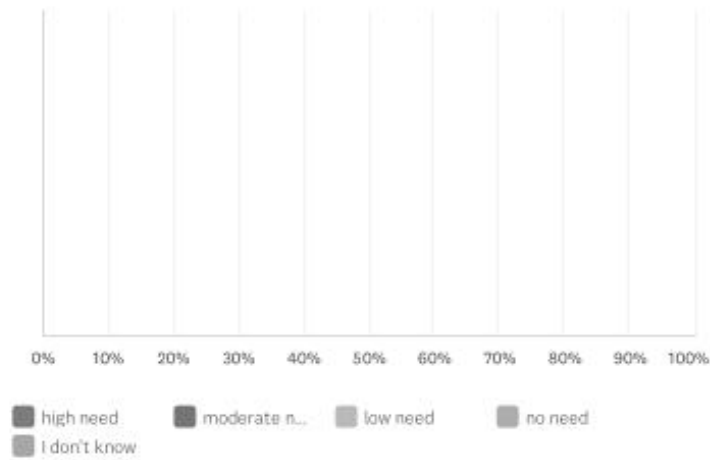
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Please select
high need,
moderate need...

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Homelessness prevention programs and eviction support programs



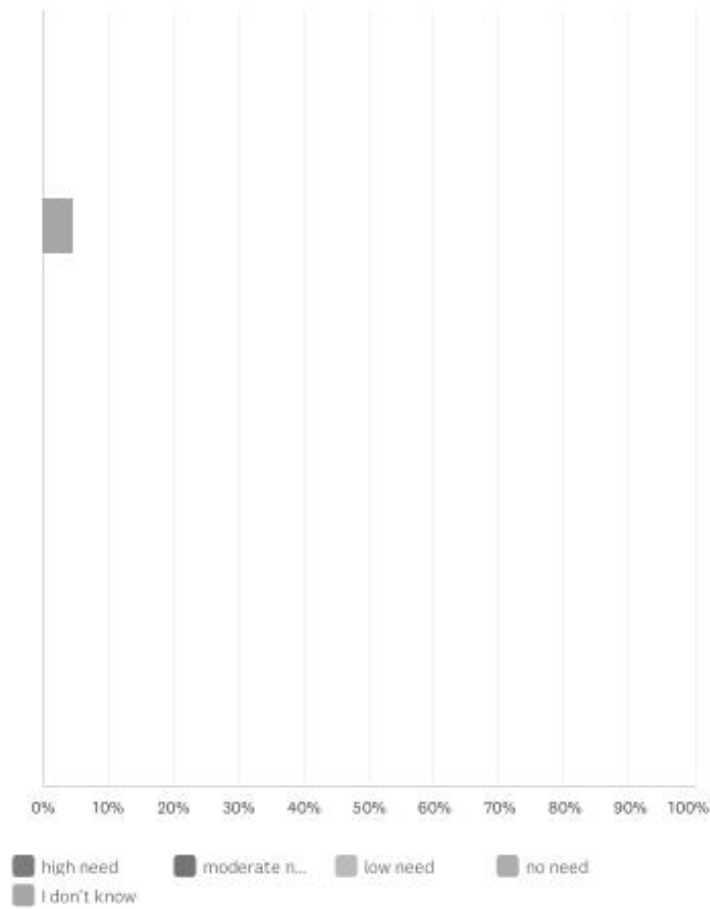
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Please select
high need,
moderate nee...

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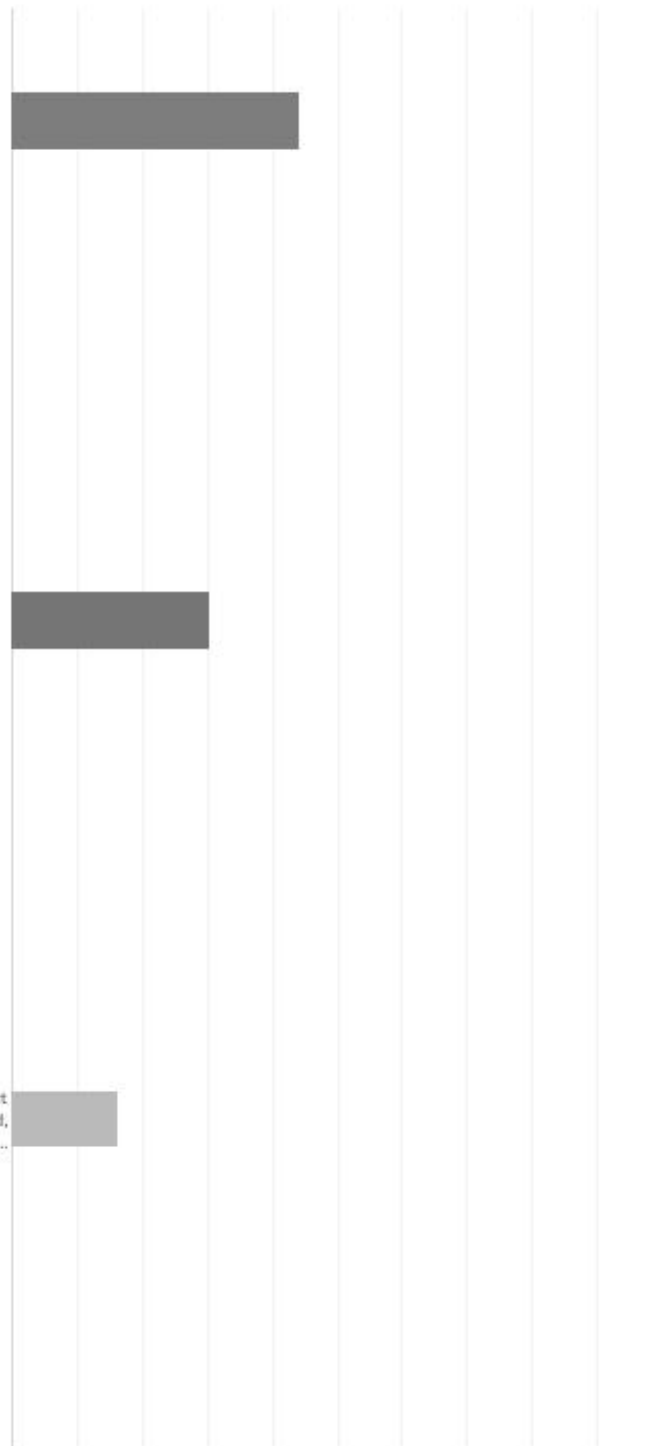


First time homebuyer programs



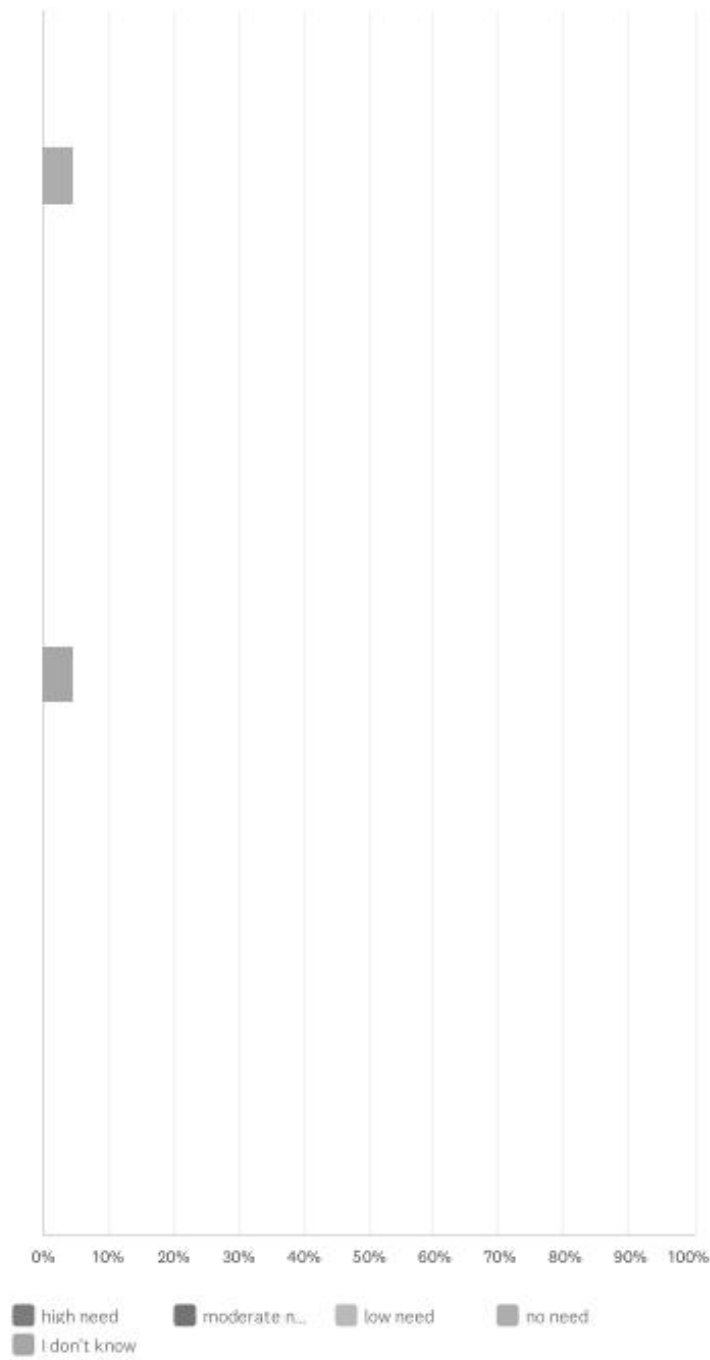
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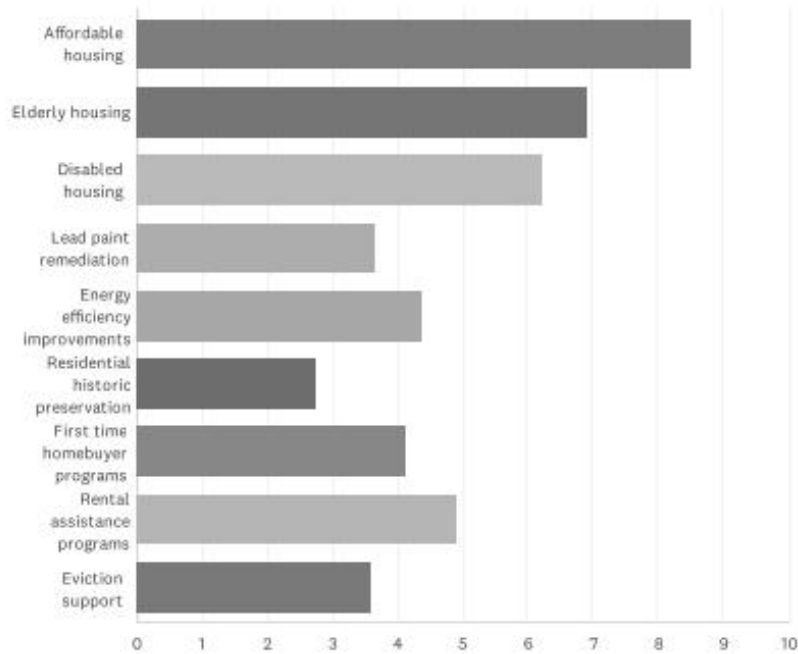
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Affordable housing						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	88.06% 59	7.46% 5	1.49% 1	2.99% 2	0.00% 0	67
Elderly housing						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	38.98% 23	40.68% 24	10.17% 6	1.69% 1	8.47% 5	59
Disabled housing						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	40.35% 23	29.82% 17	10.53% 6	1.75% 1	17.54% 10	57
Housing rehabilitation						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	57.89% 33	26.32% 15	7.02% 4	1.75% 1	7.02% 4	57
Lead paint remediation						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	19.64% 11	23.21% 13	16.07% 9	3.57% 2	37.50% 21	56
Energy efficient improvements						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	20.45% 9	52.27% 23	11.36% 5	6.82% 3	9.09% 4	44
Rental assistance programs						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	53.49% 23	27.91% 12	4.65% 2	6.98% 3	6.98% 3	43
Homelessness prevention programs and eviction support programs						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	72.09% 31	13.95% 6	4.65% 2	4.65% 2	4.65% 2	43
First time homebuyer programs						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	44.19% 19	30.23% 13	16.28% 7	4.65% 2	4.65% 2	43

Q11 Please rank the following housing and homelessness services in order from most important to least important:

Answered: 66 Skipped: 28



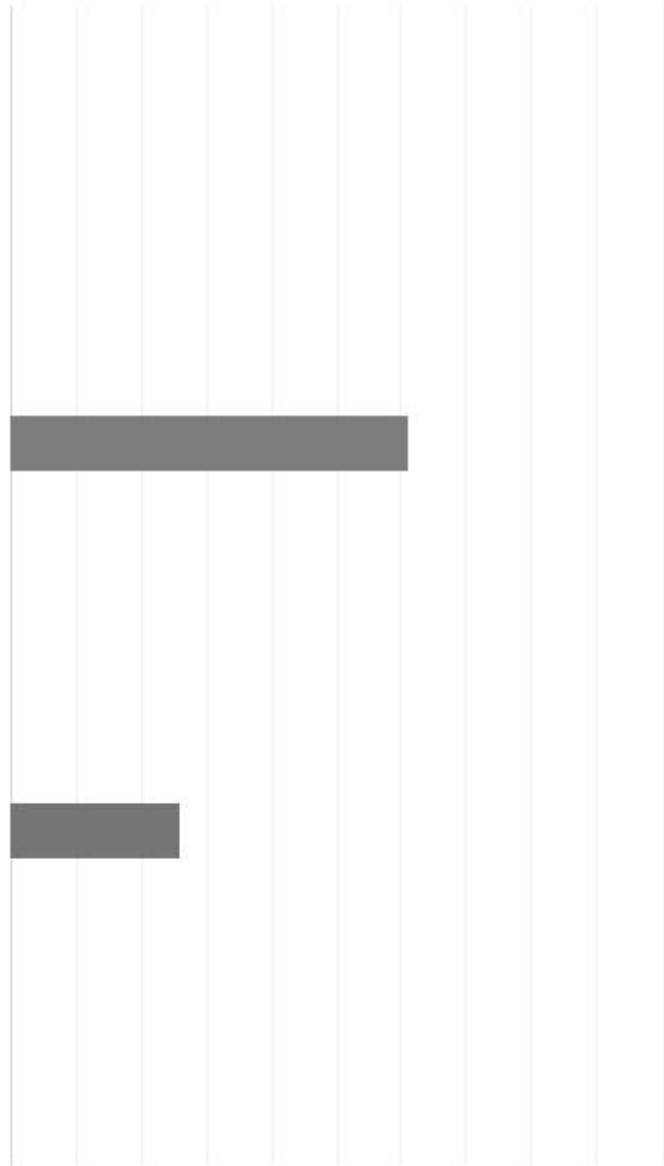
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	SCORE
Affordable housing	78.79% 52	9.09% 6	4.55% 3	3.03% 2	1.52% 1	0.00% 0	3.03% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	66	8.48
Elderly housing	9.09% 6	36.36% 24	16.67% 11	18.18% 12	13.64% 9	4.55% 3	1.52% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	66	6.89
Disabled housing	1.52% 1	13.64% 9	37.88% 25	18.18% 12	15.15% 10	9.09% 6	3.03% 2	1.52% 1	0.00% 0	66	6.21
Lead paint remediation	0.00% 0	1.52% 1	4.55% 3	13.64% 9	13.64% 9	18.18% 12	13.64% 9	22.73% 15	12.12% 8	66	3.65
Energy efficiency improvements	6.06% 4	1.52% 1	4.55% 3	12.12% 8	21.21% 14	21.21% 14	13.64% 9	15.15% 10	4.55% 3	66	4.38
Residential historic preservation	0.00% 0	1.52% 1	3.03% 2	4.55% 3	1.52% 1	21.21% 14	19.70% 13	15.15% 10	33.33% 22	66	2.76
First time homebuyer programs	3.03% 2	10.61% 7	6.06% 4	12.12% 8	6.06% 4	6.06% 4	28.79% 19	16.67% 11	10.61% 7	66	4.12
Rental assistance programs	1.52% 1	19.70% 13	10.61% 7	9.09% 6	18.18% 12	6.06% 4	10.61% 7	19.70% 13	4.55% 3	66	4.91
Eviction support	0.00% 0	6.06% 4	12.12% 8	9.09% 6	9.09% 6	13.64% 9	6.06% 4	9.09% 6	34.85% 23	66	3.59

Q12 Based on your own experiences and the experiences of people you know, to what degree is there a need for the following infrastructure improvements in Pittsfield

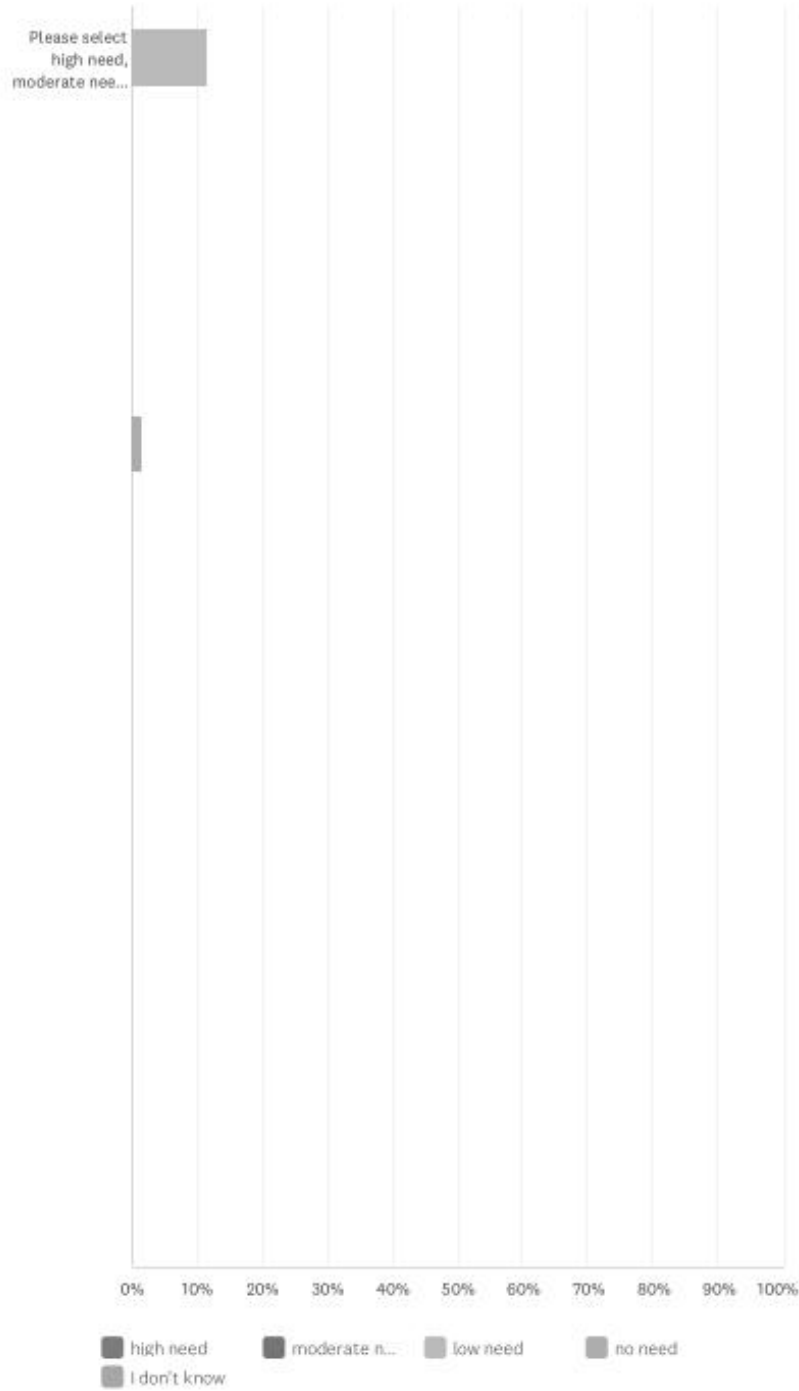
Answered: 69 Skipped: 25

Streets and sidewalks improvements



51 / 74

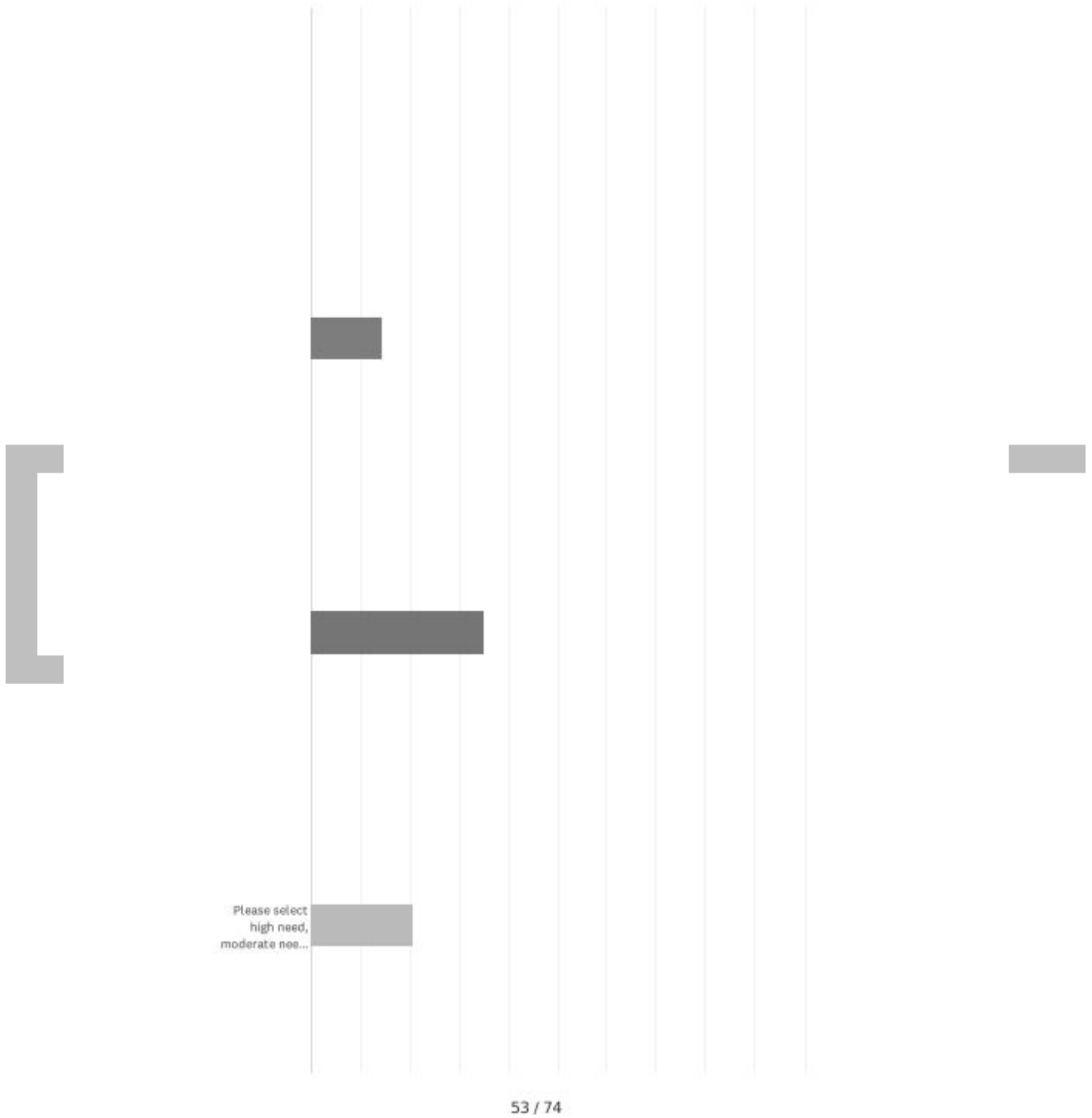
Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey



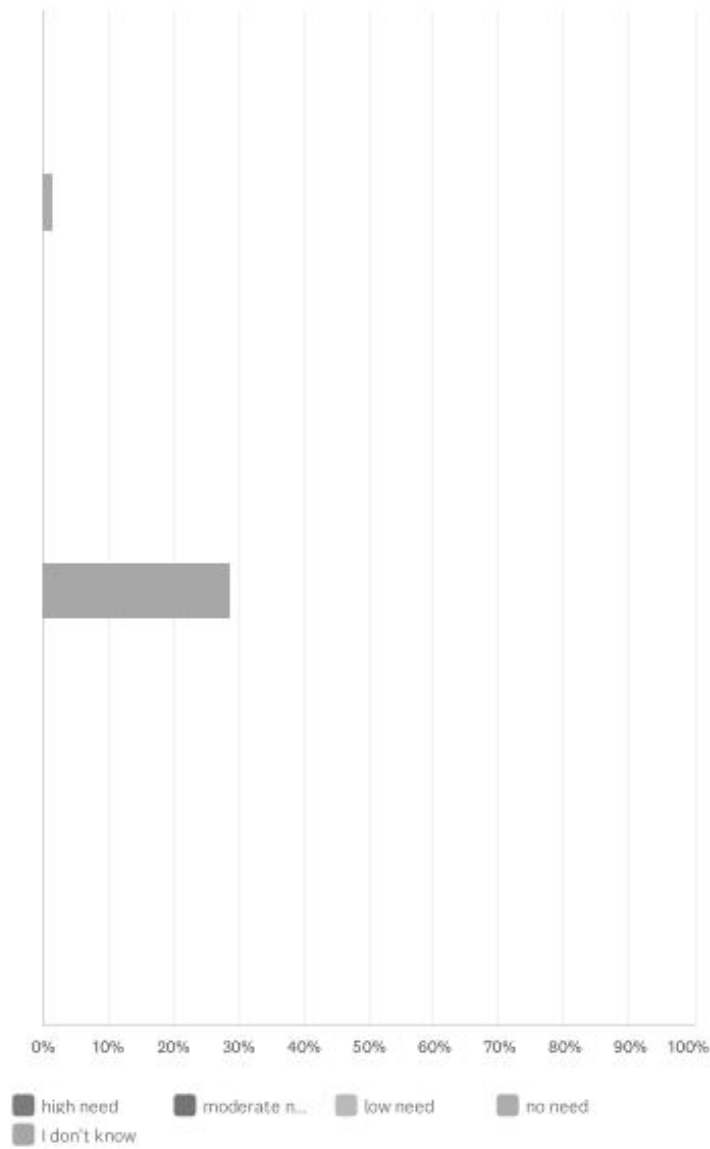
Sewer improvements

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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

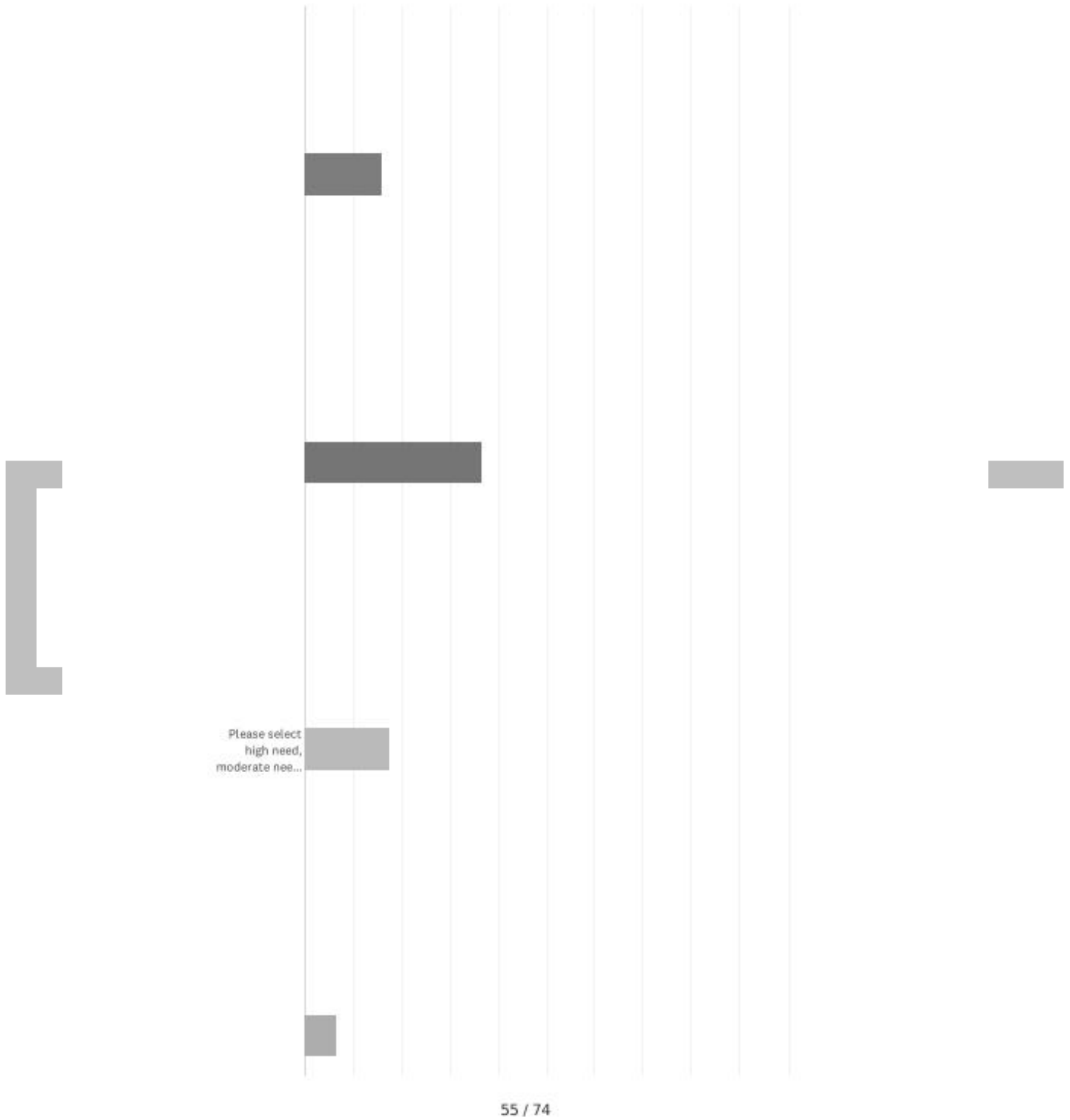


Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

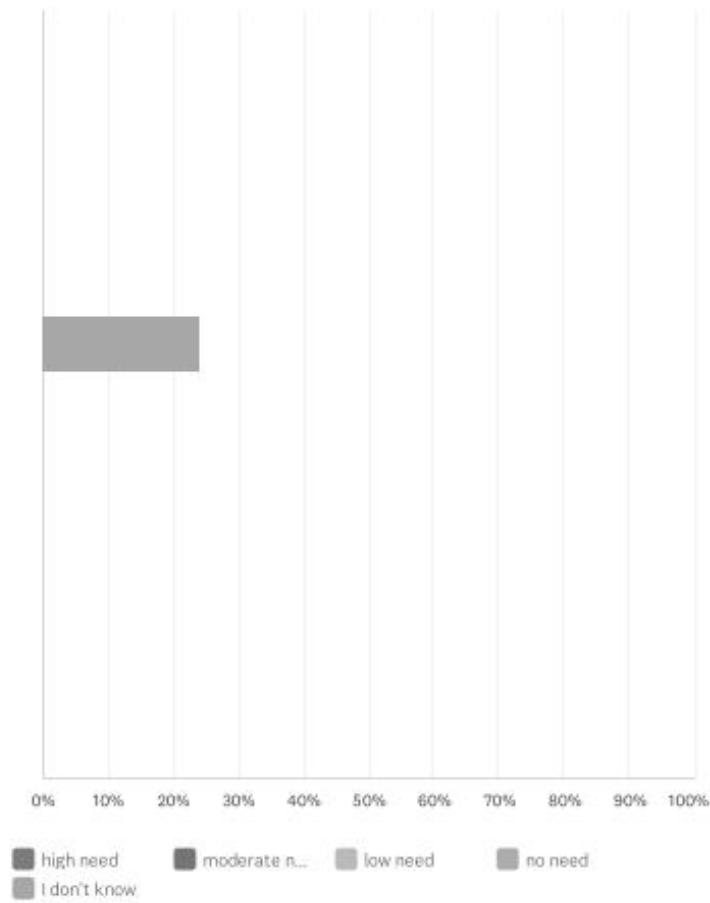


Stormwater and flood mitigation

Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey



Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

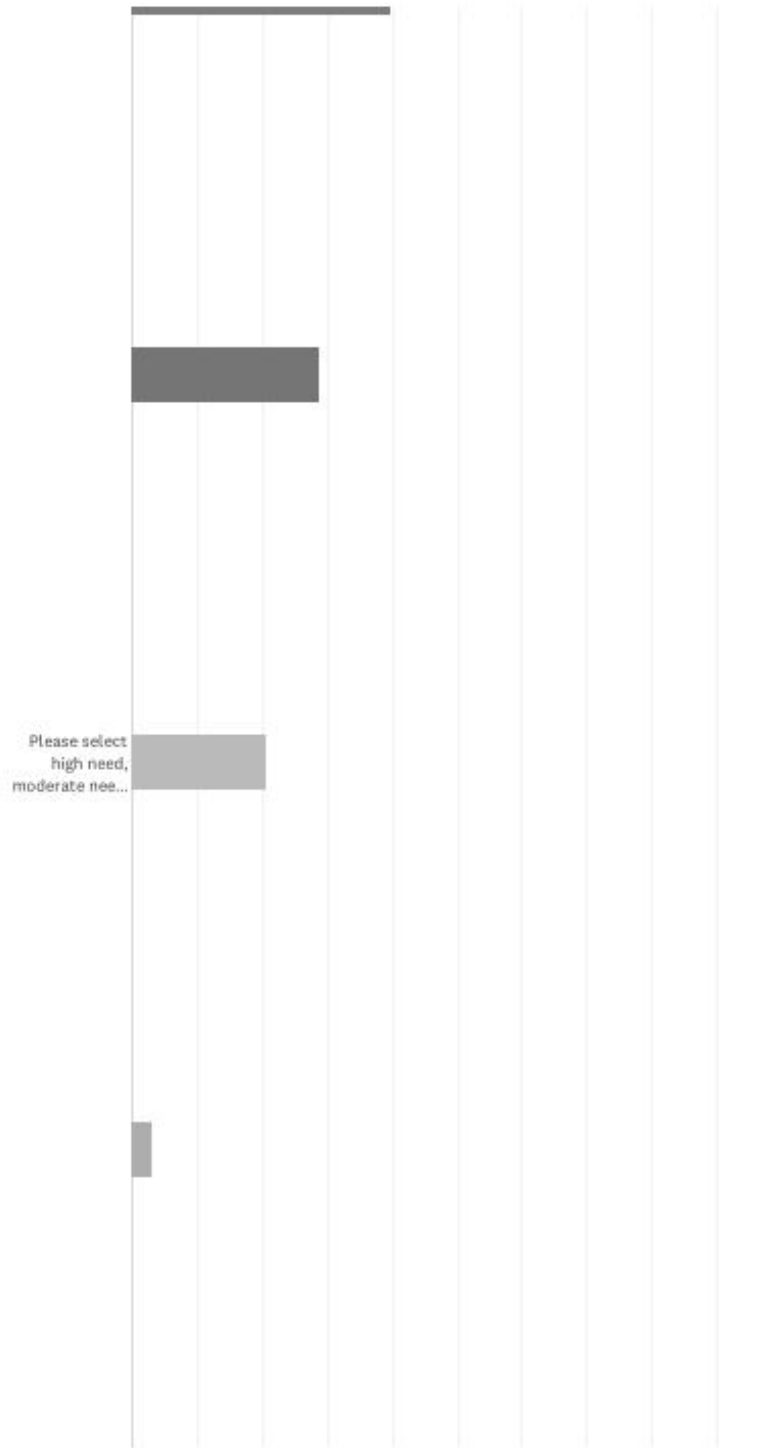


Broadband infrastructure



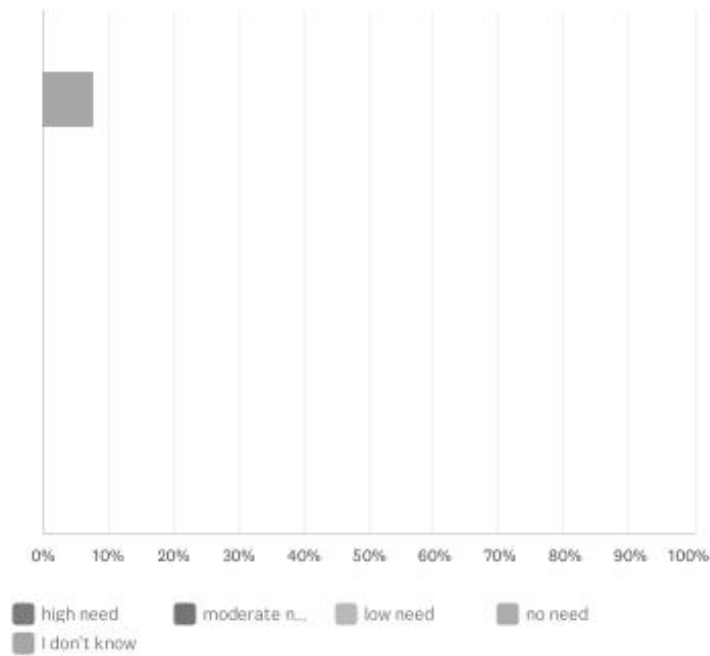
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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

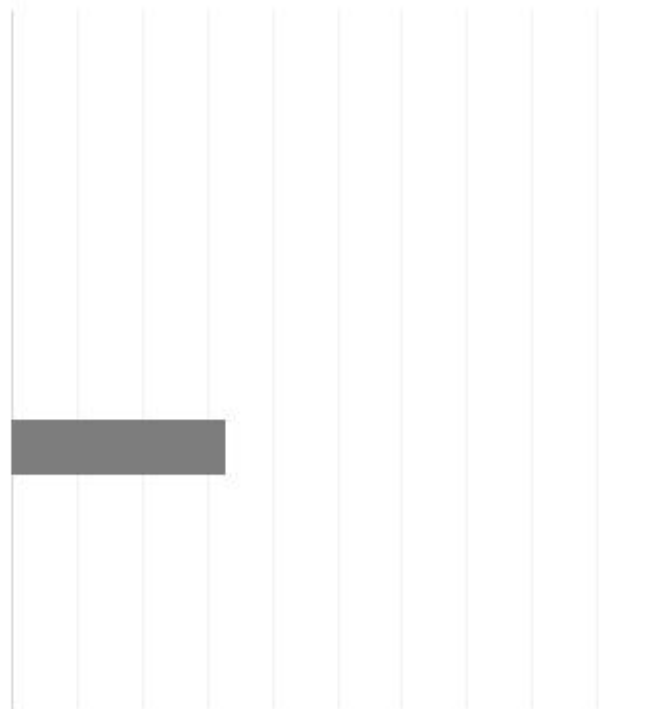


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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

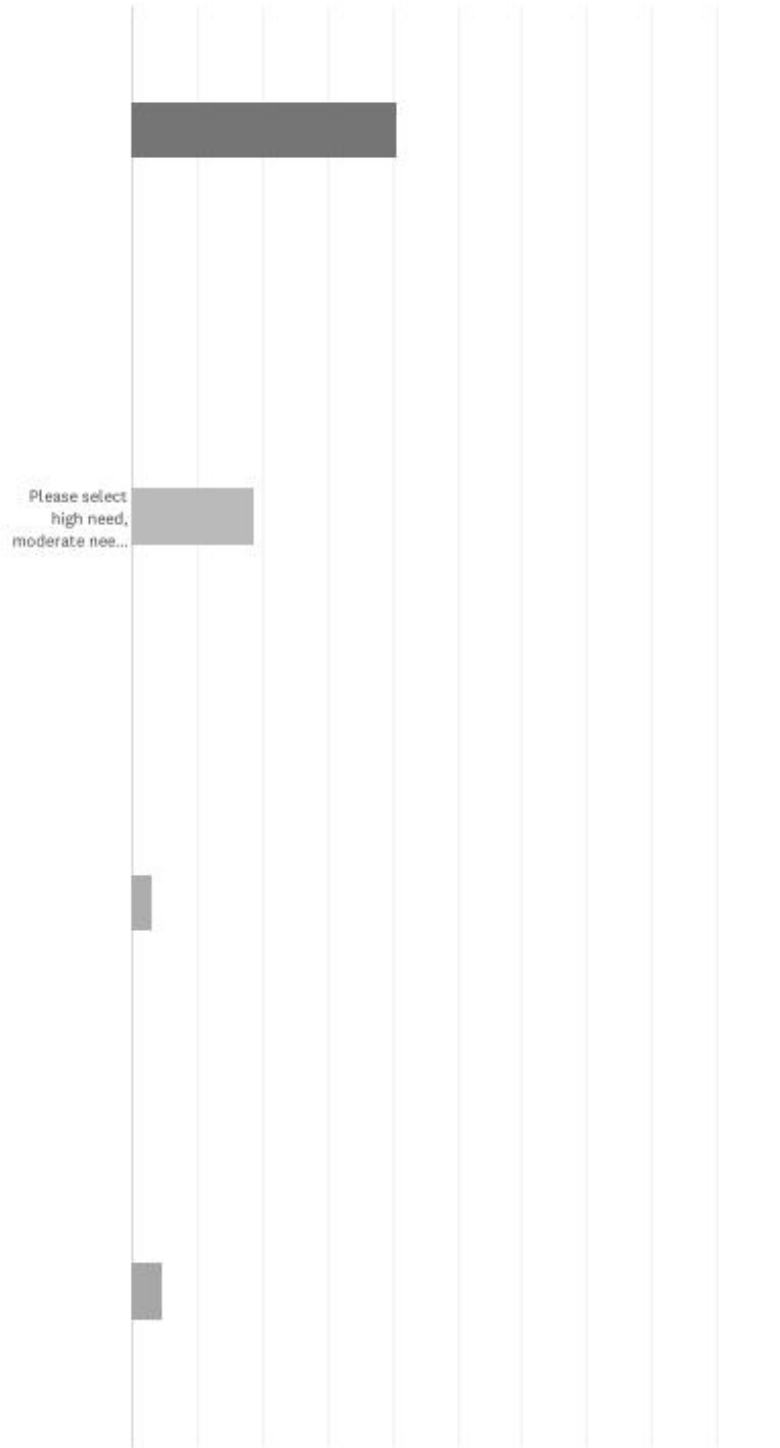


Parks and recreational areas



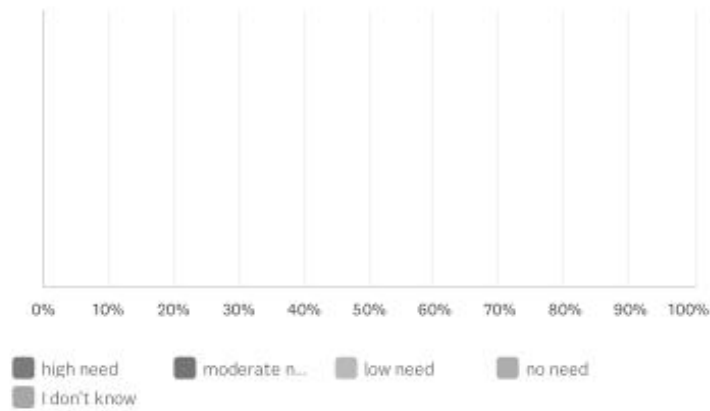
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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

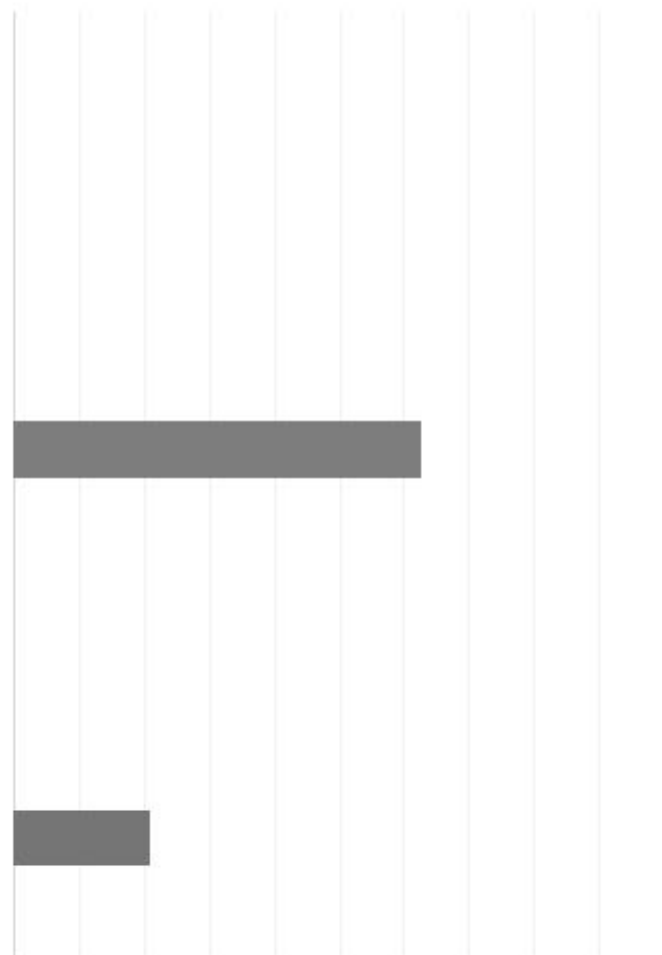


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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey



Public school building improvements



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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

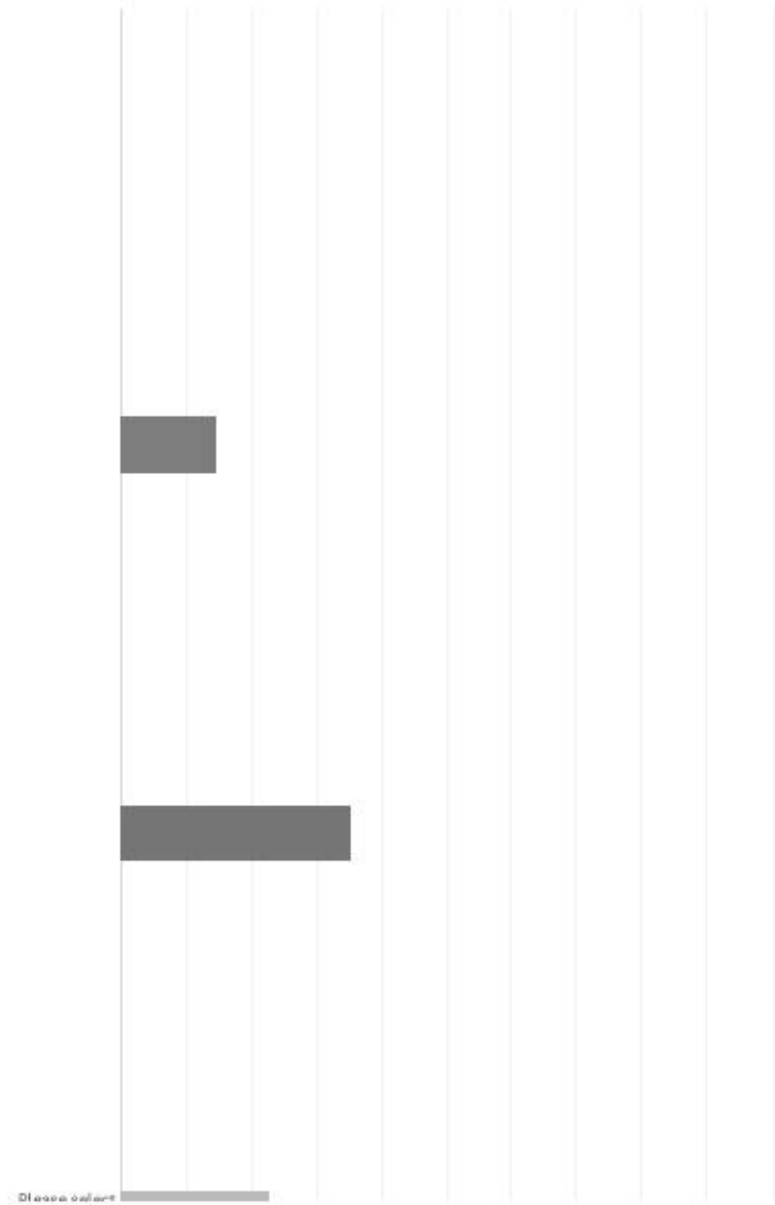
Please select
high need,
moderate need...

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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

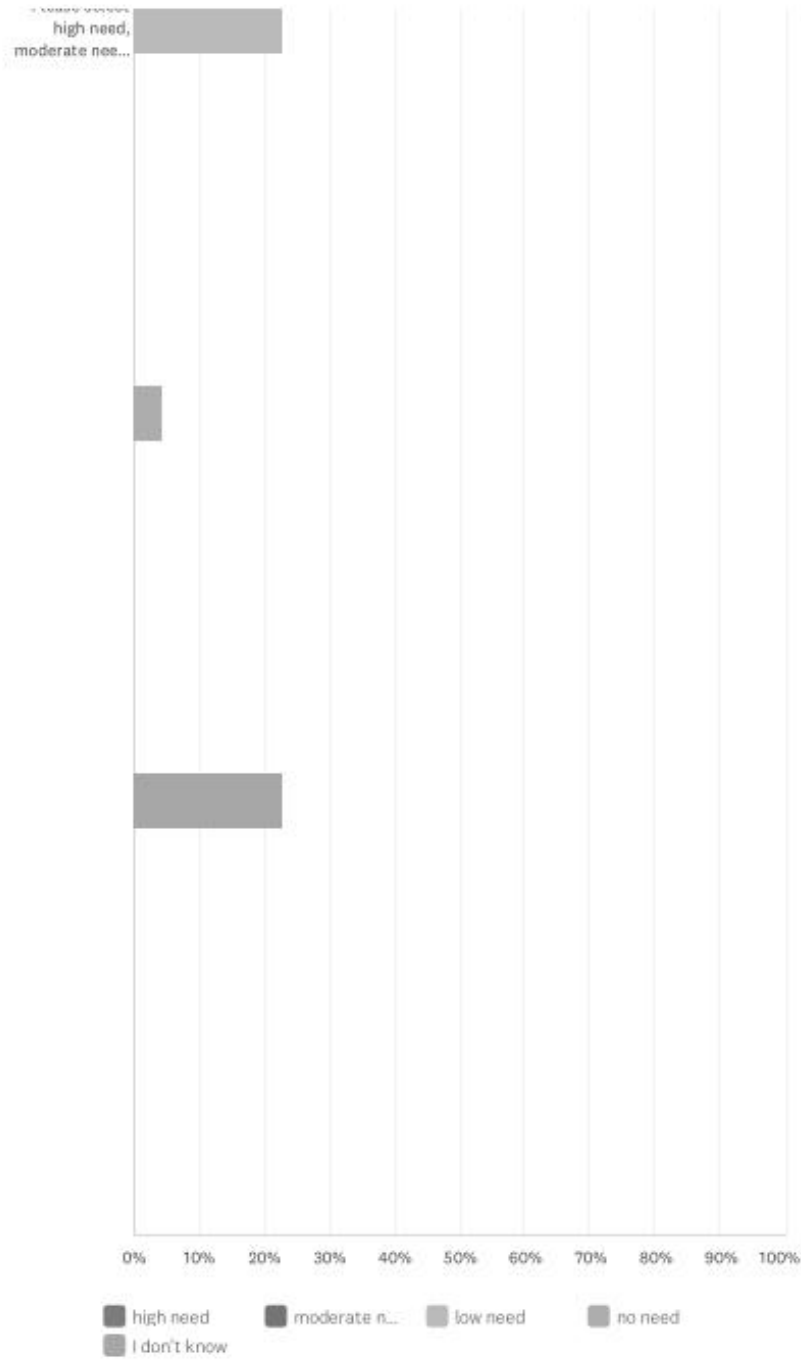


Municipal facilities improvements



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Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

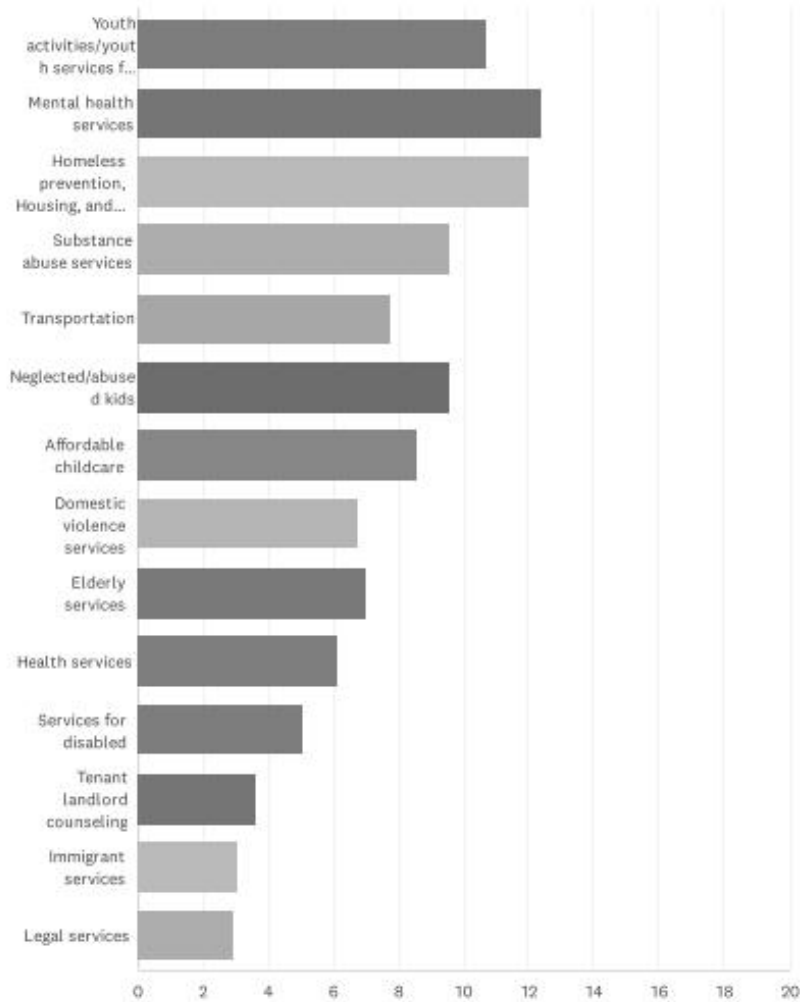


Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

Streets and sidewalks improvements						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	60.87% 42	26.09% 18	11.59% 8	1.45% 1	0.00% 0	69
Sewer improvements						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	14.29% 9	34.92% 22	20.63% 13	1.59% 1	28.57% 18	63
Stormwater and flood mitigation						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	15.87% 10	36.51% 23	17.46% 11	6.35% 4	23.81% 15	63
Broadband infrastructure						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	39.68% 25	28.57% 18	20.63% 13	3.17% 2	7.94% 5	63
Parks and recreational areas						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	32.81% 21	40.63% 26	18.75% 12	3.13% 2	4.69% 3	64
Public school building improvements						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	62.50% 30	20.83% 10	4.17% 2	4.17% 2	8.33% 4	48
Municipal facilities improvements						
	HIGH NEED	MODERATE NEED	LOW NEED	NO NEED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Please select high need, moderate need, low need, no need, or I don't know for each option.	14.58% 7	35.42% 17	22.92% 11	4.17% 2	22.92% 11	48

Q13 Please rank the following public service activities in order from most important (1) to least important (14)

Answered: 67 Skipped: 27

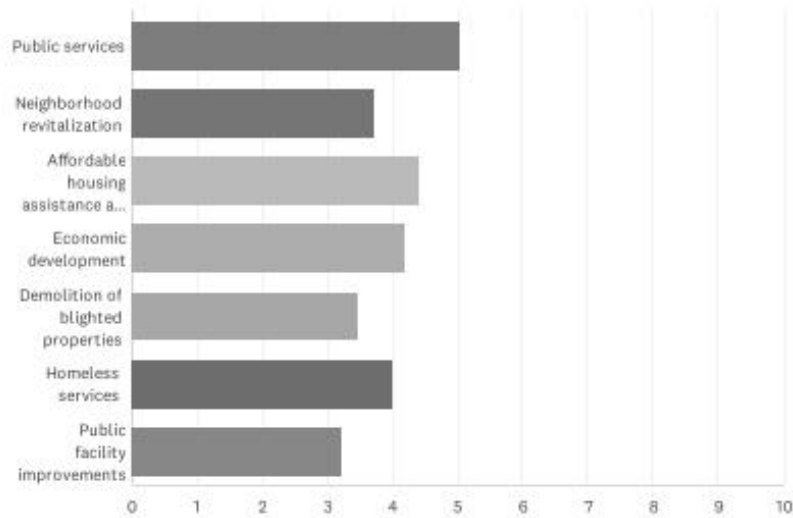


Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Youth activities/youth services for at risk youth	10.45% 7	19.40% 13	16.42% 11	14.93% 10	7.46% 5	8.96% 6	7.46% 5	7.46% 5	5.97% 4	1.49% 1	0.00%
Mental health services	29.85% 20	31.34% 21	13.43% 9	10.45% 7	7.46% 5	2.99% 2	1.49% 1	2.99% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00%
Homeless prevention, Housing, and Support services	26.87% 18	19.40% 13	23.88% 16	11.94% 8	7.46% 5	1.49% 1	4.48% 3	2.99% 2	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	0.00%
Substance abuse services	0.00% 0	4.48% 3	22.39% 15	16.42% 11	13.43% 9	10.45% 7	11.94% 8	8.96% 6	7.46% 5	1.49% 1	1.49%
Transportation	5.97% 4	1.49% 1	2.99% 2	11.94% 8	10.45% 7	14.93% 10	11.94% 8	7.46% 5	1.49% 1	10.45% 7	7.46%
Neglected/abused kids	11.94% 8	5.97% 4	5.97% 4	8.96% 6	10.45% 7	20.90% 14	14.93% 10	7.46% 5	8.96% 6	4.48% 3	0.00%
Affordable childcare	5.97% 4	7.46% 5	2.99% 2	8.96% 6	13.43% 9	8.96% 6	14.93% 10	11.94% 8	11.94% 8	4.48% 3	2.99%
Domestic violence services	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	1.49% 1	1.49% 1	5.97% 4	11.94% 8	10.45% 7	23.88% 16	14.93% 10	11.94% 8	8.96%
Elderly services	4.48% 3	1.49% 1	4.48% 3	2.99% 2	7.46% 5	4.48% 3	5.97% 4	13.43% 9	23.88% 16	14.93% 10	10.45%
Health services	1.49% 1	4.48% 3	2.99% 2	1.49% 1	4.48% 3	5.97% 4	8.96% 6	4.48% 3	8.96% 6	26.87% 18	8.96%
Services for disabled	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	1.49% 1	4.48% 3	5.97% 4	2.99% 2	2.99% 2	1.49% 1	5.97% 4	14.93% 10	37.31%
Tenant landlord counseling	1.49% 1	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	2.99% 2	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	2.99% 2	2.99% 2	5.97% 4	8.96%
Immigrant services	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	2.99% 2	4.48% 3	4.48% 3	1.49% 1	2.99% 2	2.99%
Legal services	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	2.99% 2	4.48% 3	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.48% 3	0.00% 0	10.45%

Q14 Please rank the following funding priorities in order from least important to most important:

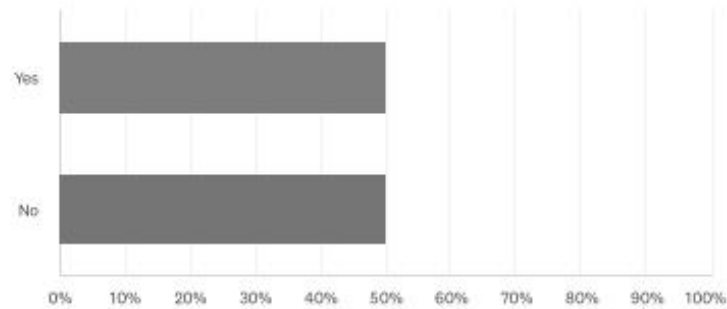
Answered: 67 Skipped: 27



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Q15 Are there other services for low-to-moderate income individuals that you feel are needed in Pittsfield but are currently unavailable?

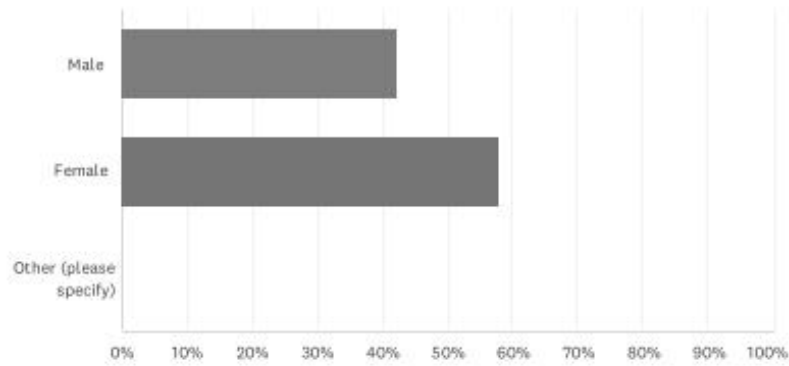
Answered: 46 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.00%	23
No	50.00%	23
TOTAL		46

Q16 What is your gender?

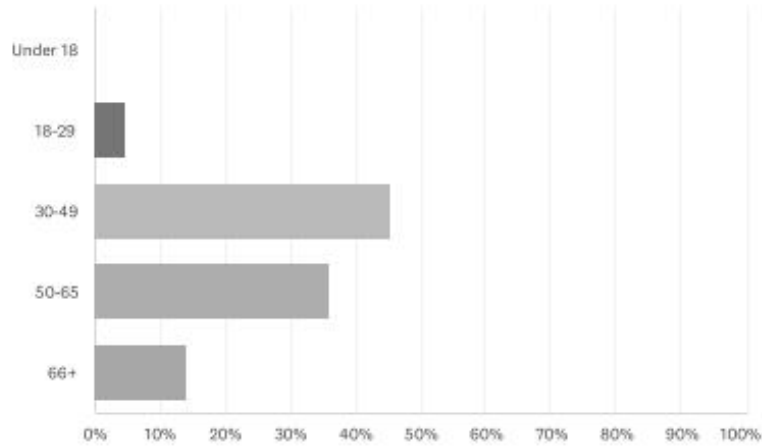
Answered: 64 Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Male		42.19%	27
Female		57.81%	37
Other (please specify)		0.00%	0
TOTAL			64

Q17 What is your age?

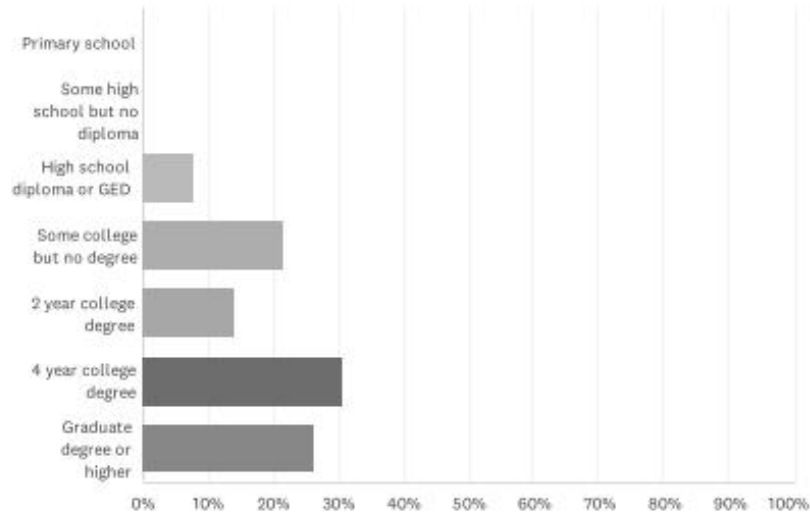
Answered: 64 Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-29	4.69%	3
30-49	45.31%	29
50-65	35.94%	23
66+	14.06%	9
TOTAL		64

Q18 What is the highest level of school you have completed?

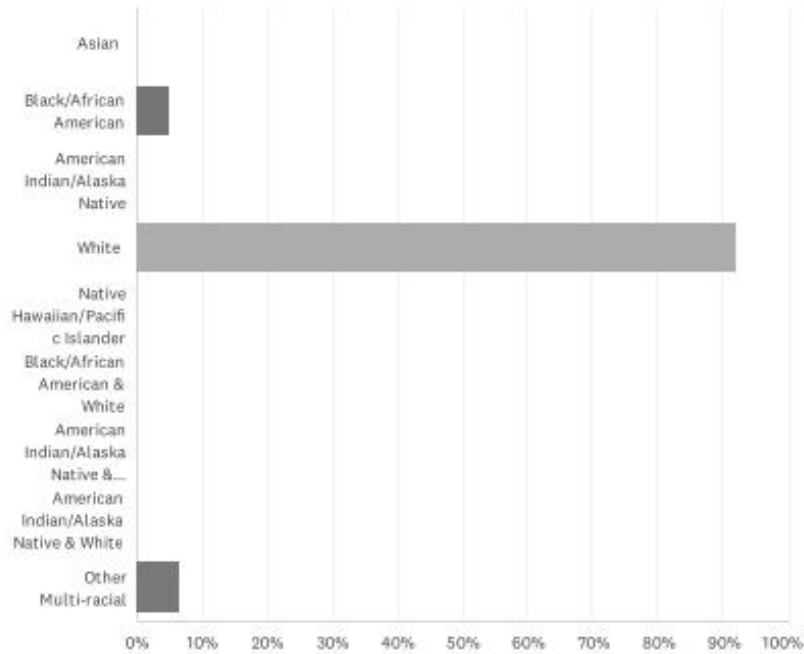
Answered: 65 Skipped: 29



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Primary school	0.00% 0
Some high school but no diploma	0.00% 0
High school diploma or GED	7.69% 5
Some college but no degree	21.54% 14
2 year college degree	13.85% 9
4 year college degree	30.77% 20
Graduate degree or higher	26.15% 17
TOTAL	65

Q19 How would you describe yourself? Please check all that apply.

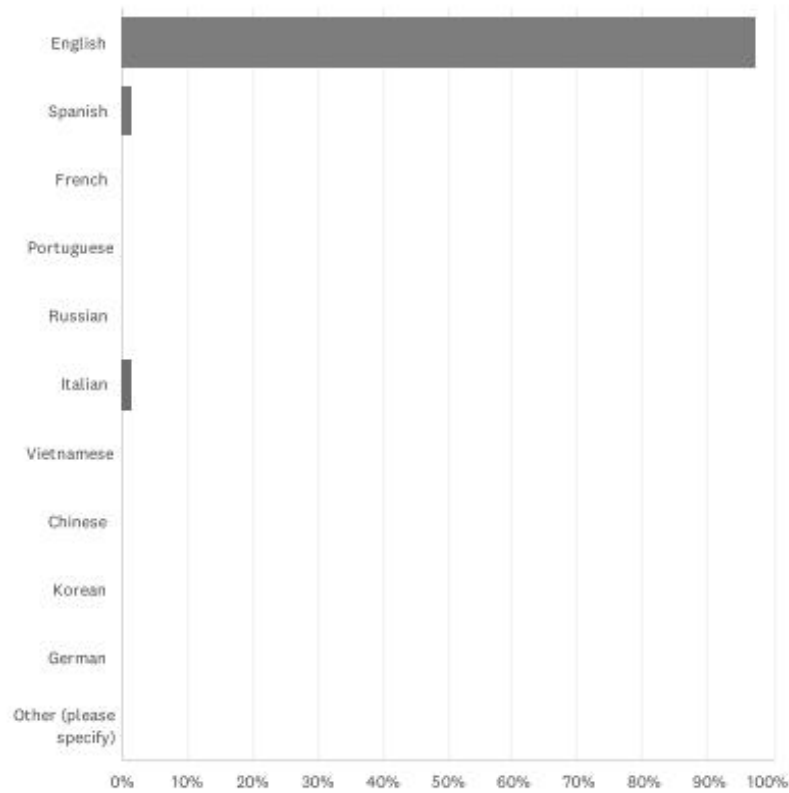
Answered: 61 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Asian	0.00%	0
Black/African American	4.92%	3
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.00%	0
White	91.80%	56
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Black/African American & White	0.00%	0
American Indian/Alaska Native & Black/African American	0.00%	0
American Indian/Alaska Native & White	0.00%	0
Other Multi-racial	6.56%	4
Total Respondents: 61		

Q20 What is your primary language spoken at home? Please choose one.

Answered: 66 Skipped: 28



Pittsfield 5 Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
English	96.97%	64
Spanish	1.52%	1
French	0.00%	0
Portuguese	0.00%	0
Russian	0.00%	0
Italian	1.52%	1
Vietnamese	0.00%	0
Chinese	0.00%	0
Korean	0.00%	0
German	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		66



Let's Improve Our Community... Together!

The City of Pittsfield Department of Community Development is seeking public input regarding the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in Pittsfield for the 2025 Annual Action Plan and 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

When: Wednesday February 26th at 6:00 PM

**Where: Berkshire Athenaeum Ground Floor Auditorium
(Pittsfield Library - 1 Wendell Avenue)**

**Childcare and
Refreshments Will Be Provided**



We want to hear your comments about issues that affect you such as:
*Housing Rehabilitation - Demolition of Vacant Buildings - Public Facilities and
Park Improvements - Economic Development - Public Service Programs*



Use this QR Code to complete a short on-line survey to tell us where you see the greatest needs in our community

If you are unable to attend the public input session, you may submit your written or oral comments by contacting the Department of Community Development, City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Room 205, Pittsfield, MA. Call (413) 499-9358 or TTY (413) 499-9340. Public comments may also be submitted by e-mail at njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org. Persons with special needs should contact the Department of Community Development and every effort will be made to accommodate your request. The five-year Consolidated Plan and the 2025 Annual Action Plan will address the needs of low and moderate-income persons and households as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.





Juntos ... Mejoramos nuestra comunidad!

El Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Pittsfield solicita la opinión del público sobre el uso de los fondos federales de la Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) en Pittsfield para el Plan de Acción Anual 2025 y el Plan Consolidado 2025-2029

Cuándo: Miércoles 26 de febrero a las 6:00 PM

Dónde: Auditorio de Berkshire Athenaeum – planta baja
(Biblioteca de Pittsfield - 1 Wendell Avenue)

Se brindará cuidado de niños y refrigerios



Queremos escuchar su opinión sobre temas que afectan su vida, tales como:
Rehabilitación de Viviendas - Demolición de Edificios Desocupados -
Instalaciones Públicas y Mejoras de Parques - Desarrollo Económico -
Programas de Servicios Públicos



Utilice el código QR para completar un breve cuestionario y decirnos dónde, para Ud. están las mayores necesidades en nuestra comunidad

Si no puede asistir a la sesión, envíe sus comentarios escritos u orales comunicándose con el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Sala 205, Pittsfield, MA. Llamando al (413) 499-9358 o TTY (413) 499-9340. Puede también enviar sus comentarios por correo electrónico a njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org. Las personas con necesidades especiales deben ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario. Haremos todo lo posible para satisfacer su solicitud. El Plan Consolidado de cinco años y el Plan de Acción Anual 2025 abordarán las necesidades de las personas y hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados, según lo requerido por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU.



MINUTES -CDBG PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
Public Hearing and Input session
Annual Plan and 5 Year Consolidated Plan Public Hearing
– FISCAL YEAR 2025
Wednesday February 26, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Berkshire Athenaeum

23 participated in the Fiscal Year 2025 CDBG public input hearing held at Berkshire Athenaeum on Wednesday evening, February 26, 2025. Of the 23 people in attendance, three were Community Development Staff, one was a representative from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and five representatives from Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity. The public input session started at approximately 6.05 p.m. A sign in sheet was used to record the names of those in attendance, a copy of which is at the end of these minutes.

Nate Joyner, Community Development and Housing Program Manager conducted the CDBG public input. The presentation was presented in English, and Spanish language interpretation was available if needed. Slides of the presentation (in English and Spanish) were handed over to attendees. This session included refreshments and pizza, and childcare.

Nate Joyner proceeded to review the attached presentation explaining CDBG funding regulations and requirements, and specific projects and activities that were carried out last year, and the ones currently being carried out. “We are looking for residents’ input about their priorities and the neighborhoods. We want to know what is important for you”.

After reviewing the presentation, Nate Joyner displayed slides that showed which projects CDBG funds were used during FY24, 2020-2024 funding priorities and the activities funded during that period.

The presentation also displayed:

- CDBG Income Limits, and a map of CDBG Eligible Areas in Pittsfield
- A slide showing the QR code to participate in a survey (in English and Spanish) to help determine Pittsfield's priority needs for CDBG funding was presented to the public.

Shortly after, the input session was opened and the following public comments regarding CDBG funding needs were received:

- Develop more accessible affordable housing/adaptable housing for people with disabilities, accessible apartments, funding for home safety improvements for people with disabilities. There’s a long waiting list for apartments, people who are in nursing homes cannot be discharged, because they do not have the possibility of going to an affordable apartment that complies with ADA rules.
- Assistance funds for landlords to make modifications to their properties to make them accessible.

- Transportation has always been a challenge in Berkshire County if you don't have a car. Often, people are not able to get to med appointments, grocery shopping, etc. There is a micro transit system program, through BRPC being looked at, that hopefully bridges the holes in our transportation system. There is no transportation on Sundays; if someone that uses a wheelchair has an emergency, how do they get somewhere with no wheelchair car services?
- Funds for home modification programs, such as ramp installation, restroom improvements, etc.
- Funding for pothole repair, crosswalks, curb cuts, and sidewalks.
- Sidewalks for kids going to school. John St. going up to Onota St. on W. Union St. When it is icy, kids walk in the middle of the road, and it is not safe. It was safe when the police did the bike ride.
- Funding to address access issues to city-owned buildings and public spaces. Work is currently underway in the library's bathrooms and parks. Funding to address 521CMR/ADA access issues, in the city-owned buildings, contained in the "ADA Plan".
- Increase parks and street lighting. Camaras in parks to increase safety, for example Durant Park is occupied all the time and needs to be safe. Westside Legends helped fund new equipment, took old equipment and did not put it back. There's no horseshoe pit, sitting park for the elderly, no park chess tables. There used to be volleyball and basketball courts, but not anymore.

Comment/response: Lighting would be considered an infrastructure. We are not allowed to do maintenance for the city with this funding. Replacing lights that are already there might not be eligible.

- Speed bumps: Onota St., Linden St., Dewey Ave., John St., Columbus Ave., West St. going down to college
- Services for youth/kids to get them off the streets, such as basketball programs.
- Funding to continue several programs through Human Service Agencies, social services (i.e. Elder Services, Literacy Program, programs for children, etc.)
- Services for the unhoused (bathrooms, showers, lockers, resource center, etc.). The Literacy Volunteers office is in the food section of the library. That section is unusable because of the unhoused and people with mental health problems. The Brien Cr. Sends recovery coaches, and different organizations send breakfast/lunch to the library for these people. Literacy Tutors used to meet with their students at the library, not anymore. We can't go to the children's or young adults' sections.
- Remove or relocate the cell tower due to reports of negative health impacts and issues affecting people and the quality of everyday life. Rehab our homes by removing the local frequency of radiation and restoring them to what they were pre-tower, resulting in making our homes healthy

and accessible to us and our neighbors. This tower is a hazard, immediate threat to health and welfare of impacted neighbors.

Questions/comments:

- Who is “the park people” and where do they meet?
The Park Commission holds regular meetings, and the city has a Park and Open Space Manager who produces parks and open space plans. Typically, there's a plan associated with infrastructure, plans are produced through processes like this.
- Where do you list what properties/buildings have been selected to be demolished?
We report on these buildings after they've been demolished. The Health Department will identify the condemned properties that need to be demolished for public safety; and we will match our funding, and we report in the fall, the activities (demolitions) for the previous year.
You won't know in advance, unless you are the property owner or a party to the demolition.
- We are planning to install a splash pad in place in Durant Park next summer, making it accessible, and improving lighting. That's why we constantly host these sessions, we want to hear from the community what we are missing. There are community members, a young generation, fighting to bring the Westside to where it used to be (Habitat).
- What is the CDBG process?
We develop a plan every year, we seek for public input to identify projects, activities, and programs to help us determine where and how we will spend the funding. We must spend these funds according to HUD's requirements: such as housing rehab, parks improvements, etc.

The City of Pittsfield will gather input from the surveys and come up with a list of priorities that get incorporated in the grant plan.

The Human Service Advisory Board helps the City identify the funding for those projects, and every year we report on these activities (Caper plan). HUD provides the funding for CDBG program, which has regulations that determine how to spend those funds on eligible activities.

We identify the priority needs from residents through this process, but not every activity is going to be funded. We have a max cap for each category. We receive approx. 1 million, we have to break it up between 6 categories, and many projects. These funds are not going to solve every problem in the community. We have to talk to HUD and say “We identify this project, could it be eligible under this or that category?”. If it is, we'll fund it. If it is not, we can't. We also communicate with other departments so that they are aware of the concerns that were brought up.

Draft Plan will be available on City's website on April 21st. 30 Day-comment period will be from April 22nd to May 23rd, 2025. The public hearing at the City Council subcommittee on the proposed Annual Action Plan and 5-Year Consolidate Plan will be on May 12th at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Nate Joyner thanked everyone for the attendees' participation and comments. The CDBG public input meeting ended at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Input From Pittsfield Commission on Disabilities on Use of CDBG Funds for Annual Report

1. We need more permanent and accessible Single-Room Occupancy housing, for the homeless, where the first year of rent is free. The second year, the rent is 10% of the renter's monthly income. The third year is 20% of the renter's monthly income and the fourth year the rent is 30% of the renter's monthly income. It levels off at this. This is a graduated system of rent and priority should be given to individuals who are from or long-term residents of Pittsfield/the Berkshires. These renters (as they desire) can also avail themselves of area housing services. In other words, they must have monthly contact with their housing/ service advocate, so they can remain housing successfully and be personally stable.

2. We need more affordable (not the state/federal definition of) apartments (1, 2 & 3-bedroom units) that are 521CMR/ADA accessible and non-accessible, with no minimum or maximum income limits/requirements. Remember, affordable (for persons with income of a total of \$1000-1700 per month) really means rents of no more than \$500-\$850 per month. (Monthly rents are increasing to the point that people, who work in the city, can't afford to live here.) Rental subsidies like Section 8 or MHV (MA Housing Vouchers) take more than 7 years to obtain, so these can't be counted on, unless more of them can be sent to Berkshire County. Hence, we could use more monetary funding for resources like RAFT to help households come up with first, last and security to move into new units. Most landlords and housing agencies/organizations currently require this.

3. We need funding for new and repair of sidewalks, curb cuts/ramps and streets throughout Pittsfield. (This includes private developments, which end up eventually requesting city services.) There are some streets that cause damage to the vehicles that traverse them. Hence, we need funding for pothole repair. We also need funding for crosswalks and signalization (including the auditory kind).

4. We need to continue to insure that there remains city funding to address 521CMR/ADA access issues, in the city-owned buildings, contained in the "ADA Plan."

5. We need funding for 521CMR/ADA access to all public buildings, businesses, parks and recreational facilities, programs and services. We also need funding to continue the program through a number of Human Service Agencies (ie: AdLib, Inc., UCP of Western Massachusetts, Elder Services and more) and the Dept. of Community Development that allows homeowners to make their homes more disability accessible with ramps, entrances, doorways, bathrooms and more.

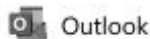
We still need funding to improve our transportation system. Recently, the BRTA (like the other RTAs around the state) is providing free bus and ADA paratransit services until September 2025. This is Monday-Saturday and through a special statewide grant. The BRTA, under another grant, is also providing paratransit service until 10 pm, Monday-Saturday. This late-night service will stop the end

of June, unless a strong need can be determined. We still need same-day paratransit home from the ER, after 5 pm, Monday-Sunday. The current late-night service requires 24-hour notice, (No one knows when they're going to end up in the ER.) We still need partial service from 8 am-1 pm on Sunday. Thus, allowing people to attend church or get to/from their hospitality or fast-food jobs; as well as enjoy in-person entertainment and community events/meetings. Finally, we need another paratransit company (We only have one and they close at 5 p.m.) and an accessible taxi. Remember, the Berkshires centers around jobs in the field of hospitality. This can only be maximized, with an expanded (mentioned above) transportation service.

7. Lastly and as a side note, we support funding for community gardens and the demolition of buildings, abandon by owners.

Thank you.

Submitted by June Hailer, Vice Chair & Members



Outlook

CDBG Priorities

From Alex LaValley <alexjlaValley@gmail.com>
Date Thu 2/27/2025 2:18 PM
To Joyner, Nathaniel <njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Nate,

I want to start off by saying thank you for helping to set up and lead the public hearing as Pittsfield begins its 2025 annual plan and five-year consolidated plan for CDBG funds. As a recent transplant to Pittsfield, and Berkshire County as a whole, from the Springfield area, I've been keen on getting involved to better our community so the hearing on 2/26 was a great first step for me personally.

I've taken the time to think about things I would like to see the CDBG funds used on and have compiled a list of areas, in no particular order, I think would benefit from this funding.

Westside Neighborhood

As I mentioned on 2/26, I would love to see funds being directed to the Westside area of Pittsfield in whatever capacity residents of the Westside neighborhood support or advocate for. The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded Pittsfield \$1.6M to fund a study looking at the Center Street "highway" and its potential removal, and I think utilizing CDBG funds to support the Westside would be a great runway to a larger body of work that is sure to come from the eventual findings of this study.

Morningside Neighborhood

As a resident of Morningside (46 Hull Avenue), I'd love to see CDBG funds used in the area for sidewalk/curb cut repair. As just a three-year resident of the area, it looks as though there were portions of this area that benefited from MassDevelopment's TDI program; however, there seemed to have been areas that were cut out from this district entirely. I can safely say that my street's sidewalks are in dire need of repair. A woman living on a nearby street uses a wheelchair for mobility on trips around the neighborhood with young children and she's really not able to use the sidewalks as a result of their condition and they are forced to walk in the road for much of Hull Avenue as a result. If you have not driven down Hull Avenue (or any of the

side streets between Springside and Tyler), I can say that the road is **very** tight with many folks having to park on the side due to not having driveways which, in this particular instance, is a safety issue for this family.

The TDI program on Tyler Street made that portion of Pittsfield much more walkable and the current work being done around BMC will help with walkability towards the Westside and North Street. I believe that fixing the sidewalks on streets north of Tyler Street (Hull, Stoddard, Pleasure, Myrtle, Glenwood, and Pine as examples) would only continue to aid in walkability for the residents of the area.

In the same vein of walkability, I believe the construction of community green spaces or community areas in the Tyler Street area would be beneficial. I believe I heard murmurs that a green space is being planned for the area next to the newly opened Salvo Creative so I'd love to see funds go to that if the project needs funding assistance. It would allow Tyler Street to have a place for people to gather and connect which would only benefit the community to become more resilient.

Housing

I believe utilizing CDBG funds for various functions centered around housing would be beneficial. As you know, we're facing a housing crisis in Massachusetts for multiple reasons such as: older, dilapidated housing stock; the inability for younger families to purchase homes leading them to staying in smaller apartments which can be better used by couples with no children/single individuals (for context 49,000 households are overcrowded in MA and 400,000 adults currently live with their parents in MA according to the 2025-2029 housing report by the Healey administration); energy costs; and labor costs.

With all of that in mind, I am in favor of this money being used towards home rehabilitation efforts, home energy efficiency improvements, and homeownership assistance. Alleviating the stresses of older housing stock and housing insecurity, energy costs, and home ownership will, in my opinion, help residents of Pittsfield to have more bandwidth and energy to connect with their neighbors and build stronger, more resilient communities. Home ownership, in particular, is something that can help create a sense of pride in one's community as they have a stake in what happens here and can help usher in the next generation of Pittsfield residents who want to help the community make gains.

Human Services

Lastly, I am in favor of CDBG funds being used to prioritize human services, particularly services and resources for homeless individuals. Massachusetts now has the fifth largest homeless population in the country and Berkshire County has seen a spike in homelessness as

seen in yearly PIT counts. CDBG funds used to counteract or, at the very least, slow homelessness rates in Pittsfield would be an extremely positive use of funds.

I want to say thank you for taking the time to read this list and the work that you do. If you have any questions or want to highlight why CDBG funds cannot be used for anything I've mentioned (I believe everything I've listed can be used with CDBG funds but I'm always happy to have a better understanding of various programs so as to not bog down discussions with inaccurate information!) I would be happy to chat further!

Thank you again!

Alex LaValley
46 Hull Avenue



Juntos ... mejoremos nuestra comunidad!

El Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad solicita la opinión del público sobre el uso de los fondos federales de la Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) en Pittsfield para el Plan de Acción Anual 2025 y el Plan Consolidado 2025-2029.

Cuándo: Miércoles 19 de Marzo a las @ 5:30 pm

Dónde: 549 North Street. Iglesia Fuente De Salvación Misionera Inc.

Se brindará cuidado de niños y refrigerios

Queremos escuchar su opinión sobre temas que afectan su vida, tales como:
Rehabilitación de Viviendas - Demolición de Edificios Desocupados -
Instalaciones Públicas y Mejoras de Parques - Desarrollo Económico -
Programas de Servicios Públicos



Utilice el código QR para completar un breve cuestionario y decirnos dónde, para Ud. están las mayores necesidades en nuestra comunidad

Si no puede asistir a la sesión, envíe sus comentarios escritos u orales comunicándose con el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Sala 205, Pittsfield, MA. Llamando al (413) 499-9358 o TTY (413) 499-9340. Puede también enviar sus comentarios por correo electrónico a njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org. Las personas con necesidades especiales deben ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario. Haremos todo lo posible para satisfacer su solicitud. El Plan Consolidado de cinco años y el Plan de Acción Anual 2025 abordarán las necesidades de las personas y hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados, según lo requerido por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU.



THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

CONTACT:

Nate Joyner, Community Development & Housing Program Manager
Department of Community Development
(413) 499-9358
njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org

For other media inquiries:

Catherine VanBramer
Director of Administrative Services/Public Information Officer
Office of the Mayor, City of Pittsfield
(413) 499-9322
cvanbramer@cityofpittsfield.org

City of Pittsfield Seeks Public Input for Draft Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY2025 – 2029) and PY 25 CDBG Annual Action Plan

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (April 18, 2025) – The City of Pittsfield's Department of Community Development will release the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY2025 – 2029) and the PY25 Annual Action Plan on Tuesday, April 22. The Consolidated plan identifies needs and priorities for the next five-year period and the Annual Action Plan outlines how federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used to address housing and community development needs in Pittsfield for the City's 2026 fiscal year.

The Community Development office, in conjunction with the City Council's subcommittee on Community and Economic Development, will hold a public hearing on May 12 at 6:00 p.m. on the proposed five-year Consolidated Plan, the CDBG program budget and draft PY 2025 Annual Action Plan. The public hearing will be held at City Hall, located at 70 Allen Street, in the City Council Chambers.

The hearing is part of a 30-day public review process that is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides an opportunity for public input on the draft plan. Through what HUD terms an entitlement grant, HUD provides the city with CDBG funding on an annual basis. The 30-day public review and comment period runs from Wednesday, April 23, 2025, until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025.

The draft PY 2025 Annual Action Plan proposed budget of \$2.19 million consists of \$1.25 million in estimated new CDBG funds and \$130,000 in expected program income and reprogrammed funds as well as an estimated \$275,000 in carryover funds and approximately \$535,000 available from the Revolving Loan Fund.

The Community Development office has proposed using CDBG money during the upcoming 2025 fiscal year for projects that include public facilities, removal of architectural barriers, public services, housing rehabilitation, economic development, clearance and demolition, planning activities, and administrative costs.

Beginning April 22, 2025, copies of the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan and PY 2025 Annual Action Plan will be available for public review in the Community Development office, and a copy of the draft document will also be posted to the city's website at www.cityofpittsfield.org/departments/community_development/community_development_and_housing/index.php

If residents are unable to attend the public hearing, they may submit their written comments to Community Development at any time during the 30-day comment period via email at njoyner@cityofpittsfield.org or by mail to the Department of Community Development, 70 Allen St., Room 205, Pittsfield, MA, 01201. Persons with special needs should contact Community Development at (413) 499-9368 or TTY 413-499-9340 prior to the public hearing and every effort will be made to accommodate their requests.

###

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**CITY OF PITTSFIELD
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED FIVE YEAR (2025 - 2029) PLAN AND
PY 25 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

HUD PROGRAM YEAR 2025 / CITY FISCAL YEAR 2026

On or about May 30, 2025, the City of Pittsfield, acting by and through its Department of Community Development, will submit its Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY 2025 – 2029) and Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year (PY) 2025 which is also City Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A 30-day public comment period and public hearing periods has submitted and are detailed in this notice.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PY 2025 – 2029

The purpose of this plan is to present the City's anticipated housing and community development needs over a five-year period and describe how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other public and private funds will be used to address those needs.

The Consolidated Plan addresses priority needs in the following major areas:

- **Homeslessness:** Homeless needs, homeless inventory.
- **Non-Homesless Special Needs:** Human services, non-homeless special needs populations.
- **Housing:** Affordable housing, substandard housing, cost-burdened homeowners and tenants, lead-based paint, housing needs, housing market analysis, public housing.
- **Non-Housing Community Development:** Infrastructure, park improvements, and economic development.

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The Annual Action Plan specifies how federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be used to address housing and community development needs, as presented in the five-year Consolidated Plan PY 2025-2029 (FY 2026-2030). The ranges of eligible activities to be undertaken in PY 2025 include the following:

- Public Facilities
- Accessibility Improvements
- Public Services
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Economic Development
- Clearance and Demolition
- Planning
- Administration

The Annual Action Plan includes a budget for the City's anticipated 2025 fiscal year allocation of \$1,250,000 in CDBG funds plus program income and reprogrammed funds from prior years. The proposed PY 2025 CDBG budget will cover the time period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. CDBG funds are provided annually to the City of Pittsfield through an entitlement grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Proposed expenditures are estimates and programs are subject to modification pending final budget allocation from HUD and public review. In the event actual funding awards or carryover funds at end of fiscal year differ from the projected estimates below the proposed budget will be adjusted to accommodate any increases or reductions, proportionally if possible or by prioritizing the Housing Rehabilitation activity as necessary. The proposed budget is as follows:

PROPOSED SOURCES OF FUNDS

CDBG GRANT FY25

\$1,250,000

PUBLIC REVIEW AND HEARING

A 30-day public review and comment period for the Consolidated Plan (FY 2025 – 2029) and FY 25 Annual Action Plan is in effect from April 23, 2025 through May 23, 2025. Comments may be submitted to the Department of Community Development, 70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201, until 4:00 p.m., on May 23, 2025. The Pittsfield City Council's Committee on Community and Economic Development will hold a public hearing on the draft Annual Action Plan as follows:

Date: Monday May 12, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Pittsfield City Hall, City Council Chambers

The City shall consider any comments or views received verbally or in writing in preparing the final Consolidated Plan/Action Plan. A summary of any comments or views, including those not accepted and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the final Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan and transmitted to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in accordance with federal regulations and the Citizen Participation Plan.

The draft FY 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and FY 2025 Annual Action Plan will be available during the 30-day public comment period on the City's website at www.cityofpittsfield.org/departments/community-development. To obtain a copy of the plan, contact the Department of Community Development (413) 499-9366 or TTY (413) 499-9340. If residents are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments may be submitted at any time during the 30-day comment period by email at njaguer@cityofpittsfield.org or mailed to the office address above. Persons with special needs should contact Community Development at (413) 499-9366 or TTY 413-499-9340 prior to the public hearing and every effort will be made to accommodate their requests.

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN

The City certifies that it is following a consistent and continuous displacement and relocation assistance plan providing for a one-for-one replacement and relocation assistance. Relocation benefits and assistance to all eligible persons and businesses displaced as a result of program activities shall be administered pursuant to the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (the Uniform Act), as amended. In certain unusual circumstances, additional monies may be set aside to cover contingencies beyond the maximum benefits provided for in the Uniform Act.

The City shall provide reasonable benefits to those involuntarily and permanently displaced and who are not covered by the Uniform Act in accordance with Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and 24 CFR Part 42. The City does hereby define reasonable benefits as those presently contained in the Uniform Act. The source of funding for eligible relocation expenses shall be the Community Development Block Grant. In the case of demolition or rehabilitation of occupied properties, the work shall be reasonably staged so as to minimize disruption and hardship to those displaced and so as not to severely impact the neighborhood.

The City's designated Central Relocation Agency is the Department of Community Development. In the event that permanent displacement results from any housing activities, the DCU shall act as the City's relocation agent and prepare a detailed relocation plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Pittsfield Department of Community Development undertakes the temporary relocation of those families whose houses are being rehabilitated and re-leased. Temporary relocation is being done in accordance with the Uniform Act.

Peter Marchetti, Mayor, City of Pittsfield



**CITY OF PITTSFIELD
REGULAR MEETING
PITTSFIELD CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CLERK
CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MA

2025 APR 17 AM 9:13

April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Open Mic
3. Approval of April 8, 2025 minutes

APPOINTMENTS

4. A communication from Mayor Marchetti reappointing Paula Albro to the Parks Commission

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

5. A communication from Mayor Marchetti on an Order to accept a grant of funds in the amount of \$12,500.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
6. A communication from Mayor Marchetti on an Order to accept a grant of funds in the amount of \$9,800.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
7. A communication from Mayor Marchetti on an Order to accept a grant of funds in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
8. A communication from Mayor Marchetti on an Ordinance amending City Code, Chapter 2 ½, Article II, Section 2 ½ - 25 and 2 ½ - 26
9. A communication from Mayor Marchetti on two Traffic Orders amending parking regulations on Union Street
10. A communication from Mayor Marchetti on an Order to submit the City's Community Development Block Grant Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY2025-2029) and Annual Action Plan for the 2025 program year to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

PUBLIC HEARING

11. A petition from Verizon New England and Eversource to relocate one (1) jointly owned pole and to install one (1) jointly owned pole on East New Lenox Road (tabled April 8, 2025)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reports from the Ordinance and Rules Committee

12. A report from the Ordinances and Rules Committee on an Ordinance to require a background check with the Department of Children for all new hires who have contact with minors, recommending to approve 5/0 (tabled April 8, 2025)

Page 1 of 2

NEW BUSINESS

13. A petition from Councilor Persip urging the Pittsfield School Committee to release a public summary of the findings from the independent investigation into staff misconduct at Pittsfield High School

MATTERS TENTATIVELY REFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER RULE 27

Referred to the Commissioner

14. A petition from Jacquelyn Sykes requesting to improve pedestrian safety around all public schools by painting brighter crosswalks and installing flashing crosswalk signs

Referred to the Commissioner and the Traffic Commission

15. A petition from Councilor Warren requesting to resolve excessive traffic and speeding on Pine Street



THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-9321 • pmarchetti@cityofpittsfield.org

Peter M. Marchetti
Mayor

April 15, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Pittsfield
70 Allen Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Councilors,

Submitted herewith for your consideration is an Order requesting authorization to submit the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY2025 – 2029) and Annual Action Plan for the 2025 program year to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As has been the past practice, the Chairman of the Council's Committee on Community and Economic Development has agreed to host the required public hearing at a scheduled Committee meeting.

The Department of Community Development has provided each of you with the link to view the draft Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan which describe the needs and goals for the next five-year period and the proposed PY 2025 budget and activities for the CDBG funded programs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pmarchetti", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter M. Marchetti, Mayor

PMM/bmw
Enclosure



CITY OF PITTSFIELD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CITY HALL, 70 ALLEN STREET, RM 205, PITTSFIELD, MA 01201

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Peter M. Marchetti
City Hall, 70 Allen Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Mayor Marchetti:

Enclosed for transmittal to the City Council is an Order authorizing the Mayor to submit the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY2025 – 2029) and the HUD Program Year 2025 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The Five Year Consolidated Plan identifies needs and priorities for the next five year period. The 2025 Annual Action Plan contains the proposed fiscal year 2026 CDBG budget and specifically describes the activities on which these funds will be spent during the year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

The HUD regulatory process for reviewing and approving the draft plan includes a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing. Therefore, I request that the draft Annual Action Plan be submitted to the City Council for referral to its Community and Economic Development Committee for the required public hearing. The Annual Action Plan will then be referred back to the City Council for their final review prior to being submitted to HUD.

Sincerely,

Justine A. Dodds
Director

TEL: (413) 493-9366 - FAX: (413) 348-0182

No. _____

City of Pittsfield
M A S S A C H U S E T T S
IN CITY COUNCIL
AN ORDER

Ordered: **AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE 2024-2025 PROGRAM YEAR**

1. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to submit the Community Development Block Grant Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY2025 – 2029) and the PY 2025 Annual Action Plan for the 2025-2026 calendar year to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and assurances contained therein; and
2. That the Mayor is directed and authorized to act in connection with the submission of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan and to provide such additional information as may be required; and
3. That in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Director of the Department of Community Development is hereby authorized to accept said grant including payments of Program Income, if any, and shall deposit any amounts received with the City Treasurer who shall hold said amounts in separate accounts; and
4. That said grant and payments of Program Income may be expended without further appropriation, as provided for in M.G.L. Ch. 44.53A.

GRANTEE UNIQUE APPENDICES

- Additional text responses (AP-65 & AP-85)
- LMISD Map of Pittsfield FFY2024

Additional text responses (Continued from end of IDIS entries)

AP-65 – Homeless and other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

...

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

(Cont. from IDIS) Outreach capacity in Pittsfield designed to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care is provided by City staff, ServiceNet, Eliot Services and the Center for Human Development (CHD). Both Eliot Services and ServiceNet will continue to provide support to the homeless population and service providers with emphasis on engaging the chronically homeless population and unsheltered population. These agencies participate in the annual point in time count and conduct assessments on homeless individuals to assist providers in prioritizing the most vulnerable and needy. Center for Human Development (CHD) is funded through EOHLC to provide outreach services in Berkshire County and Pittsfield in PY25. CHD will continue to provide triage and outreach services for any unhoused individual seeking assistance. CHD has one staff person weekly in Pittsfield and will provide services to 10 to 20 people per month in PY2025.

Eliot Homeless Services provides clinically based outreach services to an adult homeless population with mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders in order to promote an improved quality of life by facilitating access to housing and treatment, as well as other needed resources and services. Eliot's Homeless Outreach begins with the Federal and State funded Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), which provides person-centered and trauma-informed support services to individuals with serious mental health illnesses, as well as those with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Outreach Clinicians and Engagement Specialists engage, assess, and collaboratively develop a recovery-oriented treatment plan that incorporates identified needs and preferences of the person served.

In FY2026 Eliot will support 15-20 individuals in Pittsfield, most of which were unsheltered or not in a homeless shelter (living in cars, sheds, or motels). Eliot Services will provide treatment and/or access to needed resources and services by promoting stable relationships and supports, stabilizing acute issues (psychological, psychiatric, behavioral, and medical) and developing a common language between clinician and consumer that

facilitates rehabilitative goals inclusive of housing. Eliot focuses on benefits, such as DTA and Social Security, as well as helping people get needed documents like IDs, birth certificates, and SSA cards, they look to connect people with services such as DMH, CSP-HI, as well as completing housing applications.

ServiceNet is also funded through EOHLC/ESG to continue providing outreach services in PY25. The City of Pittsfield also reaches out to unsheltered individuals in encampments, whether on public or private land. City staff, from Community Development, Parks, and the Pittsfield Police Departments Co-Responders, who are trained social workers make contact with unsheltered individuals and provides connection to resources, depending on the level of need and willingness to engage. The City can often be the first point of contact when it comes to unsheltered individuals and City staff partners with the outreach providers, ServiceNet, Eliot, or CHD to engage with unsheltered individuals.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

(Cont. from IDIS) City ARPA funding leveraged \$1,250,000 in Mass. Shelter Alliance funds to convert classroom space at the Zion Luther Church into nine units of permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and will share in supportive services with the West Housatonic Street project. Construction began in FY25 and it is scheduled for a fall of 2026 opening.

In PY25, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc., will continue the operation of its secure shelter for domestic violence survivors fleeing danger. Although the majority of shelter clients are women and their children, the shelter is open to all gender identities. During the next year, approximately 45 persons are expected to be assisted at the shelter. EFC is the only agency in Pittsfield that motels when other appropriate shelter is not available. EFC will assist five to eight households in PY25 with their transitional housing programs. EFC also provides direct financial assistance to prevent homelessness. While their client population is survivors of domestic and sexual violence, this population comprises the great majority of homeless families and women.

Solider On in Pittsfield has 60 units of transitional housing, 49 units of affordable permanent supportive housing targeted towards male veterans. In addition, Solider On oversees a permanent supportive housing development for 14 women Veterans. In PY 2025 funds will be available for SSVF prevention, diversion and rapid rehousing for homeless and at risk of homelessness veterans

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

(Cont. from IDIS) •HomeBASE funding continues to provide rental assistance and moving funds to families who are deemed eligible for Emergency Assistance. EA eligibility can be granted to families in the EA family shelter system or those whose homeless circumstances qualify them for EA and subsequently, HomeBASE funding. HomeBASE benefits have increased to \$30,000 over a two-year period with an optional 3rd year and \$15,000 if deemed appropriate for housing stability. There is also a 3-year stabilization component for households served with HomeBASE funding to encourage tenancy stabilization.

•Hearthway administers a program called the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program. FSS is a voluntary, back to work mentoring program for Section 8 voucher holders. It serves to guide Section 8 recipients toward financial self-sufficiency by learning how to overcome barriers to economic independence and meet employment and education goals. There is a financial incentive for FSS participation. As participants increase their income with employment, their rent is increased. While taking on the increased rent expense, EOHLC will deposit the difference in an escrow savings account. The savings have been known to grow in excess of \$25,000 and is gifted to the participant upon graduation from FSS. Graduates of the program have gone on to purchase homes, a car, pay substantial credit expenses and have secured sustainable employment. The program identifies areas of need, provides mentoring, resources and referrals, and is customizable per household. Success looks different for everyone.

There is also an alternate FSS enrollment for participants who have already re-entered the workforce, and are working full-time, with a goal of homeownership. These participants will be guided through home buyer education and financial wellness preparation. EOHLC will match funds to their savings, \$3 for each \$1 saved with maximum deposits from EOHLC of \$12,000 added to their savings. Successful homebuyers will receive an additional \$5,000 homeownership bonus to be used for home purchase related costs.

•Hearthway is undertaking a new initiative this year, providing one-on-one financial literacy coaching. Hearthway will be training designated staff using EMPATH's Mobility Mentoring model, which partners with participants so that over time they may acquire the resources, skills, and sustained behavior changes necessary to attain and preserve their economic independence. The model has four essential elements: Coaching for Economic Mobility,

Economic Mobility Bridge®, Goal Setting, and Recognition.

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

(Cont. from IDIS) Second Street Second Chances (2nd Street) is a collaborative, Pittsfield-based initiative funded in part by local ARPA dollars to support the successful reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals into the community. The program provides comprehensive, wraparound services designed to address the many barriers that justice-involved individuals face upon release. Services include intake assessments, individualized case management, risk and needs evaluations, and referrals for mental health and substance use treatment. The program also assists with basic needs, such as obtaining identification, enrolling in public benefits, and accessing transportation. Job readiness support and employment navigation are also core components of the program. 2nd Street offers guidance in locating stable housing, including access to rental assistance, and supports clients in rebuilding family relationships and parenting skills where appropriate. 2nd Street offers weekly aftercare groups, Digital Skills classes, Mindfulness Groups, TBI testing and assessment, Educational tutoring, daily noontime recovery meetings, and more. In addition to its direct reentry services, 2nd Street is deeply committed to fostering creative expression and healing through the arts. The organization has led and partnered on several transformative arts-based initiatives designed to amplify the voices of justice-involved individuals and cultivate personal and community growth through storytelling. Projects such as RELEASE, REPAIR, and RECLAIM—in collaboration with local artists and theaters—have used performance to help participants share their lived experiences with incarceration, trauma, and resilience. These performances have not only served as powerful tools for self-expression and healing, but also as public education efforts that challenge stigma and promote empathy within the broader community. Using Our Outside Voices writing initiative and Insight, a visual storytelling art exhibition, have created additional platforms for participants to explore their identities, process their experiences, and contribute to public dialogue around reentry. By integrating the arts into its reentry model, 2nd Street not only supports the practical needs of returning citizens, but also champions the emotional and creative dimensions of healing—reaffirming each participant's dignity, voice, and humanity. 2nd Street is made possible through the collaboration of key community partners, including the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office, Berkshire Community College, UpSide 413, The Berkshire Museum, Berkshire Innovation

Center, Community Legal Aid, and Berkshire Health Systems. Since its launch in 2022, 2nd Street has served 1,302 individuals, including 298 who were unhoused at the time of intake. It is important to note that ARPA funds supporting this initiative are set to expire at the end of PY 2024. Beginning in PY 2025, the majority of 2nd Street's operating costs will be funded by the Berkshire County Sheriffs Office, reflecting a strong institutional commitment to sustaining reentry services in our region.

Upside413 (f/k/a Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority) is a HUD approved "Housing Counseling Agency", and Berkshire County's primary provider of housing stability and homelessness prevention services. Upside413 is also a court certified mediation program. Upside413's staff includes four housing counselors that are HUD Certified counselors, having passed HUD's national housing counseling certification exam. As previously noted, Upside413 /Hearthway administers the Housing and Consumer Education Center. Specific programs & services available under the HCEC program include the following

- Assessment/Screening Services are available for at-risk and homeless households, providing comprehensive assessment with specific inter and intra-agency service and resource referral recommendations, which may include linkage to financial resources (see below), when appropriate.
- Legal and Housing Counseling Services are provided on housing and consumer related issues. Counseling also includes a comprehensive review of the federal and state fair housing requirements. These services are provided to rental property owners, tenants, homeowners, and homebuyers.
- Court Dispute Resolution (Mediation and Conciliation) Services offered through the HCEC Dispute Resolution Center are provided to resolve housing, neighbor, landlord/tenant, real estate, foreclosure, consumer/creditor, small claims matters, other civil disputes and criminal show cause cases.
- Community Dispute Resolution (Mediation, Negotiation, and Facilitation) Services offered through the HCEC Dispute Resolution Center are provided to resolve housing, neighbor, utility, consumer/creditor, real estate, foreclosure disputes, and school-based disputes.
- Loss Mitigation/Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Services are provided to develop and implement forbearance agreements, loan modifications, reinstatement and payment plans. Counseling is also provided on alternatives to foreclosure, including conveyance, deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, and short-sale options. Homeowners are also offered economic literacy classes, and when appropriate, soft-landing assistance is available in

cases where continued homeownership is no longer a viable option.

- Homeless and At-Risk Unaffiliated Youth Program is available to at risk and homeless individuals are the age of 25, providing intensive case management, advocacy, mediation, housing search, and linkage to mainstream resources.
- Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) is available to at-risk Berkshire County households that are experiencing housing instability due to mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and/or substance abuse. The TPP project offers intensive case management to client households. Specialized Case Management, which includes a client assessment and the development of a related service plan for each client. Services often include the development of a reasonable accommodation plan. This program is provided in collaboration with the Housing Court Department-Western Division (Berkshire County), and therefore, many referrals are made through the Housing Court.
- Housing Search Resources/Homelessness Diversion Services available to assist homeless and at-risk households in accessing safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. This program provides training and support to case managers working with veterans in four states under the SSVF program operated by Soldier On as well as to all Berkshire County households. There are also a limited number of slots available through the TPP program to assist households in a more intensive manner with their housing search needs. All housing search case management, counseling, and self-help materials include information on the fair housing requirements.
- Consumer Protection Counseling and Mediation Program provides free voluntary phone-based mediation and counseling services to consumers who have submitted complaints concerning problems they may have encountered with businesses.
- Financial Resources may be available for at-risk and homeless households. Under certain financial assistance programs (e.g., Home Base), Stabilization services are provided to eligible households for a minimum of twelve months to lessen the chance of future housing problems and homelessness.
- Educational Workshops are provided to rental property owners, tenants, homeowners, and human service providers in the following substantive areas: housing, consumer, and dispute resolution issues.

UpSide413 expects to serve approximately 1,500 Pittsfield households during the year with homelessness prevention and housing stability programs and other related programming that assists low-income individuals and households to maintain their current permanent housing or access other housing options. The sources and amounts of funds expected to be utilized are as follows: City of Pittsfield (CDBG) \$20,788; Pittsfield Housing Authority

\$40,000; Adams/Williamstown/Dalton Housing Authority \$40,000; Massachusetts Bar Foundation Grant (private) \$50,000; Housing Counseling and Education Centers (state) \$342,750; MassHousing \$346,332; Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation \$12,000; MA Attorney General Office (AGO) \$61,750; AGO/F2F \$47,000; MOPC \$271,000; DOB Foreclosure Prevention Program \$73,000; Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance \$246,873; Berkshire Health Systems \$85,568; Trial Court \$30,000; CHAPA (HUD) \$51,000; and our Youth Program (CAPV) \$310,100. UpSide413 will continue to provide landlord/tenant counseling and legal assistance through their existing programs to benefit extremely low-income, low-income and moderate-income households to help prevent discriminatory practices in renting, evictions, and homelessness.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

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Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

(Cont. from IDIS) To help evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards, the City plans to take the following actions within the upcoming year:

During PY 2025 the City will continue to budget CDBG funds to provide low-cost financing and grants to property owners to remove lead-based paint. When using CDBG funding for housing rehabilitation almost every residential rehabilitation project that is undertaken includes some level of lead paint abatement as part of the scope of work. The extent of the lead abatement work is dependent upon the estimated cost of the required repairs. Due to these regulation requirements, it is expected that an overwhelming majority of the housing units rehabbed through the Home Improvement Program will result in the issuance of a "Letter of Full Deleading Compliance" from a state licensed lead inspector.

Applicants to the City's Home Improvement Program are given priority weighting on the waiting list for any property in which a child under the age of six resides and there is no letter of compliance in place for the property. There is no waiting period for any household where a child under six resides, and there is a lead paint inspection confirming the presence of lead paint in the home environment

MassHousing offers an affordable way to remove hazardous lead paint. They offer Low-cost financing to address lead-based paint hazards for one- to four-family properties. Owner-occupants are eligible for 0% interest loans, deferred until the sale or transfer of the property. Properties must either be owner-occupied by people with low or moderate

incomes, or house tenants with low to moderate incomes.

Upside413 will continue to offer educational workshops and seminars for landlords and tenants. Seminar topics include discussions regarding lead paint and the Massachusetts lead paint laws as they relate to both tenants and landlords.

Child Care of the Berkshires in association with Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides home-visiting and case-management services to families whose children have high levels of lead poisoning and live in Berkshire, Franklin, or Hampshire County.

The program aims to lower elevated lead levels in children under the age of six by offering support to families as they go through the process of mandated retests, and it strives to make environments safe for the young children who live in them. There are currently 25 open cases, of which 13 are families living in Pittsfield. Last year, they helped 9 families. The increase in cases could be reflected in the fact that they have received federal grants that help increase reach out to more families.

Each year, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state, tribal, and local governments to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness to reduce childhood exposure to lead. NLPPW highlights the many ways parents can reduce children's exposure to lead in their environment and prevent its serious health effects. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) work to heighten awareness of lead poisoning, provide resources, and encourage preventive actions during NLPPW and beyond. National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week dates 2025: October 19-25.

Massachusetts Fair Housing Center (MFHC) stepped up its enforcement activity to prevent housing discrimination and create lead-safe housing for children. MFHC continues to conduct a special systemic testing investigation to identify property owners/landlords who discriminate against families with children in neighborhoods with high rates of childhood lead poisoning. This strategy increases MFHC ability to end housing discrimination and childhood lead poisoning.

MFHC is a leader in providing public education on fair housing and fair lending issues. They provide training for community groups, healthcare providers, tenants, property owners, property managers, realtors, first-time homebuyers, the media, and others. MFHC also provides free counseling and assistance to individuals and families who have a Section 8 voucher, MRVP voucher, or other mobile vouchers. They work with clients to ensure a move to a neighborhood that meets household goals. This program is available to those with newly issued vouchers, and anyone with a voucher who is looking to move. They can help

with navigating the housing search process as well as with any issues of discrimination.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

(Cont. from IDIS) Berkshire United Way's "Early Childhood Development" program, improves the quality of early learning environments that are rooted in early childhood development, providing intensive parenting support, building social-emotional and literacy skills, and assisting with early grade reading. The long-term goal is to decrease the risk of some children not graduating from high school and that they may find more employment opportunities. 6,720 children were served in 2023–2024 under this program.

During 2023–2024 Berkshire United Way invested just over \$1 million in 28 organizations working in three impact areas: Early Childhood Development, Positive Youth Development (5,169 youth served), and Economic Prosperity (6,254 adults served).

18 Degrees will continue administering the Youth Launch program, which is focused on early engagement for families with newborn children to ten years old. This program coaches families toward self-sufficiency. Reaching families before they are in a crisis and working with them to reach their goals: housing, education, daycare, etc.

Elizabeth Freeman Center: through its seminars, classes, and fundraisers continues to help educate our community on issues of violence. Some of the events so well-known and promoted by this institution are: The Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April 2025), "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes"; the Women's International Day Celebration (March 8, 2025). The Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2024) is an opportunity to promote education and awareness of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse.

EFC continues managing the "Money School Program", which was designed to create long-term safety and economic security for survivors of domestic or sexual violence and partners with schools and centers to provide age-appropriate violence prevention/risk reduction programming.

The City's Social Worker and Community Health Worker will continue to work collaboratively with various departments within the City of Pittsfield, including the Police Department's Co-Responder program. In addition, they offer crisis intervention and referral services to improve accessibility to social services and mental health resources to increase collaboration among mental health professionals, benefits providers, and medical and law enforcement personnel to support people in need and improve long-term

care outcomes.

The city's website is often updated with information on fair housing topics to help residents stay informed, such as agencies and their phone numbers that can provide free legal and financial assistance for landlords and tenants. In addition, The City's Fair Housing Officer will participate in Latino community meetings such as Working Cities, Community Input Sessions, to learn what challenges the Latino population face in the following areas: employment, education, and housing. These meetings have been of great help, as they embark on a mission to connect people with the care they need, across Berkshire County.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

(Cont. from IDIS)

- Hearthway (Formerly Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. / Berkshire Housing Development Corporation)
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation
- Pittsfield Housing Authority
- Upside413 (Formerly Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority)
- Berkshire Community Action Council
- Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.
- Massachusetts Office of Business Development
- Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development
- Berkshire Innovation Center
- Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
- 3 County Continuum of Care
- Pittsfield Commission on Disabilities
- Pittsfield Department of Public Works & Utilities
- Pittsfield Health Department
- Pittsfield Building Inspections Department
- Pittsfield Fire Inspectors
- Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council
- Pittsfield Homelessness Advisory Committee
- Human (Public) Service Agencies (too numerous to list individually)
- Soldier On
- Pittsfield Parks Commission

Additional agencies include Berkshire United Way; Elizabeth Freeman Center of the

Berkshires; Rental Housing Association of Berkshire County; Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Greylock Federal Credit Union; Lee Bank; Berkshire Bank; Pittsfield Cooperative Bank; Ad-Lib, Inc.; Berkshire County ARC; Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services; Massachusetts Department of Mental Health; Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.; Ralph J. Froio Senior Center; 18 Degrees; United Cerebral Palsy; Berkshire Regional Employment Board; Berkshire Training and Employment; Berkshire Health Systems; and ServiceNet, Inc.

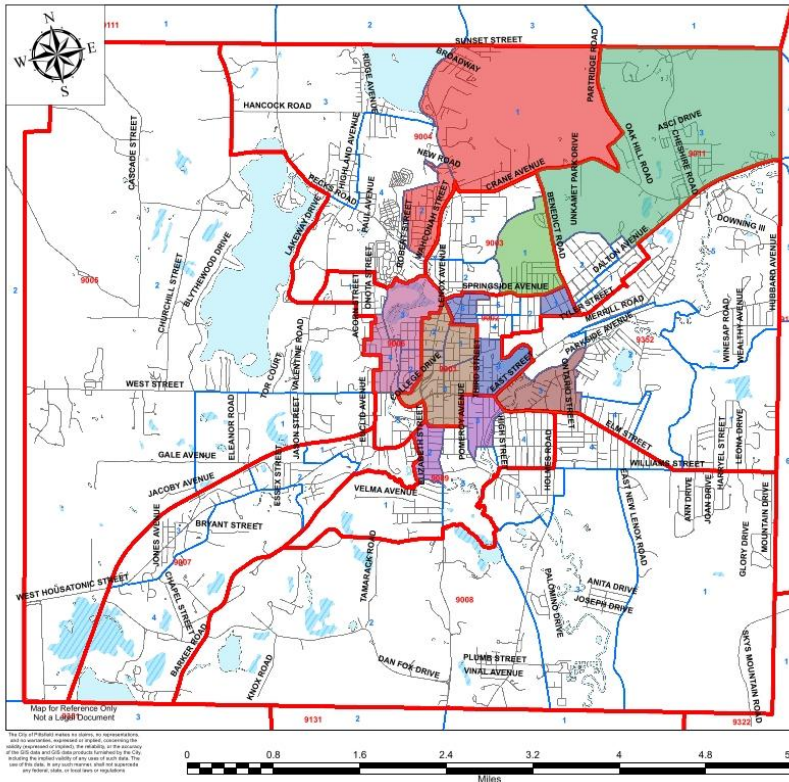
As in previous years, the activities in this Consolidated Plan will be carried out through the collaborative efforts of numerous organizations. The City of Pittsfield Department of Community Development (DCD) will take the lead in implementing many of the housing, neighborhood, and economic development activities

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

(Cont. from IDIS) The City Department of Community Development will access, facilitate, and coordinate resource linkages and draw from the many sources of expertise in the community to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new collaborative relationships. Examples of several of the efforts in coordinating agencies to achieve its community development goals during the 2025 Program Year are as follows:

- The Department of Community Development will continue to coordinate its public facility related activities, such as sidewalk and curb cut construction, with the City's Department of Public Works and seek input from the Commission on Disabilities and residents of the neighborhoods.
- The City will continue to obtain input and participate in the monthly Commission on Disabilities meetings. Additionally, a Department of Community Development staff person will participate as a Board member of the 3 County Continuum of Care. A DCD staff person is also a representative on the Pittsfield Housing Authority's Board.
- The City Department of Community Development will work with Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity when issuing bids for residential handicapped ramp construction.
- The Department of Community Development provides staff support and representation for the Homelessness Advisory Committee. The Committee advises the Mayor and City Council on issues of homelessness focusing on

advocacy and public education, works with community leaders, city residents and service providers to understand the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and explores ways to address these needs, and recommend actions to address identified needs.



City of Pittsfield HUD Qualified Census Tracts

CITY OF PITTSFIELD: 2020 - LOW/MOD INCOME ELIGIBLE AREAS									
LOW MOD INCOME SUMMARY DATA LATEST									
2020 HUD Update									
Circled or hatched tracts: income eligible block groups with 5% or greater Low Income = 5% or greater									
TRACT #	BLOCK GROUP	2018	TRACT #	BLOCK GROUP	2018	TRACT #	BLOCK GROUP	2018	TRACT #
9001	1	96.90	9007	1	46.73				
	2	30.30		2	79.73				
	3	31.30		3	50.95				
				4	10.20				
9002	1	82.90	9008	1	71.3				
	2	14.30		2	11.13				
	3	22.10		3	10.20				
	4	20.90		4	23.20				
	5	25.30		5	11.60				
9003	1	23.30	9009	1	11.80				
	2	23.30		2	50.80				
	3	43.50		3	14.80				
	4	43.50		4	17.70				
9004	1	20.20	9011	1	46.60				
	2	23.30		2	27.10				
	3	27.90		3	14.40				
	4	43.50							
9005	1	1.50	9352	1	22.3				
	2	38.30		2	22.3				
	3	21.90		3	21.4				
	4	20.20		4	21.1				
	5	54.00							
	6	48.30							
Updated June 2024									

LEGEND

Block Groups by Tract			
9001	9004	9009	
9002	9006	9011	
9003	9007	9352	
	9008		
			CENSUS2020TRACTS_POLY
			CENSUS2020BLOCKGROUPS_POLY

Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources

1	Data Source Name Planning to Thrive: City of Pittsfield's Master PI
	List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
	Provide a brief summary of the data set. The City's Master Plan was created with the extensive involvement of citizens,business leaders, public officials and planners.
	What was the purpose for developing this data set? The City's master plan is a statement,through text, maps, illustrations or other forms of communication that is designed to provide a basis for decision making regarding the long-term physical development of the municipality. State law describes the elements that should be included in the plan: goals and policies statement, land use plan,housing, economic development, natural and cultural resources, open space and recreation, services and facilities,circulation and the implementation program.
	How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population? The data in the plan covers the City of Pittsfield.
	What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set? The data set was created in April 2009 and is updated every five years.
	What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)? The data set is completed.
2	Data Source Name Housing Inventory Chart - 2025
	List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. Three County HUD Continuum of Care

	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>The Housing Inventory identifies inventory of beds available within the CoC region. It collects data by type of project (Seasonal, Emergency, overflow, Transition shelter, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Additionally it breaks out the subpopulations of chronically homeless, youth, and veterans.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>This allows the community to determine the unmet need in a community which is compared with the Point in Time Count that is conducted annually during the last weekend in January.</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>January 2025</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>The CoC uses an on-line survey that is distributed to all of the CoC providers to identify any changes in bed capacity.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>Number of provider organizations who offer program/bed capacity to homeless individuals or families.</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
3	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>Two-digit North American Industry System (NAICS)</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>LMI Works, Bob Vinson</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>Data sets were updated, as noted, from information provided to the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, in a report entitled <i>What's Happening in Berkshire County? A Review of Recent Labor Market Trends</i>, May, 2014</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>This report provides a review of recent labor market trends and conditions in Berkshire County. The report will place a specific focus on the three sub-areas of the Pittsfield New England City and Town Area (NECTA), the North Adams NECTA and the Great Barrington Labor Market Area (LMA).</p>

	Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected. 2013 and 2014
	Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection. The methodology included gathering and comparing Labor Market and employment trends from the following sources: NECTA, the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Division of Career Services. Other charts are comprised of pre-populated ACS 2007-2011 census and update by 2014 data as noted.
	Describe the total population from which the sample was taken. 22,040 (Pittsfield workforce), 35,345 (Pittsfield NECTA, comprised of 13 economically interconnected towns surrounding Pittsfield).
	Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed. The unit of measure is number and percent of employees, and number of jobs drawn from labor market reports.
4	Data Source Name Labor Force
	List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. LMH Works, Bob Vinson
	Provide a brief summary of the data set. Updates first three columns of the Labor Force information to 2014 data.
	What was the purpose for developing this data set? The purpose is to provide a more accurate and updated picture of the Labor Force.
	Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected. 2014
	Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection. Data taken from the Division of Career Services, annual average.
	Describe the total population from which the sample was taken. Pittsfield workforce by age bracket.
	Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed. Number and percent of workforce.
5	Data Source Name 2-Digit NAICS Industry Employment Structure

	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>LMI Works, Bob Vinson</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>This report provides a review of recent labor market trends and conditions in Berkshire County. The report will place a specific focus on the three sub-areas of the Pittsfield New England City and Town Area (NECTA), the North Adams NECTA and the Great Barrington Labor Market Area (LMA).</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>This data set is part of a report entitled <i>What's Happening in Berkshire County? A Review of Recent Labor Market Trends</i>, May, 2014, that was prepared for the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board (BREB).</p>
	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p> <p>The data table covers the Pittsfield NECTA that is comprised of the City of Pittsfield and 13 surrounding towns, most of which are contiguous and comprise the central county labor market.</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p> <p>Annual average for 2014.</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>Complete.</p>
6	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>HUD Fair Market Rents and Home Rents</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p>

	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
7	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>Pittsfield Housing Authority Information</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>Pittsfield Housing Authority</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>The data provided is the most recent information and includes the total number of federally funded public housing units at Dower Square, Jubilee Court, and Columbia Arms. Additional data collected was the number of state subsidized public housing units that the PHA also owns and manages as well as similar data collected from Berkshire Housing Services, Inc.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>This is more accurate than the number that is pre-populated from HUD's system.</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>The information collected is as of March 2020.</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>Direct contact with the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. staff.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>The data is not a sample it is actual data.</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p> <p>Columbia Arms is an elderly public housing development, is federally funded, and contains 91 housing units. Jubilee Apartments is a family public housing development, is federally funded, and contains 22 housing units. Dower Square is a family public housing development, is federally funded, and contains 50 housing units.</p>
8	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>PIC (PIH Information Center)</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>Pittsfield Housing Authority</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p>

	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>Complete, updated yearly</p>
9	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>2020 Point in Time Count: 3-County Rural CoC</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p>
	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p>
10	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>City of Pittsfield Vacant Building List</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>The City of Pittsfield's Code Enforcement Team orginated the data, maintained by the City's Health Department.</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>The vacant building list provides a list of the vacant buildings in Pittsfield, the status of code enforcement, the owners of the property and how long it has been vacant.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>The purpose of developing the list is to determine the disposition of these properties, if they are potential demolition candidates, candidates for recievership or tax title foreclosure by the City.</p>

	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p> <p>The list is maintained City wide</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p> <p>The list is current as of April 2025.</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>Complete, updated monthly.</p>
11	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>Homelessness Management Information System</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>HMIS data is provided to the City from the Three County Continuum of Care.</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>The CoC uses data collected in the HMIS system to analyze individual project performance, look at system-wide performance, conduct required reporting for HUD and conduct some ad-hoc analysis.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>HMIS can be used to analyze data around persons seeking housing. Some examples include looking at how many people who enter a shelter then exit the shelter to permanent housing, looking at which housing resources are consistently full and which have trouble housing people because of various eligibility factors, and looking at different kinds of disparities throughout our system to try and address inequities.</p>
	<p>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</p> <p>The data set covers the Three Counties of Western Massachusetts (Hampden, Berkshire and Franklin Counties). The population it covers is persons experiencing homelessness.</p>
	<p>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</p> <p>Data used in this plan is primarily from Fiscal Year 2020 HUD Year 2019</p>
	<p>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</p> <p>The data set is constantly being updated and is in progress.</p>
12	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Pittsfield, MA</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>United States Census Bureau</p>

	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>2023</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>43,559</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
13	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>2017-2021 CHAS</p>
	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>US Department of Housing and Urban Development</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>2017-2021</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
14	<p>Data Source Name</p> <p>2024 Point in Time Count</p>

	List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. 3 County CoC
	Provide a brief summary of the data set.
	What was the purpose for developing this data set?
	How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?
	What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?
	What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?

DRAFT