

CITY OF PITTSFIELD CONSOLIDATED PLAN & ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Fiscal Years 2021 - 2025

(HUD Program Years 2020 – 2024)



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Submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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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 to 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 promotes empowerment and self-sufficiency for low-income persons.

TIME PERIOD

Pursuant to HUD regulations for the CDBG program, the City of Pittsfield has prepared this Consolidated Plan which covers a five-year period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. The Mayor of Pittsfield has designated the Department of Community Development (DCD) as the lead agency for 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 purpose of 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:

Size of Household	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
Extremely Low-Income	\$19,100	\$21,800	\$24,550	\$27,250	\$30,680	\$35,160	\$39,640	\$44,120
Very Low-Income	\$31,850	\$36,400	\$40,950	\$45,450	\$49,100	\$52,750	\$56,400	\$60,000
Low-Income	\$50,900	\$58,200	\$65,450	\$72,700	\$78,550	\$84,350	\$90,150	\$96,000

Table 1 - HUD CDBG Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective as of 04-1-20)

The map below outlines recent significant changes to the income levels of City Census Tracts between 2017 and 2018. Areas of the City saw a significant rise in residents income levels. However the City's three central census tracts which comprise the two CDBG target areas (Census Tracts 9001, 9002, and 9006), otherwise known as Morningside and Westside, saw significant increases in the percent of low-income households, as defined by the HUD low-income guidelines, that reside in these three census tracts.

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 2021 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. The following summarizes the outcome performance measurements the Pittsfield Department of Community Development will undertake and attempt to accomplish with CDBG funding during the next five year planning cycle:

1. **SIDEWALKS AND CURB CUTS:** 4,000 linear feet of sidewalk and 50 handicapped curb cuts will be constructed to create accessibility for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment.
2. **SKATE PARK:** The service area for this park area consists of a total of 4,370; 2,500 or 57% are low and moderate income. 1 park will be created from the creation of the second phase of the Skate Park, a heavily utilized City Park for skating and bike riding to help create neighborhood sustainability for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment.
3. **REMOVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS:** 20 businesses will provide new accessibility for the purpose of creating economic opportunities.
4. **HUMAN (PUBLIC) SERVICE GRANTS:** 3,955 people will benefit from the availability of various human (public) services programs, including homelessness prevention and shelter, for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment.
5. **WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP:** 10,000 people will benefit from this clean-up to help create neighborhood sustainability for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment.
6. **MORNINGSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP:** 10,000 people will benefit from this clean-up to help create neighborhood sustainability for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment.
7. **OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING REHAB:** 100 housing units will receive affordable assistance from the City's CDBG funded Home Improvement Program for the purpose of providing decent housing.
8. **RENTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING REHAB:** 25 housing units will receive affordable assistance from the City's Home Improvement Program for the purpose of providing decent housing.
9. **INCREASE QUALITY OF TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY SHELTER FACILITIES:** 45 shelter beds for homeless individuals will be rehabilitated at Barton's Crossing at a new location on Fenn Street for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment.

10. **RESIDENTIAL HOUSING HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY RAMPS:** 20 households will have new accessibility for the purpose of providing decent housing.
11. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TA GRANTS AND LOANS (CDBG only):** 35 jobs will be created and be made available to low-moderate income people for the purpose of creating economic opportunities.
12. **DISPOSITION, CLEARANCE:** 15 units (structures) will be demolished in order to help create neighborhood sustainability for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment

3. Evaluation of past performance

This 5-year Consolidated Plan cycle covers HUD funding years beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2025. 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 2021 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 2019, the City completed the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the previous 2018-2019 (Fiscal Year 2019) 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 previous fiscal year 2016–2020 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:

L. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS – CDBG ONLY

Category	Activity Measurement	YEARLY QUANTITIES										5-YEAR TOTALS	
		YEAR 1 HUD 2015 FY 2016		YEAR 2 HUD 2016 FY 2017		YEAR 3 HUD 2017 FY 2018		YEAR 4 HUD 2018 FY 2019		YEAR 5 HUD 2019 FY 2020			
		Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
PUBLIC FACILITIES / INFRASTRUCTURE													
Sidewalks	Linear Feet	1,000	1,870	0	0	0	0	1000	0	1000		6000	1870
Architect. Barriers	Curb Cuts	12	33	0	0	0	0	12	0	12		75	33
Capitol Marquee	Historic Preservation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/1,200	1/1200	N/A	N/A	1/1200	1/1200
Trees	Trees Planted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOUSING													
CDBG Housing Rehab	Housing Units	25	23	25	28	25	24	25	25	25		125	100
Relocation	Households	4	0	4	1	4	3	4	4	4		20	8
Accessible Ramps	Households	5	4	5	4	5	2	5	3	4		30	13
Riverview/Berkshire Peak Rehab	Housing Units	120	0	120	0	120	120	120	0	120	0	120	120
Dalton Apartments Rehab	Housing Units	100/ 97 Low	100/ 97 Low	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100/97	100/97
Homeownership Assistance - Direct	Households	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	2
PUBLIC SERVICES													
Public Services													
Category Totals:	Persons	868	1,019	830	1,545	895	1493	766	786	791		4150	4844
HANDICAPPED:													
United Cerebral Palsy	Persons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	13	8	8	8			
LEGAL:													
BCRHA – HMIS Landlord/Tenant Counseling	Persons	250	670	70	1093	80	850	225	434	37		662	3047
Community Legal Aid	Persons	25	51	15	50	20	20	20	21	20		100	142
MENTAL HEALTH:													
FAMILY:													
Berk Child & Family Early Education	Persons	10	7	10	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	13
Berk Child & Family Health & Well Being	Persons	64	120	35	113	80	66	65	18	65		309	317
Child Care of the Berkshire	Persons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	1	8		15	

Table of Past Performance 1

L. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS – CDBG ONLY													
Category	Activity Measurement	YEARLY QUANTITIES										5-YEAR TOTALS	
		YEAR 1 HUD 2015 FY 2016		YEAR 2 HUD 2016 FY 2017		YEAR 3 HUD 2017 FY 2018		YEAR 4 HUD 2018 FY 2019		YEAR 5 HUD 2019 FY 2020		5-YEAR TOTALS	
		Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
ELDERLY:													
Elder Services	Persons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	182	184	202	102	162		546	286
FAMILY:													
PUBLIC SERVICES (CON'T)													
ABUSED CHILDREN:													
Berk Kids Place		N/A	N/A	100	49	50	44	40	21	41		230	114
HOMELESS:													
ServiceNet/Ind Shelter	Persons	10	88	100	112	100	115	38	81	50		298	396
Elizabeth Freeman	Persons	75	83	75	112	75	130	20	53	53		298	378
YOUTH:													
Brigham Center	Persons	N/A	N/A	10	10	8	9	8	11	10		36	30
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT													
Small Business Loans	Businesses /Jobs	2 / 4	0 / 0	2/4	0	2/4	1/1	2/4	2/6	2/4		10/20	3/7
Small Business Grants / Loans	Micro-Enterprises	1	0	3	3	1	1	1	2	1		5	6
Tech. Asst. Grants	Businesses / Jobs	2 / 3	1 / 1	2/3	2/0	2/2	2/13	2/4	4/4	2/3		10/15	10/18
REMOVAL OF ARCH. BARRIERS													
Handicap Access	Businesses	4	1	4	1	3	3	4	3	5		20	8
DEBT SERVICE													
Section 108 Debt	# of Payments	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	9	9
WESTSIDE INITIATIVE													
Durant Park – Playground Equip	# Pub Facil/Persons	N/A	N/A	1/448	1/448	1/448	1/448	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/448	1/448
Neighborhood Cleanup	# Cleanups/Persons	1 / 100	1 / 125	1/3242	1/3242	1/3242	1/3242	1/3242	1/3242	1/3242		5/3242	5/3242
Tucker Park	#Pub facil/Persons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/448	1/448	N/A	N/A	1/448	1/448
Westside Riverway	# Pub Facil/Persons	1 / 448	0	1/448	1/448	1/448	1/448	1/448	1/448				
MORNINGSIDE INITIATIVE													
Neighborhood Cleanup	# Cleanups / Persons	1 / 100	1 / 186	1/5853	1/5853	1/5853	1/5853	1/6200	1/6200	1/6200	1/6200	5/6200	5/6200
Springside Pond Study	# of Studies	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1

Table of Past Performance 2

L. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS – CDBG ONLY													
Category	Activity Measurement	YEARLY QUANTITIES										5-YEAR TOTALS	
		YEAR 1 HUD 2015 FY 2016		YEAR 2 HUD 2016 FY 2017		YEAR 3 HUD 2017 FY 2018		YEAR 4 HUD 2018 FY 2019		YEAR 5 HUD 2019 FY 2020		5-YEAR TOTALS	
		Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
ACQUISITION/DISPOSITION/CLEARANCE													
Demolition of Vacant Buildings	# Buildings	4	4	5	6	5	4	5	4	4		15	18
Boarding-up Buildings	# Bldgs Secured	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Clean & Lien	# of Properties	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table of Past Performance 3

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. Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity provided valuable input by engaging residents and collecting their input at multiple community meetings. CBHH provided outreach at food pantries and social services such as The Christian Center, Solider On, the Family Resource Center, The Dream Center, First Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, Berkshire

Immigrant Center and the Berkshire Athenaeum. Outreach services were provided in English and Spanish. The DCD developed and circulated a community survey to solicit input on community needs to which 738 people responded. 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.

5. Summary of public comments

The City provided two opportunities for public input in the evening hours at the elementary schools in both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods of the City in order to attract residents from those neighborhoods. They were held during February and March on the nights of the regularly scheduled Westside and Morningside Neighborhood Initiative meetings and were attended by 15-25 residents. Comments centered around the following themes:

- **Safety and Policing:** Increased police presence in the neighborhoods, many residents cited the need for a new police station; improved street lighting and security cameras, support for resource officers in schools.
- **Funding for parks and green spaces:** support for community gardens, and assuring accessible access to parks and recreational facilities; Beautification of the neighborhood, endeavoring for a safer community, in strategic places that replace negative and problematic activities with positive and constructive activities that could involve youth participation; need for a dog park.
- **Activities that support youth and families:** more affordable childcare, programs to address substance abuse and mental health services, homelessness prevention and programs to support homeless families and individuals; programs to assist with first, last and security deposit.
- **Neighborhood Improvement Activities:** continued/increased support for neighborhood cleanups; sidewalk reconstruction and curb-cuts; elimination of blighted structures, redevelopment of the Tyler Street, Beautification of the neighborhood, endeavoring for a safer community, in strategic places that replace negative and problematic activities with positive and constructive activities that could involve youth.
- **Housing Quality and Access:** the need for more affordable and accessible housing; funds for housing rehabilitation, including accessibility improvements, support for an exterior rehab program Citywide to improve the quality of housing; initiatives to promote more owner occupied housing, support for a code enforcement,
- **Transportation:** door-to-door transportation for disabled persons, transportation for families and individual to get to medical appointments and food resources, increased bus services, expanded bus hours in the evening to assist people who work at night to return home;
- **Small Business Development:** small business development workshops; loan funds to promote small businesses and workforce development and training programs.

Survey Results: A total 1,762 CDBG Public Survey were distributed to Conte Community School and Morningside Community School that are located in HUD income eligible neighborhoods; public service agencies; the local housing authority; the senior center; and several City boards and committees. The survey was also included in the Parks Department, Healthy Pittsfield, Artscape, Working Cities and Westside Neighborhood Initiatives electronic newsletter and a link to the electronic survey was included in other electronic mailings. All together, the City received a total of 738 completed surveys. Respondents were asked to rank community needs from low to high in the areas of Community Facilities, Community Services, Infrastructure, Special Needs Services, Businesses and Jobs, Neighborhood Services and Housing. Respondents were asked if they believed housing discrimination was an issue in their neighborhood or if they'd experienced discrimination in housing. A copy of the survey results downloaded directly from the Survey Monkey website is included in the attachment to this plan entitled: Citizen Participation Comments. Below are the categories for each activity and the activity which rated the highest is in italics.

Community Facilities

Youth Centers

Affordable Child Care
Parks and Recreation
Health Care Facilities

Community Services

Anti-Crime Programs

Youth Activities

Affordable Child Care Services
Mental Health Services
Public Transportation

Infrastructure

Street Improvements

Neighborhood Redevelopment

Downtown Redevelopment

Street Lighting

Sidewalk Improvements

Special Needs Services

At Risk Youth Services
Neglected/Abused Children's Services
Substance Abuse Services
Homeless Prevention, Housing and Support Services
Domestic Violence Services

Businesses and Jobs

Workforce Training
Employment Retention

Job Search Assistance
Start Up Business Help/Incubator

Neighborhood Services

Demolition of Vacant Buildings
Cleanup of Abandoned Lots
Trash and Debris Removal
Neighborhood Beautification
Code Enforcement

Housing

Residential Rehabilitation
Affordable Rental Housing
Senior Housing
First time Homebuyer Assistance
Fair Housing Assistance
Housing for Disabled

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

Housing Discrimination: Respondents (15.27%) who identified as experiencing discrimination indicated that the landlord was most likely to discriminate (78.50%). The three primary bases for discrimination were believed to be: Source of Income (Rental/Public Assistance or Voucher) (38%), Familial status (single parent with children, family with children, or expecting a child) (34%); Race (31%); Color (17%); and Disability (13%).

The City's Human Services Advisory Council received a total of 68 public comments during their public comment period which ran from January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. The HSAC received a total of 33 public comments during the public comment period which ran from January 1, 2020 through

January 31, 2020. Three comments were in favor of providing grant funding to homeless programs; 26 comments were received from proponents endorsing funding for the Berkshire Center for Justice; 9 comments were received endorsing grant funding for the Berkshire Nursing Families program; and one comment was received in favor of providing funding for Elder Services. These public comments can be reviewed in the attachment to this plan entitled Citizen Participation Comments.

7. Summary

This is the 47th 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021, 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 2021 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: Planning documents and data reports were provided by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Berkshire Housing Services, Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, 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. Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, Pittsfield Community Action Team and the Community Navigators through Berkshire Bridges/Working Cities conducted outreach and direct assistance in completing the survey, direct interviews with residents, and social media contacts 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 738 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, analyses and strategic plan and formed the basis for the Annual Action and 5-year Consolidated Plans.

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 2 – 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 2021-2025. Additionally, the DCD prepares and administers the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report on an annual basis. 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 being 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(l) and 91.315(l)

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 include 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,
- Support of the Westside and Morningside Initiatives for various activities,
- 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 hot-line 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. Two important collaborative groups continue to take an active planning and implementation role: the Westside and Morningside Initiatives, including their steering committees and sub-committees represent the residents of the two neighborhoods in which a majority of low-income households reside. 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 collaborate with the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Development, 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.

- Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council
- Westside Initiative Steering Committee
- Morningside Initiative Steering Committee
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program Committee
- Finance Committee of the Pittsfield City Council
- Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC)
- Pittsfield Community Development Board
- Commission on Disabilities
- Artscape Committee
- Pittsfield Parks Commission

- 3-County Continuum of Care
- Berkshire Bridges/ Working Cities

Specific examples of coordinating efforts include:

- 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.
- The City's Department of Community Development will also continue its practice of obtaining input from the City's various code enforcement agencies when prioritizing the demolition of vacant structures.
- The City will also continue to obtain input and participate in the monthly Commission on Disabilities meetings.
- The City will continue to assist both neighborhood initiatives in their advocacy and community engagement efforts.
- The City is a partner with Berkshire Bridges in their efforts to create systems change for individuals and families experiencing generational poverty.

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, 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 check-list 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 administering 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 towards 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 on 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

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Department of Community Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis 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 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	Community Action
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Regional organization Planning 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?	The 3 County Continuum of Care was consulted in the preparation of the City's Annual Plan through e-mail correspondence and meetings in person. The 3 County Continuum of Care represents Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties. The C o C will help align homelessness goals and strategies on a regional basis.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC) is consulted on a regular basis for the Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, and CAPER, as well as during the year on many different issues pertaining to housing services such as heating emergencies, weatherization programs, utility shutoff programs, food insecurity and transportation issues, as well as many other items. The City's Department of Community Development works very closely with BCAC to coordinate on heating emergencies and weatherization programs.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	BERKSHIRE COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs 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	Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA) was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during

	outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns. BCRHA is also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. BCRHA has also been a subrecipient of CDBG funding to provide a number of programs and services over the years.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER OF THE BERKSHIRES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy 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 for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns. The Elizabeth Freeman Center is also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. This agency has also served as a subrecipient in carrying out CDBG funded services and programs.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	BERKSHIRE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing 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 Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire Housing Development Corporation (BHDC) was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns. BHDC is also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. This agency has also served as a subrecipient in carrying out CDBG funded services and programs. Under BHDC's umbrella agency is a non-profit housing development agency by the name of Berkshire Fund, Inc. that is used to develop affordable housing opportunities.

7	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Other government - Federal Other government - State
	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 (PHA) is consulted on a regular basis in the preparation of the City's Annual Action Plan as well as the Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. The PHA provides a copy of their Annual Action Plan to the Department of Community Development every year and both agencies are in contact with each other on a regular basis.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	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?	Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan. Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity conducted the community outreach, held three community meetings to solicit public input and participation in the Five Year Plan. Habitat also conducted the community survey for priority needs for this plan. The City's Department of Community Development is in regular contact with Habitat and frequently works with Habitat to provide grant funds through CPA or other state grants. The Department of Community Development also recently applied for a state grant for infrastructure improvements to support the development of 6 units of affordable housing developed by Habitat.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Rental Housing Association of Berkshire County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization
	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 Rental Housing Association of Berkshire County (RHABC) is consulted with on a regular basis during the year for input towards the preparation of the City's Annual Action Plan as well as the Consolidated Plan and CAPER. Members of the RHABC also are members in the Morningside and Westside Initiatives and they also attended the CDBG public input sessions that were held in February for the solicitation of public input for this plan.

11	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Health Agency Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Department of Public Health is consulted with for input regarding lead-based paint and the incidence of lead paint poisoning in the City of Pittsfield on an annual basis through the DPH's website. Statistical information is retrieved from the website to include in the Annual Plan and also the City's Consolidated Plan.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	MASSACHUSETTS FAIR HOUSING CENTER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair 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 Massachusetts Fair Housing Center is consulted with for the preparation of the Fair Housing section of the Annual Action Report, the Consolidated Plan, and the CAPER. Going forward it is anticipated that the City will continue to work with the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center in order to help the agency continue their work in assisting victims of housing discrimination.
13	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 is consulted with for the development of the Annual Action Plan, the Consolidated Plan, and the CAPER. Greylock Federal Credit Union offers first-time homebuyer seminars and they provide input for the Consolidated Plan market analysis and housing analysis. The credit union also provides input for the development of the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice document. Greylock Federal Credit Union is a very strong community partner and sponsors many City and private events.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Lee 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?	Lee Bank was consulted by e-mail for information regarding their financial products and seminars for first-time homebuyers. Lee Bank is also consulted on a regular basis during the year regarding these same issues as well as for input regarding the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
15	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 by e-mail for information regarding their financial products and seminars for first-time homebuyers. Berkshire Bank is also consulted on a regular basis during the year regarding these same issues as well as for input regarding the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Mountain One Financial Services
	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?	Mountain One was consulted by e-mail for information regarding their financial products and seminars for first-time homebuyers. Mountain One is also consulted on a regular basis during the year regarding these same issues as well as for input regarding the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
17	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, Inc. was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns related to disabled populations. Adlib, Inc. was also

		consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. The Department of Community Development consults with Adlib, Inc. regularly during the year regarding the provision of CDBG funds to construct accessible ramps for disabled persons.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	BERKSHIRE COUNTY ARC
	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
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire County Association for Retarded Citizens was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns related to this category of population. Berkshire County ARC was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Other government - State
	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 Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns related to populations with developmental disabilities. The Department of Developmental Services was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Other government - State
	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 Massachusetts Department of Mental Health was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of housing issues and concerns related to mental health affected populations. The Department

		of Mental Health was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
21	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 for Mental Health and Substance Abuse was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding issues concerning mental health and substance abuse populations. The Brien Center was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons 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?	Elder Services of Berkshire County was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of issues concerning the elderly and frail elderly populations. Elder Services was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
23	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 City's Ralph J. Froio Senior Center was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of issues concerning the elderly and frail elderly populations. The Senior Center was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	BERKSHIRE CENTER FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Regional organization

	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?	18 Degrees, formerly known as Berkshire Center for Families and Children, was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of issues concerning families and children. Berkshire Center for Families and Children was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
25	Agency/Group/Organization	UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Regional organization
	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?	United Cerebral Palsy was consulted for input to the Annual Action Plan by e-mail correspondence but is also consulted with frequently during the year regarding a number of issues concerning persons with disabilities. United Cerebral Palsy was also consulted during the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
26	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	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?	The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) was consulted in the development of the City's Annual Action Plan and was also consulted for their input in the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. The City's Director of the Department of Community Development (DCD) serves on the PERC board and a DCD staff person provides administrative support to PERC. PERC is a CDBG subrecipient and administers the City's CDBG funded economic development programs by reviewing CDBG funded loan and technical assistance grant applications. The creation of jobs for low-moderate income persons is the goal of the agency as well as to assist small businesses.
27	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 City's Department of Public Works & Utilities (DPW) was consulted in the preparation of the City's Annual Action Plan and is also consulted with in the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and CAPER. The City's DPW works very closely with Department of Community Development (DCD) staff in helping to maintain a list of sidewalk and curb cut locations in need of reconstruction. As described elsewhere in this plan, the DPW also works with City DCD staff on other public works projects especially those related to housing redevelopment projects.
28	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF PITTSFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Health Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy 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 Health Department was consulted in the preparation of the Annual Action Plan regarding health and sanitary code conditions of the City's housing stock as well as lead paint issues. The City's Health Department was also consulted in preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and CAPER. The Health Department provides input during the year regarding vacant and condemned structures and is a participant in the City's monthly Code Team meetings.
29	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Pittsfield Fire 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 City of Pittsfield Fire Department was consulted in the preparation of the City's Annual Action Plan for their input on the demolition of vacant and condemned structures. The Fire Department Inspector's also provide input during the year for as a participant in the City's Code Team monthly meetings. The Fire Department's input was also sought in the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.

30	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Pittsfield Building Inspections Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing 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 City of Pittsfield Building Inspections Department was consulted for their input regarding the City's Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan and they are regularly consulted during the year particularly for their input on vacant and condemned buildings and code enforcement issues.
31	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Economic Development Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Business Leaders
	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?	The Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) was consulted for input in preparation of the City's Annual Action Plan regarding information related to economic development efforts at the William Stanley Business Park and at the Berkshire Innovation Center which opened in February 2020.
32	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire County Regional Employment Board
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Other government - Local Regional organization
	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 County Regional Employment Board (BREB) was consulted for the preparation of the Annual Action Plan regarding economic development opportunities for low income persons in the form of jobs. PERC also consults with BREB during the year regarding job openings and training opportunities. BREB is also consulted for input regarding the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER.
33	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 for input regarding the Annual Action Plan and are also consulted for input regarding the preparation of the City's Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. PERC consults with MassHire regularly during the year regarding job and training opportunities for low/mod persons.
34	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Office of Business Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - State Business Leaders
	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?	The Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD) was consulted for their input regarding the preparation of the City's Annual Action Plan for information pertaining to business development grants and opportunities for Pittsfield. PERC is in regular contact with the regional representative from MOBD and has been accessing the State's technical assistance grant program to help leverage the City's CDBG funded technical assistance grants.
35	Agency/Group/Organization	Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders
	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?	Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. was consulted for the preparation of the City's annual action plan to provide input regarding business and employment opportunities specifically in the City's Downtown as well as public infrastructure improvements. Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. input is also sought during the year regarding small business programs and assisted with the City in preparing the Downtown Parking. Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. and the City's Department of Community Development coordinate on many community oriented events and promotions, such as the Farmer's Market located at the Common Park.
36	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Medical Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Health Agency Regional organization Major Employer
	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 Medical Center was contacted by e-mail in order to provide input for the City's Annual Action Plan regarding HIV/AIDS services that they plan to provide during the 2021 HUD program year. Berkshire Medical Center will also be consulted for the City's Consolidated Plan as well as the CAPER.
37	Agency/Group/Organization	Westside Neighborhood Initiative
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Neighborhood issues
	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 held one of its two CDBG public input sessions in conjunction with the Westside Neighborhood Initiative on February 24, 2020. The public input session was held at Conte Community School which is located in the Westside neighborhood and is where the Initiative normally holds its monthly meetings. The Westside Initiative provides input to the City's DCD on a regular basis throughout the year. A DCD staff person attends their monthly meetings and provides administrative assistance when needed.
38	Agency/Group/Organization	Morningside Neighborhood Initiative
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Neighborhood Issues
	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 held one of its two CDBG public input sessions in conjunction with the Morningside Neighborhood Initiative on February 10, 2020. The public input session was held at Morningside Community School which is located in the Morningside neighborhood and is where the Initiative normally holds its monthly meetings. The Morningside Initiative provides input to the City's DCD on a regular basis throughout the year. A DCD staff person attends their monthly meetings and provides administrative assistance when needed.
39	Agency/Group/Organization	Human Services Advisory Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Civic Leaders Local Advisory Council for CDBG and City funded Human Service Grant Applications
	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 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 (HSAC) is an eleven member group of volunteer citizens and business people who meet yearly to review applicant proposals from non-profit social service organizations and award CDBG and City funded public service grants. The HSAC makes funding recommendations to the Director of the Department of Community Development and the Mayor for their review and final approval.
40	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 Pittsfield Department of Community Development (DCD) consults with the Commission on Disabilities regularly during the year. City staff attends monthly meetings including a DCD staff person; a City Building Inspector; a City Engineer; and the City's Veteran's Agent. The Commission on Disabilities assists the City in many different ways and provides input to prioritize sidewalk reconstruction work and curb cut construction.
41	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, Inc. was consulted by e-mail for input regarding the City's homeless and chronically homeless populations as well as for information about the homeless shelters that it operates in Pittsfield.
42	Agency/Group/Organization	Soldier On
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Soldier On was consulted for input regarding the City's Consolidated Plan in order to gather information on Veteran's needs in the housing, homelessness, and support service areas. Soldier On provides critical service as well as supportive housing to the area's Veterans and their families. Soldier On also coordinated with Service Net to provide additional emergency winter shelter.
43	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Parks Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Facilities - Parks
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Pittsfield Parks Commission and staff reporting to the Commission were consulted for their input regarding the City's public facilities (parks) and the need for improvements. The City has a number of parks requiring upgrades especially playground equipment for young children located in the City's Morningside and Westside neighborhoods.
44	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Housing Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. is the for-profit arm of Berkshire Housing Development Corporation that provides subsidized housing and administers the agency's Section 8 housing choice vouchers. Berkshire Housing Services also owns several state and federal funded subsidized housing developments within the City and the County.
45	Agency/Group/Organization	Pittsfield Public Schools
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services – Education Services – Narrowing the Digital Divide

		Other Government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Marketing Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Pittsfield Public Schools was consulted around the issues of narrowing the digital divide amongst low income families in Pittsfield. They Provide data on programs the school department offers in this area.
46	Agency/Group/Organization	Berkshire Athenaeum
	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 Homelessness Strategy 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, Pittsfield Library, was consulted regarding homeless issues and narrowing the digital divide for low income individuals. The director of the library participates with the City's Homelessness Prevention Committee and has provided input on the digital divide, including the 2015-2020 Technology Plan.
47	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?	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, and water resources. This Conservation Committee consists of a seven-member group of volunteers charged with adhering to the law set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 131, 40 (More commonly known as the "Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act") and its accompanying regulations seen at 310CMR 10.00. The Commission holds regular meetings to discuss proposed activities within jurisdictional wetland resource areas, and their

		applicable buffer zones, and makes sound decisions pertaining to each project in a separate and distinct manner.
48	Agency/Group/Organization	Mass Department of Environmental Protection
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency – Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency – Management of Public Land or Water Resources
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 regularly consults with this state environmental regarding permitting including wetlands and waterways, site cleanup, and air quality. MA DEP was also consulted in the MVP and HMP planning process.
49	Agency/Group/Organization	MA Department of Conservation and Recreation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency – Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency – Management of Public Land and Water Resources
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Public Land and Water Resources
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City regularly consults with the MA DCR regarding the protection of state forest and park land, recreational interests, and lake management concerns.

Table 3 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

There were no agencies that were intentionally omitted in the public participation or consultation process in the development of this plan. All agencies, organizations, and groups are invited to participate in the development of the City of Pittsfield's Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans. The City prepares an extensive outreach, consultation, and public input process each year in an attempt to attract as many citizens and organizations as possible to the planning process. The City's Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) also advertises and requests separate public input concentrating solely on the City's public service needs for agencies providing services and programs for homeless and non-homeless special needs populations.

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	Community Action Council of Pioneer Valley	The goals of the City's strategic plan overlap with the goals of the 3 County Continuum of Care's plan administered by Community Action Council of Pioneer Valley in that they both address the high priority needs of Pittsfield's homeless and chronically homeless populations.

PHA Consolidated Plan	Pittsfield Housing Authority	The City of Pittsfield and the Pittsfield Housing Authority consult with each other during the preparation of each agency's five-year HUD Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans to ensure goals and actions are consistent with one another. The Pittsfield Housing Authority continually strives to improve the quality of housing for its residents and to ensure services are available to meet the resident's needs.
City of Pittsfield Master Plan	Pittsfield Department of Community Development	The City of Pittsfield's Consolidated Plan goals overlapped with those included in the Master Plan which was completed in April 2009. Although, the plan is now five years old, many of the strategies included in "Part 3. Housing Quality & Affordability and Neighborhood Development" are considered to be consistent with those in the Consolidated Plan.

Table 4 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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

The City of Pittsfield collaborates with other general local governments, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, as well as several State agencies and funding sources, 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. Examples of this include: the creation of the Tyler Street Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) District through MassDevelopment, which resulted in targeted City, CDBG, and state resources in the Morningside Neighborhood; environmental cleanup of land and subsequent development of the West Side Riverway Park through City, CDBG, and state resources; a feasibility study for a regional bike share program targeted at our local workforce made possible through the MassDOT Workforce Transportation Program; brownfield cleanup projects in collaboration through the Berkshire Brownfields fund and directly through the Environmental Protection Agency; and the creation of our Downtown Form Based Code to remove barriers to housing and all other facets of development, made possible through a grant from the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Additionally, the yearly development and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a joint effort spear headed by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and one which the City of Pittsfield participates in along with representatives from the other Cities and Towns throughout Berkshire County.

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 44 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 at each of the two community schools located in the City's Westside and

Morningside neighborhoods. The public survey generated 738 responses and approximately 20 members of the public attended one of the two public input meetings.

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 fiscal year 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan.

Public Hearings: The Department of Community Development held two public input hearings. The first input hearing was held on Monday, February 10, 2020 at Morningside Community School at 5:45 p.m. The second hearing was held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at Westside Community School at 5:30 p.m.

Fliers: Paper and electronic fliers 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, the availability of human service agency RFP, and the availability of the CDBG public survey at www.SurveyMonkey.com. The press releases resulted in several articles published in *The Berkshire Eagle* and *The Pittsfield Gazette*.

Newspaper Calendars: Announcements of the two CDBG public input meetings were published in the *Today's Calendar* section of *The Berkshire Eagle* and the *Nine Day Planner* section of *The Pittsfield Gazette*.

Display Advertisements: A total of four display advertisements were published between *The Berkshire Eagle* and *The Pittsfield Gazette* 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. 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. A total of 1,762 copies of the paper survey were distributed through a number of social service agencies, community schools, the local housing authority, and agencies serving low-moderate income persons. The City received 738 completed responses from the CDBG public survey. Habitat for Humanity used their Community Navigators to engage residents at multiple community meetings and at several food pantry locations. They provided the online link, shared on social media and provided direct outreach at 12 different locations and five different community meetings.

Public Comment Periods: Two public comment periods were held to solicit comments. A complete draft of the fiscal year 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan was made available for public review and comment for a 30-day period beginning April 21, 2020 thru May 20, 2020. The availability of the draft plan and the final plan was advertised in the local newspaper. The City's Human Services Advisory Council held a separate

public comment period. The public comment period regarding human (public) service needs began on January 1, 2020 and ended on January 31, 2020.

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)
1	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A total of 10 people attended the first CDBG public input hearing on February 10, 2020 at 5:45 p.m. at Morningside Community School.	See #5 at the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received at this public input hearing. Minutes of the hearing also included in the Citizen Participation Comment attachment of this plan.	All public comments were accepted.	
2	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A total of 11 people attended the second CDBG public input hearing on February 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Morningside Community School.	See #5 at the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received at this public input hearing. Minutes of the hearing also	All public comments were accepted.	

				included in the Citizen Participation Comment attachment of this plan.		
3	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Paper and electronic fliers publicizing the CDBG public input meetings and the CDBG public survey were distributed in January 2020. Paper copies of the flier were distributed by PHA staff to elderly and family public housing tenants. An electronic flier was distributed to City agencies, boards, and commissions through list serves such as the PERC, Human Services Advisory Commission, Commission on Disabilities, Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Cultural Development. The flier was placed on the City website and posted to the Parks Department Facebook page. A copy of the flier is included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.	See #5 at the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received at this public input hearing.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	www.cityofpittsfield.org
4	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and	A total of four display advertisements were published in two local newspapers, The Berkshire Eagle and The Pittsfield Gazette, advertising the two CDBG public input meetings and the CDBG public survey. Several display advertisements were also	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	

		Assisted Housing	published announcing both the availability of CDBG human (public) service applications for the 2021 fiscal year and the 30 day human service public comment period. Copies of these published newspaper display advertisements are included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.			
5	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A number of press releases were prepared announcing the two public input meetings, the availability of human service agency RFPs, and the availability of the CDBG public survey at www.SurveyMonkey.com . The press releases resulted in several articles published in The Berkshire Eagle (print and on-line), The Pittsfield Gazette, WBEC and iBerkshire.com. A copy of the press releases and newspaper articles are included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	
6	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	A press release and a copy of the flier publicizing the two CDBG public input hearings and the availability of the CDBG public survey was posted to the City of Pittsfield website for the month of February and March. A direct link to	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	

		Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	the SurveyMonkey website was also posted on the City of Pittsfield website home page that took the public right to the electronic version of the CDBG public survey. Copies of screen shots of the home page from the City of Pittsfield website is included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.			
7	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City Human Services Advisory Council held a public comment period to allow the public additional opportunity to comment regarding public service needs. The Human Service Advisory Council used e-mail to receive public comments. The public could also submit comments via phone, in writing, in person, or via individual city staff e-mail.	The HSAC received a total of 33 public comments during the public comment period which ran from January 1, 2020 through January 31,2020. Three comments were in favor of providing grant funding to homeless programs; 26 comments were received from proponents endorsing funding for the Berkshire Center for Justice; 9 comments were received endorsing grant funding for the Berkshire Nursing Families	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	

				program; and one comment was received in favor of providing funding for Elder Services.		
8	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Announcements of the two CDBG public input meetings were published in the Todays Calendar section of The Berkshire Eagle and the Nine Day Planner section of The Pittsfield Gazette. Photocopies from the newspapers are included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	
10	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The flier and information regarding the two CDBG public input hearings and the CDBG public survey was placed on City Hall's and the City Parks and Recreation Facebook page.	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	
11	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and	In an added effort to gather public input and opinion, the City developed and distributed a CDBG Public Survey. The survey was developed in both electronic and paper formats. The electronic survey was on www.SurveyMonkey.com . A direct link was posted	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	

		Assisted Housing	on the City's home page of its website. The link was included in all fliers, press releases, and advertisements. 1,762 copies of the paper survey were distributed by social service agencies, schools, the PHA, and other agencies. Copies of both the paper and electronic surveys and distribution list are included in the attachments to this plan labeled Grantee Unique Appendices.			
12	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A public hearing was held on May 5, 2020 to review the draft Consolidated Plan. The hearing was held via Zoom, broadcast live on PCTV and on Facebook live. A call in number was provided for those who wished to call in via phone. The Facebook stream was viewed by 679 times and was seen by 1085 people.	A detailed list of public comments and questions from this hearing are included in the attachment entitled Citizen Participation Comments.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	
13	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A large newspaper display advertisement was published in The Berkshire Eagle and in the Pittsfield Gazette informing the public of the availability of the draft Consolidated Plan, the date and time of the public hearing, and the dates of the public comment period. Details of the CDBG budget were also included in the display ad.	A detailed list of public comments and questions from this hearing are included in the attachment entitled Citizen Participation Comments.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	

14	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non- targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A press release was issued informing the public of the availability of the draft Consolidated Plan, the date and time of the public hearing, and the dates of the 30 day public comment period. Details were included regarding the proposed CDBG annual budget. The press release as well as the display advertisement mentioned above were also posted on the City of Pittsfield website.	A detailed list of public comments and questions from this hearing are included in the attachment entitled Citizen Participation Comments.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	
15	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non- targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	In accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, a 30 day public comment period was announced for the public to submit comments regarding the draft Consolidated Plan. The 30 day public comment began on April 21, 2020 and ended on May 20, 2020. The 30 day public comment period was advertised through the publishing of a large display advertisement in The Berkshire Eagle and in the Pittsfield Gazette as well as the issuance of a press release. The press release and a copy of the display advertisement were also placed on the City of Pittsfield website.	See #5 in the Executive Summary section of this plan for a summary of public comments received.	All comments were accepted. See #1 and #2 above for further explanation.	
16	CDBG Public Survey	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other	Habitat for Humanity used their Community Navigators, 2 of who speak Spanish, to engage community residents and have them take the community survey. The 4	See results of the community survey.	All comments were accepted.	

		language: Spanish	Navigators engaged with residents at community meetings, food pantries and social service locations for 10 hours per week during the months of January and February.			
		Non-targeted/broad community				

Table 5 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

As of 2015, there are a total of 19,258 households in Pittsfield, an increase of 2% since 2009, even though the population declined by 2%, from 44,737 to 43,926. During the same time, Pittsfield experienced a slight increase in the average household size; from 2.20 in 2009 to 2.22 in 2015. The Median Income in Pittsfield increased less than 1% between 2009 and 2015, from \$43,507 to \$43,916. This did not alter the conditions or severe cost burden, which is the most critical need for City residents. 37% (7,120) of all households in Pittsfield, renters and owners combined, have one or more housing problem. The most severe cost burden issues are in the central city neighborhoods, where the median income is about 54% of the area median income (AMI) of the City as a whole and almost 2,000 households in those neighborhoods (31%) have incomes below \$15,000 or about 34% of the City's AMI. The "central city" is defined as the three census tract areas located adjacent to the City's North Street downtown area that are known locally as the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods. These central city neighborhoods are comprised of three census tracts: 9001, 9002, and 9006. 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. A high percentage of them have severe housing problems due to low incomes.

Less than 1% of households (169) have substandard housing issues such as incomplete plumbing or kitchen facilities and 53% of these are very low-income ($\leq 30\%$ of HAMFI) renter households. Less than 1% of renter and owner households experience overcrowding of any kind.

Disproportionately Greater Need: Cost Burdens is the most common and severe housing need by far. It is experienced disproportionately by those with lower incomes. 20% of all households in Pittsfield have less than 30% of AMI and another 15% have 30 to 50% of AMI and experience at least one housing problem (a total of 1/3 of all households) which is typically severe cost burden.

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.

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 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. While only 25% of all people in Pittsfield live in the central city neighborhoods, 53% of African American and 37% Hispanic origin households live in those neighborhoods where the AMI is \$23,504 - 54% of the AMI of the City as a whole.

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 (101 out of 137). 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 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. 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. Due to CDBG funding cuts, the City's CDBG code enforcement activities were discontinued in 2012, and the impact can be seen in housing safety/quality due in large part to the prevalence of absentee landlords. 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 African American and Hispanic minorities.

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Population	44,737	43,925	-2%
Households	18,800	19,260	2%
Median Income	\$43,507.00	\$43,916.00	1%

Table 6 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	3,890	2,955	3,835	1,970	6,610
Small Family Households	1,265	890	1,010	1,005	3,270
Large Family Households	205	165	240	95	335
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	735	550	900	350	1,765
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	710	640	680	200	540
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	945	360	505	325	500

Table 7 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

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	90	20	30	4	144	0	25	0	0	25
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	20	40	10	0	70	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	90	20	0	4	114	0	30	0	0	30
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,440	350	15	15	1,820	720	195	340	40	1,295
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	530	865	270	35	1,700	195	480	695	210	1,580
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	90	0	0	0	90	115	0	0	0	115

Table 8 – Housing Problems Table

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or

complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	1,635	430	50	20	2,135	720	255	340	40	1,355
Having none of four housing problems	1,125	1,295	1,430	450	4,300	205	980	2,010	1,460	4,655
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	90	0	0	0	90	115	0	0	0	115

Table 9 – Housing Problems 2

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

Housing Problems of Low-Income Disabled

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	840	450	35	1,325	185	140	310	635
Large Related	170	90	0	260	35	60	55	150
Elderly	500	230	115	845	559	400	365	1,324
Other	600	480	175	1,255	135	110	300	545
Total need by income	2,110	1,250	325	3,685	914	710	1,030	2,654

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	675	110	15	800	150	60	85	295
Large Related	120	30	0	150	35	30	0	65
Elderly	285	45	0	330	400	85	100	585
Other	430	165	0	595	135	25	150	310
Total need by income	1,510	350	15	1,875	720	200	335	1,255

Table 11 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	120	45	0	4	169	0	30	0	0	30
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	15	20	0	35	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	120	60	20	4	204	0	30	0	0	30

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

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. 120 single person renter households with incomes $\leq 30\%$ of AMI and 45 single person owner households with incomes $>30\%$ to 50% of AMI suffer from overcrowding (less than 1% of all households). 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. Most significant are renters (households) with incomes of less than 30% AMI, of which 600 have cost burdens of $>30\%$, and 430 have cost burdens greater than $>50\%$. This is a total of 1,030 single person households with severe cost burdens, which is 5.4% of all households in the city. Cost burdens remain significant for single households with higher incomes as well, both among renters and owners. Among renters with incomes between 30% and 80% of AMI, 865 have burdens of greater than 30% . Even owners have significant burdens – and even when they have incomes greater than 30% or 50% of AMI. 1,370 owner occupied households with incomes up to 80% of AMI have burdens greater than 30% and 1,255 have burdens greater than 50% .

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 (600 families) and 35% of all disabled households in Pittsfield. There are a total of 1,710 disabled households in Pittsfield, 900 (53%) of those have incomes equal to or below 30% AMI. (PHA 5 year plan data)

The following table details the types of disabilities experienced by Pittsfield resident and the percent of the population that they comprise. 16.3% of the total population live with some form of disability.

Type of Disability	Total	Percent of Pittsfield
Hearing difficulty	2,025	4.7%
Vision difficulty	1,009	2.3%
Cognitive difficulty	2,625	6.5%
Ambulatory difficulty	3,535	8.8%
Self-care difficulty	1,116	2.9%
Independent living difficulty	2,940	8.5%
Total with a disability	7,039	16.3%

Table 9 – Disability Status

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2011-2015

Data provided by 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. Pittsfield residents comprise 52% of their active clients or 1,056 people. The program provided shelter or emergency housing to 137 families, 101 or 74% were from Pittsfield. 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. According to FY19 court reports, Berkshire County's rate of protection order filings is 33% higher than the state average by population. Central Berkshire District Court in Pittsfield received 62% of all county filings, reporting 639 in 2019. A MA Department of Transitional Assistance study of Emergency Assistance sheltered families found that nearly two thirds (63.1%) of all respondents had been victims of domestic violence sometime in their lives; more than a third (35.0%) had been the victims of domestic violence within the last year (Domestic Violence among Homeless Families, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (2006). There has been as 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. Between FY15 and FY19, the numbers for both have tripled.

What are the most common housing problems?

The most common housing problem in Pittsfield, by far, 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.

BCRHA also implements housing search and rapid rehousing programming for families through funding provided by DHCD's HCEC and EA programs. The majority of these families and individuals were on wait lists for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) or project based housing subsidies and were absorbed into prevention and self-sufficiency programs offered by BCAC, BCRHA, or BHCD services. Veterans who are homeless or at-risk, including individuals and families have access to a 3-year (terminal) program - Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) that provides prevention, diversion and rapid-re-housing services including temporary financial assistance. They have priority access to VASH vouchers through the Pittsfield Housing Authority, both VA and SSVF case management, job placement/supports, and on-going follow-up support through Veterans who are Peer Mentors for Veterans/families with more complex issues who may need extended or on-going support. These resources are designed to offer time for Veterans to increase their income through employment, other entitlements, subsidized housing, and access to unlimited mentoring services to maximize their capacity to maintain health, housing, and economic stability once assistance is terminated.

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 \$16,800/year or less
- 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 with incomes less the \$15,000/year: 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. 114 properties were funded with CDBG housing rehabilitation units between FY15-FY19. 12 of those 114 properties were multifamily housing.

The building permit chart below measures the on-going progress improving the condition of the housing stock in Pittsfield, where 84% of the housing units in the City were built before 1980. Based on the data contained in the chart, the City can compare investment in property improvement in qualified neighborhoods and City-wide based on building permits and the estimated cost of improvements. For example, 45% fewer permits were taken out in 2016-19 than in 2011-14. City-wide, the percentages of permits at or greater than \$50,000 or \$20,000 were within a percentage point of the rate in the previous three years. In the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods a slightly larger percentage of building permits were over \$20K or \$50K, but a higher percentage of all permits over \$20,000 were taken out in other qualifying neighborhoods (15% VS 13%). The result is a similar 3-year to 3-year balance between qualified neighborhoods and other Pittsfield neighborhoods.

Characteristics of Building Permits Comparing 2011-2014 with 2016-2019 (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014 & July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2019)							
		All Pittsfield	Morningside	West Side	Other Qualified Neighborhoods	Non-Qualified Neighborhoods	All Qualified Neighborhoods
2011-2014	Distribution of Housing Units	100%	15%	10%	31%	46%	54%
2016-2019		100%	15%	10%	23%	54%	46%
2011-2014	# & % - all Building Permits	5,509 (100%)	509 (10%)	272 (6%)	1,429 (26%)	3,244 (58%)	2,265 (42%)
2016-2019		3,027 (100%)	211 (7%)	148 (5%)	592 (20%)	2,090 (69%)	941 (31%)
2011-2014	Permits ≥ \$50k	318 (6%)	34 (7%)	26 (8%)	93 (7%)	165 (5%)	153 (7%)
2016-2019		148 (5%)	14 (7%)	5 (3%)	22 (4%)	93 (4%)	40 (4%)
2011-2014	Permits ≥ \$20k	770 (14%)	76 (15%)	53 (16%)	221 (15%)	418 (13%)	350 (15%)
2016-2019		416 (14%)	36 (17%)	27 (18%)	75 (13%)	280 (13%)	145 (15%)
2011-2014	% of all Permits > \$20k	14%	10%	7%	29%	54%	46%
2016-2019		14%	9%	6%	18%	67%	35%

Source: City of Pittsfield - Permit Eyes program

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. Distribution of investment varies slightly, but throughout the City, there has been an overall reduction in the number of building permits from 2016-19 compared to 2011-14. This is an indication of continued improvement and commitment toward the City's neighborhood infrastructure and overall quality of life

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

The primary disproportionate racial and ethnic need is twofold; 1) within the central city neighborhoods (Westside and Morningside) where the AMI income levels are about half of what they are in the City as a whole; and 2) among Black/African Americans and those of Hispanic Origin who are disproportionately represented in those central city neighborhoods.

The sampling captured in the HUD 2011-2015 statistics is too narrow to accurately capture housing problem by race/ethnicity. A more significant indicator can be found by understanding the disparities of the number of low-income and minority residents who reside in the three core CDBG income eligible census tracts of 9001, 9002, and 9006 that generally comprise the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.

The three central city census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006) house 25% of the City's population and 28% of its households. White householders comprise 92% of the City's households, while Black/African American and Hispanic households comprise 7.5%. Whites make up 84% of the households in the three core central census tracts, followed by 9.7% Black/African American, 5.4% Hispanic and 3.5% mixed race. However, a key disparity occurs with the percent of the total City's population by race that live in the same three low-income census tracts: 22% white, 53% Black/African American; 54% mixed race, and 37% Hispanic.

Median family income in the three central city census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006) is \$23,504 compared with \$43,916 City-wide or 54% of the City as a whole. A breakdown of income levels show that 31% of households in the three central city census tracts make less than \$15,000/year; 24% make between \$15,000-25,000; and 45% make greater than \$25,000. Again, a key disparity occurs with 55% of all City residents making less than \$15,000 and 41% of all City residents making \$15,000-\$25,000 live in the three central city census tracts.

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	3,080	605	205
White	2,650	415	170
Black / African American	135	120	35
Asian	40	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0

Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	170	30	0

Table 11 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

*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	2,030	930	0
White	1,760	860	0
Black / African American	145	20	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	95	49	0

Table 12 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

*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	1,355	2,480	0
White	1,285	2,150	0
Black / African American	20	155	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	35	135	0

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

*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	310	1,660	0
White	280	1,535	0
Black / African American	24	95	0
Asian	4	20	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	4	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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

The charts above indicate some racial and ethnic disproportionality among lower income groups and lower income groups that have housing problems. Among households with incomes between 0% - 30% of the area median income (AMI) and experiencing one or more housing problems, 10% or a total of 305 households are African American (135) and Hispanic (170), 2,650 are White, which is about 86% percent of all households in that income group and is close to the percentage of the White population of the City.

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

The primary disproportionate racial and ethnic need is twofold; 1) within the central city neighborhoods, 9001, 9002, and 9006, where the AMI income levels are 54% of what they are in the City as a whole; and 2) among Black/African Americans and those of Hispanic Origin who are disproportionately represented in those central city neighborhoods.

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	2,355	1,330	205
White	2,065	990	170
Black / African American	75	180	35
Asian	40	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	150	50	0

Table 15 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

*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	685	2,275	0
White	555	2,065	0
Black / African American	75	85	0
Asian	0	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0

Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	55	80	0

Table 16 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

*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	390	3,440	0
White	380	3,065	0
Black / African American	10	165	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	170	0

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

*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	60	1,910	0
White	60	1,755	0
Black / African American	0	120	0
Asian	4	20	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	4	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS

Source:

*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

The charts above indicate some racial and ethnic disproportionality among lower income groups and lower income groups that have housing problems. Among households with incomes between 0% - 30% of the area median income (AMI) and experiencing one or more housing problems, 9.6% or a total of 225 households are African American (75) and Hispanic (150), which is a slightly greater percentage than the African American and Hispanic population in the City (11.2%). 2,065 are White, which is about 88% percent of all households in that income group and is very close to the percentage of the White population of the City.

However, looking at this data source alone, presents a distorted profile of the degree to which low-income minorities are impacted disproportionality by one or more housing problems. First, African Americans and Hispanics are highly disproportionally represented in the central city neighborhoods (9001, 9002, and 9006) where 53% of all African Americans in Pittsfield and 37% of all Hispanics in Pittsfield reside.

47% of the combined population of African Americans, Mixed Race, and Hispanic residents, who live in Pittsfield, live in the central city neighborhoods compared with only 22% of the City's White population who live in the central city neighborhoods. In 2015, the median household Income (MHI) in the central city was \$23,504 (54% of the city-wide MHI) and 31% of residents of those neighborhoods earn less than \$15,000 a year.

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:

African American and people of Hispanic origin have disproportionately greater need. This is demonstrated in part by the fact that a highly disproportionate quantity of the African American 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	12,130	3,680	3,245	205
White	11,080	3,220	2,925	170
Black / African American	470	190	150	35
Asian	150	50	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	325	120	145	0

Table 139 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data 2011-2015 CHAS
Source:

Discussion:

African Americans and people of Hispanic origin tend to be disproportionately 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?

African American 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.

African American and Hispanic origin households 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 the entire population that they represent. (PP data, CPD maps and 2010 census data)

African Americans and people of Hispanic origin tend to be disproportionately represented among those with higher cost burdens. For example, in the entire City, people with >50% cost burdens are only 27% of the number that have ≤30% cost burdens.

In a larger picture, households with cost burdens above 30% are equal to 37% of the entire population, but among African Americans and Hispanics there are actually more people with burdens greater than 30% than less. 605 African American and Hispanic families have cost burdens greater than 30% and 795 have burdens less than 30%.

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.

African Americans and those of Hispanic origin make up 11.2% 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)

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. According to the chart labeled "Totals in Use", there were a total of 160 federally funded public housing apartments in use and 520 tenant-based housing choice vouchers (Section 8) in use as of the date HUD took its count. The PHA's three federally funded public housing developments, comprising a total of 163 units, are Dower Square: 50 units of family housing; Columbia Arms: 91 units of elderly housing; and Jubilee Apartments: 22 units of family housing. The assumption is that three of these public housing units were vacant when the HUD count was taken. The Pittsfield Housing Authority also reports that they are currently administering a total of 550 tenant-based housing choice vouchers (Section 8).

HUD allows jurisdictions to change the data in the table below in order to reflect a more accurate number of public and subsidized housing units as well as a more accurate number of rental subsidy vouchers in circulation. In addition to the 163 federally funded public housing units owned by the PHA there are another 535 state funded public housing units owned and managed by the PHA. There are also another 328 subsidized housing units that are owned/managed by Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. also administers 646 rental housing vouchers, including Section 8 vouchers originally funded by HUD and provided to Berkshire Housing Services from the state's Department of Housing and Community, and rental housing vouchers funded by other federal and state subsidy programs. There are also an additional 532 subsidized rental units owned by private housing developers/companies in Pittsfield that are funded through a combination of federal and state affordable housing programs.

The number of public housing units has increased in the last five years by 46 new units. The condition of public housing units has improved slightly (2.1% based on inspection scores) and 100 units at the Dalton Apartments that were recently taken over by Rees-Larkin LLC and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation are in the process of being rehabbed. Additionally, the Pittsfield Housing Authority recently completed rehabilitating 127 public housing units at Wilson Park and Beacon Communities is in the process of putting together a financing package totaling \$13.6 million to rehabilitate 120 subsidized housing units at Riverview Homes. There are now a total of 1,558 units of public/subsidized housing in Pittsfield that are publicly and privately owned. The average annual income of public housing residents of \$12,885 is about 29% of the median family income for the City, average voucher holder income of \$12,480 is 28% of the median family income for the City.

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	153	529	0	529	0	0	0

Table 20 - Public Housing by Program Type

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

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	
Average Annual Income	0	0	16,348	13,446	0	13,446	0	0	
Average length of stay	0	0	5	7	0	7	0	0	
Average Household size	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	
# Homeless at admission	0	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	55	114	0	114	0	0	
# of Disabled Families	0	0	68	277	0	277	0	0	
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	153	3	0	3	0	0	
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
# of DV victims	0	0	16	2	0	0	0	0	

Table 22 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

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	122	446	0	443	0	0	0
Black/African American	0	0	31	86	0	71	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type
includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

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	15	52	0	26	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0	138	481	0	494	0	0	0

Table 24 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

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

Of the 326 households that are currently on the waiting list for public housing with the Pittsfield Housing Authority 171 or 54% of them are families reporting a disability. Of the 62 households currently on the Housing Authority's waiting list for Section 8 vouchers 11 of them or 18% are households reporting a disability. This would indicate that accessible housing units are an unmet need for public housing applicants.

Berkshire Housing Services reports that in Pittsfield there are 542 households with incomes under 50% AMI assisted with Sec 8 rental vouchers. In Pittsfield there are 1068 households on the section 8 waiting list. This equates to a 3-4 year wait. Of those households on the Section 8 waiting list, 772 households on the waitlist are under 30% AMI.

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. 262 households or 80% of the 326 households on the waiting list for public housing report incomes at or below 30% of MFI. Of the 62 households on the waiting list for Section 8 Vouchers, 46 households or 74% report income at or below 30% of MFI.

The most immediate issue facing both housing authorities is the issues with the newly implemented 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.

The PHA reports a total of 550 Housing Choice Mobile Vouchers (Section 8) currently in use; the PHA does not anticipate receiving an increased allocation this year. There are 62 people on the PHA's Section 8 Housing Choice mobile voucher waiting list.

Berkshire Housing Development Corporation (BHDC) currently administers 542 Section 8 vouchers and any available vouchers are offered to those on the waiting list according to their number on the list,

including income eligible individuals and families. More families than individuals apply for these mobile vouchers.

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.

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 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

Homeless Needs Assessment

3 County 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)	45	0	126	83	84	114
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	0	19	9	13	111
Persons in Households with Only Adults	29	8	239	165	41	51
Chronically Homeless Individuals	2+	4	2+	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Families	7+	0	7+ households	0	0	0
Veterans	32	3	6+	5+	1+	55
Unaccompanied Child	1	0	1	1	1	24
Persons with HIV	1	1	2	0	2	118

Table 25 - Homeless Needs Assessment

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):

According to the chart above, 83 families became homeless and 84 families existed homelessness with an estimated 114 days experiencing homelessness. 165 individuals became homeless with 41 existing homelessness with an estimated 51 days experiencing homelessness.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	258	0
Black or African American	69	0
Asian	4	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0
Pacific Islander	2	0
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	100	0
Not Hispanic	265	0

Data Source Comments: 2020 Point in time Count conducted by the 3-County Rural Continuum of Care

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. An average of over 1000 households are diverted from homelessness annually, including over 1500 referred to financial assistance through Home-Base, RAFT, ESG, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, and other financial assistance programs (e.g. MHSA and Youth).

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

The Pittsfield homeless population is predominately white (74%) and is reflective of the area demographics. African Americans comprise 13% of homeless and Hispanic 11% of the homeless. This is

roughly twice the percentage of African Americans and Hispanics in Pittsfield, thus making them two times a greater risk of homelessness than their white counterparts.

Among Veterans, the identical percentage is white (74%); however African Americans disproportionately represent minority homeless Veterans (22%) with only 3% Hispanic.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

Over the last five years the numbers of unsheltered individuals has been increasing. The 2020 Point in Time Count indicates that 78 people in Berkshire County were unsheltered or sleeping somewhere unsafe for habitation on a single night in January. ServiceNet operates a low threshold winter shelter for individuals operated in collaboration with Soldier On. From November to January 2020, 130 individuals were served by the winter shelter. 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 states budget to secure this critical funding.

ServiceNet also operates an emergency shelter for homeless individuals, from July to January 2020, 87 individuals were sheltered, 58 were male, 29 were female and 6 individuals met the definition of chronically homeless, which requires that individuals have both a disabling condition and be homeless for at least one year.

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 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. 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. Over 2,000 households in Berkshire County received Housing Counseling, specialized case management and housing search assistance. In 2019, 300 Berkshire Households received RAFT financial assistance with over \$650,000 allocated in financial assistance. An average of over 1000 households are diverted from homelessness annually, including over 1500 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, persons 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 2015, 18.2% of the population of Pittsfield, and only 14.7% of the population of MA was over 65. 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. For federal fiscal year 2019, Ad-Lib served 1,722 people with disabilities. Of that number, 950 reported a physical disability.

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.

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, indicates that Pittsfield residents comprise 44% of their active clients or 536 people. 402 individuals or 75% of individuals/families identified the need for some kind of housing assistance.

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 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 program, 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 shelter or emergency housing to 137 individuals/families last year, 101 or 74% 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. (Interview)

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

The MA Department of Public Health (MA-DPH), HIV/AIDS Surveillance Programs reports that there are an estimated 184 people living with HIV/AIDS in Berkshire County. The county-wide prevalence rate is 140.2/100,000 up from 2009 data when it was 89.7/100,000. New diagnoses have been rising over the past 3 years, however obtaining a specific City number is difficult due to the MA-DPH practice of suppressing values of less than 5 for a region. Males make up 75% of the population (25% women). Of people living with HIV, 65% are White, 20% are Black, and 12% are Hispanic/Latino. This reflects a disparity among minorities compared with the race/ethnicity of the City. Male to male sex is the highest exposure mode (48%) followed by injection drug use (13%), heterosexual sex (12%), and undetermined (7% are presumed heterosexual sex), and the remaining are unknown. Age of diagnosis is less than 5 for all ages under 60 yrs. Individuals are most frequently diagnosed between the ages of 40-60 years old.

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 supports 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: **Barton's Crossing**, the City's shelter for homeless individuals, is the primary entry point for homeless individuals in the region. The current facility is not able to meet the needs of the population it serves, the facility is over a hundred years old and is need of rehabilitation. The shelter will be moving to a new centrally located facility. **Elizabeth Freeman Center** 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 to for redevelopment. The City is attempting to purchase a vacant gas station on Tyler Street to improve the condition of the neighborhood and create green space directly across from Morningside Community School.

Parks – Parks also were cited in the community needs survey as a top need. The following parks have planned improvements in the next five years:

Dog Park (Design and Construction) – The construction of a dog park at Burbank Park will occur in FY 2021 with significant support from the Stanton Foundation (\$325,000)

Athletic Court Resurfacing – Court resurfacing and repair is an ongoing annual expense (\$400,000)

Wild Acres Dam Improvements – Design will be completed in FY 2020 and construction in 2021 (\$250,000)

Skate Park Phase 2 – Design will be completed in FY 2020 and construction anticipated for FY 2021 (\$370,000)

Osceola Park Playground and Parking Improvements – This project is sought for FY 2022 (\$400,000)

Lakewood Park Parking Improvements – This project seeks to make important parking improvements at this busy park (\$100,000)

Lebanon Park Playground Improvements – This project seeks to install new compliant play equipment (\$75,000)

Pontoosuc Lake Boat Ramp – The State of MA will be the source of funding for this boat access improvement project (\$350,000)

Pontoosuc Lake Park Improvements – The park is undergoing a master planning effort in FY 2020. Construction of improvements would occur in FY 2023 and 2024 (\$1,200,000)

Springside Pond Rehabilitation – The design and permitting will be completed in FY 2020, with construction in FY 2021 and 2022 (\$500,000)

Pickleball Courts – Following additional site selection planning, the City seeks to construct courts (\$250,000)

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 b ;. Other feedback sources included the Citizen Comments received at the CDBG public input meetings held with the Neighborhood Initiative meetings and the Pittsfield Community Action Team Meeting, and the CDBG public survey responses.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

The City has identified the following needs for public improvements:

Streetscape Project: The City will utilize \$2,000,000 in City capital project funding and utilize the MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant for \$2,000,000 for Tyler Street Streetscape improvements in Years 1 and 2 of the Consolidated Plan five year span. The purpose of the program is to design for all modes of transportation, creating a safer and more appealing pedestrian environment, and slowing traffic to create a more desirable business environment in one of the City's primary commercial corridors.

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 as well as a potential dog park.

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 held with the two Neighborhood Initiatives and at the Pittsfield Community Action Team Meeting, 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 compliment 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:

Multi-Family and Owner Occupied Multi-Family Update

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 than it was before the recession in 2007-08. Some of the reasons for this are:

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.

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.

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.

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 545 in 2015 to 728 in 2018. The majority of these sales are for single family homes. Additionally, multi-family dwellings have experienced a steady increase in sales over the last several years and 2018 marked the highest frequency in sales since 2008. This is an indication that interest in housing located in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside and interest in owner occupied homes was increasing. In 2018, the median sales price for a home in Pittsfield was \$160,000 which has steadily risen after a dramatic decline experienced in 2011 in the wake of the recession in 2007-08.

According to the 2015 American Community Survey, 41% 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 57% of the multi-family units are located and 78% 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.

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

Introduction

The City has gained 105 units since 2005. All of the new units are affordable units, but none are owned by the Pittsfield Housing Authority. This is the result of constructing 133 units (88 at New Amsterdam and 45 at Silk Mill) and the demolition of 48 units in 28 structures as a result of being condemned. The City has demolished approximately 141 buildings since 1992 using CDBG, State, and City funds totaling \$4,484,138.

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	11,105	53%
1-unit, attached structure	1,095	5%
2-4 units	5,465	26%
5-19 units	1,820	9%
20 or more units	1,260	6%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc.	285	1%
Total	21,030	100%

Table 14 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	15	0%	420	6%
1 bedroom	520	4%	2,285	30%
2 bedrooms	2,465	21%	2,465	33%
3 or more bedrooms	8,735	74%	2,345	31%
Total	11,735	99%	7,515	100%

Table 15 – Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

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

41% of all housing units in Pittsfield are located in multi-unit structures (8,552) and 23% of those housing units (1,558) are affordable housing operated by the PHA, Berkshire Housing Services, Inc., or private ownership. The income level of families in public housing averages \$12,885, which is about 28% of the median family income in the entire City. The current income level of PHA residents is \$37,129. For 2019, the median family income for Pittsfield is \$80,000.

The breakdown of the types of households occupying the 1,558 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. 46 units have been added since 2005 and 100 units now owned by Rees-Larkin LLC and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation (previously under private ownership) are being rehabbed and 10 of those 100 units will be vacant in rotation while rehab is being done.

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

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

There are 326 households on the waiting list for Public Housing with the PHA. 262 of those individuals are extremely low-income (<30% AMI), 51 are very low-income (<50% AMI) and 13 are low income (< 80%). 91 of these households are families with children, 98 are elderly households and 171 are disabled households. The PHA has not closed their waiting list for public housing.

There are 62 households on the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers with the PHA. 46 of those individuals are extremely low-income (<30% AMI) and 16 are very low-income (<50% AMI). 40 of these households are families with children, 2 are elderly households and 11 are families with disabilities. The waiting list for Section 8 vouchers has been closed for the past thirteen months.

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

Introduction:

Data from the 2015 American community Survey puts the median home value in Pittsfield at \$172,500 which is 3% below the 2007 peak of \$178,000. Real estate sales in Pittsfield in 2015 of residential properties have rebounded on average to about 10% below the peak in 2007.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Median Home Value	166,700	172,500	3%
Median Contract Rent	559	655	17%

Table 16 - Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	2,355	31.3%
\$500-999	4,575	60.8%
\$1,000-1,499	445	5.9%
\$1,500-1,999	90	1.2%
\$2,000 or more	40	0.5%
Total	7,505	99.8%

Table 17 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	1,130	No Data
50% HAMFI	3,360	860
80% HAMFI	6,140	3,760
100% HAMFI	No Data	5,435
Total	10,630	10,055

Table 18 - Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent					
High HOME Rent					
Low HOME Rent					

Table 19 – Monthly Rent

Data Source: 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 a 15% disparity between market rate rents and FMR's for efficiencies and AMR's for 2 and 3 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's clear that it hasn't dropped substantially. Fair market rents have gone up by small amounts in the last five years. Landlord survey data is mixed, but in a limited sample it shows a slight decrease. The conclusion is that rent hasn't substantially increased since 2010. 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.

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

Introduction

Significant progress has been made in deleading 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 1992, the City reports that 119 buildings have been demolished. A total of 75 housing units were delead with CDBG funds between 2005 and 2013.

Most properties that were demolished in Pittsfield were condemned and were in disrepair by the time they are 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.

Definitions

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	3,197	27.23%	3,664	48.74%
With two selected Conditions	37	0.32%	196	2.61%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	25	0.33%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	8,506	72.45%	3,633	48.32%
Total	11,740	100%	7,518	100%

Table 20 - Condition of Units

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	446	3.8%	162	2.2%
1980-1999	1468	12.5%	775	10.3%
1960-1979	2,113	18.0%	1452	19.3%
Before 1960	7,713	65.7%	5129	68.2%
Total	11,740	100%	7,518	100%

Table 21 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2011-2015 American Community Survey

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	9,835	84%	6,575	87%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	505	4%	210	3%

Table 22 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS (Total Units) 2011-2015 CHAS (Units with Children present)

Home Occupancy – 2010 Census

	Pittsfield	Mass.	U.S.
Total Housing Units	21,487 – 100%	2,808,254	131,704,730
Occupied Housing Units	19,653 – 61.46%	90.70%	88.62%
Owner Occupied	11,871 – 55.25%	56.52%	57.69%
Renter Occupied	7,782 – 36.22%	34.18%	30.93%
Vacant Housing Units	1,834 – 8.54%	9.30%	11.38%
For Rent	639 – 2.97%	2.37%	3.14%
For Sale Only	164 – 0.76%	0.89%	1.44%
Rented or Sold, Not Occupied	72 – 0.34%	0.36%	0.48%
For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	456 – 2.12%	4.12%	3.53%
For Migrant Workers	1 – 0%	0.01%	0.02%
Other Vacant	502 – 2.34%	1.55%	2.77%

Table 11 – Home Occupancy – 2010 Census

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Decennial Census

Home Occupancy – 2011-2015

	Pittsfield	Mass.	U.S.
Total Housing Units	21,040 – 100%	2,827,820	133,351,840
Occupied Housing Units	19,258 – 91.53%	90.17%	87.68%
Owner Occupied	11,740 – 55.80%	56.00%	56.03%
Renter Occupied	7,518 – 35.73%	34.16%	31.67%
Vacant Housing Units	1,782 – 8.47%	9.83%	12.32%
For Rent	456 – 2.17%	1.51%	2.21%
For Sale Only	258 – 1.23%	0.68%	1.12%
Rented or Sold, Not Occupied	193 – 0.92%	0.85%	0.93%
For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	248 – 1.18%	4.35%	4.00%
For Migrant Workers	0 – 0%	0.01%	0.03%
Other Vacant	627 – 2.98%	2.44%	4.03%

Table 12 – Home Occupancy – 2011-2015

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

Given the age of the housing stock in Pittsfield (84% built before 1980) there is constant need for rehabilitation. From 2000 to 2008, a lot of progress was made in major renovation and in the consistency of routine maintenance. This is supported by building permit history and the price and quantity of property sales. 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.

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, while relatively newer, most of the housing was constructed before 1978. The 2015 estimate is that 84% of the buildings in the City were built before 1980. So, while lower income people, the majority of whom live in the central city neighborhoods, are often at risk for lead exposure, their risk may not be significantly greater than for the rest of the population. Because many low income citizens live in 1,558 public and subsidized housing units, some low income households may be at less risk from lead than people in the rest of the population. There are a total of 7,210 households with incomes below 50% MFI. If 22% of these people live in public housing, that leaves 78%, or 5,653 households who may be living in older houses that may contain lead-based paint hazards.

Discussion

The City has demolished approximately 141 buildings since 1992 using a combination of CDBG, State, and City funds at a total cost of \$4,484,138. Since 2015 (FY '16) the City has demolished 20 buildings or 24 units of housing:

- Between 2005 (FY'06) and 2009 (FY'10) the City demolished 23 buildings or 30 units of housing.
- Between 2010 (FY'11) and 2013 (FY'14) the City demolished 31 buildings or 40 units of housing.
- Between 2013 (FY'14) and 2014 (FY'15) the City demolished 23 buildings or 28 units of housing.
- Between 2016 (FY'16) and 2017 (FY'17) the City demolished 10 buildings or 12 units of housing.
- Between 2018 (FY'18) and 2019 (FY'19) the City demolished 8 buildings or 11 units of housing

A total of 117 housing units have been deleaded with CDBG funds from 2005 (FY'06) through 2019 (FY'20). Between FY15 through FY19, 37 were deleaded with CDBG funds.

How many more were deleaded privately, is unknown.

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 federal and state funded public housing developments and also 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 federal 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. See table entitled "MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing."

The PHA owns and manages a total of 10 housing developments consisting of 695 rental units. Three of the 10 housing developments are federally funded with a total of 164 housing units. The three federal developments are Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments, and Columbia Arms. The PHA reports that they are administering a total of 550 Section 8 rental subsidy vouchers in 2015.

BHS owns and/or manages a total of 8 housing developments consisting of 330 rental units in Pittsfield and 22 properties totaling 750 units in all of Berkshire County. All of BHS's 8 housing developments are federally funded or are a combination of federal and state funding. BHS also reported that they are administering a total of 646 rental subsidy vouchers using \$4,376,712 of Section 8 funding in FY21. BHS plans to utilize approximately \$2,338,224 in state and federal operating funding to fund and manage 330 units in Pittsfield at state and federal public housing developments. Of the 328 units 108 are elderly units, 45 are single family, and 177 are mixed housing for many household type. The average income for residents in BHS units is \$28,500.

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			153	529			0	0	0
# of accessible units									

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

TransitionTable 23 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data PIC (PIH Information Center)
Source:

MA - 25 Public and Assisted Housing

Census tract	Year Built	Development	Type		# of Units
Pittsfield Housing Authority					
9001	1961	Francis Plaza	Elderly	State	40
9001	1972	Columbia Arms	Elderly	Federal	90
9004	1949	Wilson Park	Family	State	127
9004	1978	Dower Square	Family	Federal	50
9006	1972	Jubilee Apartments	Family	Federal	22
9006	1980	Christopher Arms	Family	State	24
9006	1988	McGill Court	Family	State	12
9003	1960	Wahconah Heights	Elderly	State	68
9002	1981	Providence Court	Elderly	State	103
9011	1960 &1987	Rose Manor	Elderly	State	152
N/A	N/A	Scattered Sites	Family	State	7
			PHA Total		695
Berkshire Housing Services Inc.					
9001	2003	YMCA	Individual Fed/State		44 (22/22)
9001	1973	Capitol Square	Elderly	Federal	68
9001	1988	Epworth Arms	Elderly	Federal	39
9001	1992	Redfield	Family	Federal	24
9002	2012	Rice Silk Mill	Mixed Fed/State		45
9002	2012	Cherry Street	Mixed	Federal	2
9009	1994	George Street	Mixed	Federal	6
9010	1971/2016	Dalton Apartments	Family Fed/State		100
			BHSI Total		328
Privately Developed and Managed (Others)					
9001	1975	Berkshire Town	Elderly	Federal	184
9004	1975	Oak Hill	Family	State	60
9006	1972/2018	Riverview Homes	Family	State	120
9001	1980	Central Annex	Elderly/Disabled State		62
9001	1980	Union Court	Elderly/Disabled State		39
9001	2009	New Amsterdam	Mixed Fed/State		67
			Private Total		532
			Total Public Housing		1555

Public Housing Waiting Lists: Trends from 2004-2020										
Year	Sect 8 wait list	PH wait list	# on wait lists	Change from earlier years	# with ext. low income	% change ext. low income	3 families with children	% change families with children	Families with any disabil.	% change families w/ disabil.
2004	180	464	644	N/A	526	N/A	478	N/A	82	N/A
2007	154	131	285	+29 (+11%)	235	+32 (+15.8%)	178	+16(+9.9%)	53	-2 (-3.6%)
2011	306	345	651	0 (0%)	552	+19 (+3.5%)	332	-49 (-12.8%)	119	-31 (-20.6%)
2012	269	441	610	-41 (-6.2%)	608	+56 (+10.1%)	382	+50 (+15%)	130	+11 (+9%)
2013	169	593	762	+152 (+24.9%)	656	+48 (+7.8%)	408	+26 (+6.8%)	133	+3 (+2%)
2014	226	476	682	-80 (-10.5%)	603	-53 (-8%)	351	-57 (-14%)	204	+71 (+53%)
2015	134	386	520	+150 (+23%)	420	+131 (+21.7%)	274	-8 (-2.2%)	179	-4 (-1.9%)
2016	37	364	401	-119 (-30%)	293	-127 (-70%)	170	-62 (-50%)	118	-15 (-2.5%)
2017	137	439	576	+115 (+26%)	445	+152 (+34%)	260	+90 (+53%)	202	+84 (+58%)
2018	16	367	383	-133 (-36%)	284	-161 (-64%)	158	-102 (-72%)	98	-104 (-95%)
2019	126	381	507	+124 (+33%)	351	+67 (+19%)	225	=67 (+42%)	208	+110 (+99%)
2020	15	205	220	-287 (-98%)	170	-181 (-150%)	89	-136 (-98%)	99	-109 (-97%)

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:

There are 1,558 subsidized housing units located in housing developments available in Pittsfield. See attached table labeled "MA - 25 Public and Assisted Housing. Over the past five years 45 units of housing at the Silk Mill Apartments was developed. Located in the Morningside neighborhood resulting in 45 new subsidized rental units. Additional projects over the past five years include major rehabilitation to many of Pittsfield's older housing developments. These projects include the major 100 units of housing rehabilitated at the Dalton Apartments and 120 units of housing at Riverview Homes. Both of these developments were constructed in the 1970's and the rehabilitation significantly improved the conditions at both of these projects. The Pittsfield Housing Authority also completed a very successful \$2 million rehabilitation project at Wilson Park, a 127 unit, state funded public housing development which was originally built in 1949.

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

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 residents 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.
7. **Health and Safety-** The PHA has received a \$250, 000 grant to update cameras, lighting and fencing at Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments and Columbia Arms. This will allow security surveillance for our tenants. The surveillance will be connected to the City of Pittsfield Police department and PHA. The PHA also has night security on duty. The PHA feels safety is a priority for their tenants.

During the next five years, the Pittsfield Housing Authority has outlined the physical Improvements to their developments. The Pittsfield Housing Authority will utilize \$329,833 from the Capital Fund Program to make improvements to its federally funded public housing developments during Year 1 and \$1,319,322 over the next four years of the Consolidated Plan. The three federally funded public housing developments in Pittsfield are Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments, and Columbia Arms.

HUD's Real Estate Center conducts a program of 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 of 17 sites in 2019 was 91.95.%. Although, HUD rotates the housing developments that are inspected every 2 years, this represents an 8.15% net increase when compared with 67 sites that were inspected in 2017 that had an average score of 83.8%.

Additionally, 100 units of housing at Dalton Apartments underwent complete rehabilitation and Beacon Communities, the private owner of the Riverview Homes subsidized housing development on West Street rehabilitated 120 affordable housing units in the 2018 fiscal year.

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
- Fencing, lighting, and security cameras will be installed at Columbia Arms and Jubilee Terrace.
- Recent improvements to Dower Square are underway and will improve the roofs, lighting and sidewalks at the development.
- The PHA will apply for a FEMA grant to replace stoves in all developments
- 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.

The PHA expects to utilize \$3,442,228 to provide approximately 550 Section 8 vouchers in Year 1 and \$13,768,912 for Section 8 vouchers the remaining four years. The Pittsfield Housing Authority will use approximately \$1,059,198 in federal and state operating funds to fund and manage 695 units of rental housing at its federal and state public housing developments in FY2021 and an estimated \$4,236,792 to manage the same housing developments over the remaining four years.

Both the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. will continue to administer existing Section 8 rental voucher allocations. The Pittsfield Housing Authority is currently administering 540 Section 8 vouchers and receives their yearly allocation directly from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Currently, the PHA owns and manages 695 public housing units within the City

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).

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)	57	0	5	0	0
Households with Only Adults	35	23	0	23	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	23	0
Veterans	2	0	62	58	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 24 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source 3 County Continuum of Care
Comments:

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 2019.

Year	Proj. Type	Organization Name	Project Name	Bed Type	Target Pop.	Veteran Beds HH w/ Children	Youth Beds HH w/ Children	CH Beds HH w/ Children	Youth Beds HH w/o Children	Veteran Beds HH w/o Children	CH Beds HH w/o Children	CH Beds HH w/ only Children	Year-Round Beds	Total Seasonal Beds	Overflow Beds	PIT Count	Total Beds	Utilization Rate
2019	ES	Freeman Center	Elizabeth Freeman DV Shelter	Facility-based beds	DV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	21	21	100%
2019	PSH	ServiceNet	3 County PSH - Barton's Crossing		NA	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	10	13	77%
2019	ES	ServiceNet	Barton's Crossing ES	Facility-based beds	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	3	16	17	94%
2019	ES	ServiceNet	Barton's Crossing Winter Shelter	Facility-based beds	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	17	20	85%
2019	ES	ServiceNet	Our Friend's House ES	Facility-based beds	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	8	15	53%
2019	ES	ServiceNet	House Scattered Sites	Other beds	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	42	42	100%
2019	PSH	ServiceNet	Summer Street MHSA Project		NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	4	8	50%
2019	PSH	ServiceNet	PSH - FH Scattered Sites		NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	3	9	33%
2019	PSH	ServiceNet	Summer Street PSH - Pittsfield		NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	6	67%
2019	PSH	Soldier On	Mansfield Veterans Community		NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	39	39	100%
2019	ES	Soldier On	Emergency Shelter - Pittsfield	Facility-based beds	NA	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	100%
2019	TH	Soldier On	GPD Bridge Housing - Pittsfield		NA	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	8	10	80%
2019	TH	Soldier On	Treatment - Pittsfield		NA	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	4	15	27%
2019	TH	Soldier On	Mentally Ill - Pittsfield		NA	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	100%
2019	TH	Soldier On	Intensive TH - Pittsfield		NA	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	35	0	0	31	35	89%
2019	PSH	Soldier On	Pittsfield Apts (PH)		NA	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	11	100%
2019	PSH	Soldier On	Pittsfield Houses (354 & 402)		NA	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	5	8	62%
						Sum:0	Sum:0	Sum:0	Sum:0	Sum:122	Sum:21	Sum:0	Sum:250	Sum:20	Sum:3	Sum:227		

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.

Shelter facilities include:

- Barton's Crossing for homeless individuals (24 individuals); Our Friend's House (7 families) - both are operated by ServiceNet and have on-site supervision, case management and access to clinical support. Chronically homeless families and individuals are served at both 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. It hosts the winter overnight shelter (November-April) in collaboration with Barton's Crossing which provides intake, assessment, and case management. 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 provide 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 Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCHRA) to provide housing placement services.
- Elizabeth Freeman Center operates a 25 bed emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence.
- BCHRA and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation (BHCD) have developed an integrated approach to providing triage, assessment and direct financial assistance to at-risk and homeless households. BCHRA provides a comprehensive program of prevention, tenancy preservation, housing counseling, court mediation and eviction prevention, foreclosure prevention and representative payee programs. BHCD provides access to an array of subsidized housing units to which homeless/at-risk individuals apply.

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, persons with addictions, and HIV/AIDS. The PHA prioritizes the elderly, people with disabilities and families with children and makes their housing needs a priority.

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. In 2010, 17.6% of the population of Pittsfield, and only 13.8% of the population of MA was over 65. A disproportionate percentage of elderly in Pittsfield live alone compared to state averages (43% vs. 32%). This includes approximately 3,500 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. For federal fiscal year 2019, Ad-Lib served 1,722 people with disabilities. Of that number, 950 reported a physical disability.

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

All of the mental and physical health institutions including Berkshire Medical Center, the McGee Unit, and psychiatric units are governed by state policies that prohibit individuals from being discharged into homelessness. Each department has social workers who begin discharge planning at entry for patients and are required to identify safe, appropriate housing for individuals. As the primary provider of mental health and addictions supportive housing and day programs, Brien Center works closely with discharge planning staff. Elder Services is available to support at risk elderly transition in to rehab or other nursing care settings. Eliot Services PATH "homeless" outreach worker provides in-reach to all of the institutions to support and ensure that homeless individuals/families have supportive housing options and are not directly discharged into homelessness. The Berkshire CoC Policy and Systems Subcommittee that meets quarterly includes institutional representatives and provides an opportunity to identify and resolve barriers to ensuring that high-risk individuals have access to appropriate housing post-discharge.

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)

Within the City of Pittsfield, there are several programs that will be available during the upcoming year, as well as future years, to ensure that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing.

The Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will provide services in the form of a Comprehensive Care Model to support persons in managing their illnesses so they can remain productive members of the community, remain in their homes, and avoid future hospitalization. The Brien Center is a community based, non-profit agency with a 90 plus year history of providing continuum of services for children, adolescents, adults, and families who suffer from serious and persistent behavioral health disorders. In the coming year, the Brien Center expects to assist approximately 10,000 individuals in Pittsfield utilizing approximately \$28,703,462 through a combination of Federal, State, and local funding.

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. DMH programming may include: DMH Case management; Adult Community and Clinical Services through the Brien Center; Respite and Transitional housing through the Brien Center; employment and skills training through Pathways Clubhouse program of Viability Inc.; and employment and education assessment and training through the Viability Inc., and the Mass Rehab Commission.

The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services plans to provide residential services along with an array of supportive services to approximately 325 persons with intellectual disabilities residing in Pittsfield.

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 costing an estimated \$9,495,561 and funded with CDBG, Other Federal, State, Local, and Private sources. 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)

Describe any 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 new 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 9.2%, meaning that of the 21,031 year round housing units in Pittsfield 1, 936 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 five 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.

From an individual project perspective, Habitat for Humanity is close to completing a six-unit attached residential development. This project was made possible through flexible zoning put in place to increase housing choices and diversity, infrastructure funding through MassWorks, and City funding through its

relatively new Community Preservation Funds. In addition Solider On will be completing 14 units of affordable housing made available specifically to women veterans.

In November 2016, Pittsfield's voters adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The purpose of CPA was to enable a locally supported fund supplemented with a partial match from the state that could be utilized for projects that involve historic preservation, open space, outdoor recreation, and affordable housing. In the first year no housing projects applied. In the second year, Habitat for Humanity received \$90,000.00 for the Gordon Deming project, 6 new units of affordable housing for first time homebuyers. This year, Habitat applied for two projects, one a rehabilitation project of a single family property in the Westside and the second involves new construction of two units of affordable housing in the Westside.

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

Introduction

The information in the table below entitled "Industry Employment Structure: Berkshire Workforce Area" describes the strongest business sectors in the Pittsfield New England Cities and Towns Area (NECTA) that forms the greater Pittsfield employers. The Pittsfield NECTA has an average monthly employment of 41,562 individuals, the majority of whom are from the City of Pittsfield. 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	Average Monthly Employment	Share of Workers %
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	95	0.23%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	13	0.03%
Construction	2271	5.46%
Manufacturing	3918	9.43%
Utilities	232	0.56%
Wholesale Trade	567	1.36%
Retail Trade	6170	14.84%
Transportation and Warehousing	810	1.95%
Information	610	1.47%
Finance and Insurance	1492	3.59%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	363	0.87%
Professional and Technical Services	2183	5.25%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	210	0.51%
Administrative and Waste Services	1664	4.00%
Educational Services	3218	7.74%
Health Care and Social Assistance	8807	21.19%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	849	2.04%
Accommodation and Food Services	4859	11.69%

Other Services (except Public Administration)	1502	3.61%
Public Administration	1731	4.16%
Total	41564	0.23%

Table 25 - Business Activity

Data 2015 Pittsfield NECTA mass.gov

Source:

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	23,405
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	20,855
Unemployment Rate	10.95
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	41.27
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	7.74

Table 26 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Lines 1-3 in the Labor Force chart were updated with 2014 annual average data from the Division of Career Services.

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	3,965
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	940
Service	3,185
Sales and office	5,400
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	1,530
Production, transportation and material moving	735

Table 27 - Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	16,725	85%
30-59 Minutes	2,103	11%
60 or More Minutes	949	5%
Total	19,777	100%

Table 28 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	870	145	1,150
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,080	860	1,700
Some college or Associate's degree	5,855	635	1,165
Bachelor's degree or higher	5,310	195	800

Table 29 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	50	180	140	480	495
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	555	315	280	770	645
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	1,295	1,825	1,720	4,105	2,970
Some college, no degree	1,075	1,455	1,000	2,280	1,495
Associate's degree	130	675	725	1,535	500
Bachelor's degree	280	1,005	890	1,900	1,055
Graduate or professional degree	8	440	575	1,500	855

Table 30 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	16,313
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28,309
Some college or Associate's degree	31,538
Bachelor's degree	39,543
Graduate or professional degree	55,604

Table 31 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2011-2015 ACS

Pittsfield NECTA Industry Employment Trends

Business by Sector	Third Quarter Employment 2014	Third Quarter Employment 2015	Yr/Yr Employment Change	Yr/Yr Employment % Change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	103	105	2	1.9%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	12	15	3	25.0%
Construction	2328	2442	114	4.9%
Manufacturing	3873	3936	63	1.6%
Utilities	235	234	-1	-0.4%
Wholesale Trade	572	574	2	0.3%
Retail Trade	6220	6178	-42	-0.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	797	803	6	0.8%
Information	630	622	-8	-1.3%
Finance and Insurance	1466	1576	110	7.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	330	381	51	15.5%
Professional and Technical Services	2161	2276	115	5.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	188	220	32	17.0%
Administrative and Waste Services	1653	1823	170	10.3%
Educational Services	2606	2635	29	1.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	8584	8864	280	3.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1277	1241	-36	-2.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	5734	5427	-307	-5.4%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1625	1727	102	6.3%
Public Administration	1780	1763	-17	-1.0%
Total	42174	42842	668	1.6%

Table 21 - Business Activity

Data 2014-2015 Pittsfield NECTA mass.gov
Source:

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 NECTA. This mirrors the county with the exception that there is a slightly lower percentage of workers in educational services in the NECTA.

A few other sectors, though smaller, are worth noting. Professional and Technical Services provides 5.3% of all monthly employees in the Pittsfield NECTA. This sector is a major source of Science, Technical Engineering and Math (STEM) jobs, but is a much smaller part of the local economy when compared to the Massachusetts share of 8.7%.

Employment shares in the Pittsfield NECTA closely mirror the overall distribution in Berkshire County with some slight differences. Within the Pittsfield NECTA there are slightly larger shares in Health Care and Social Assistance (21.19% vs. 20.46%) and Manufacturing (9.43% vs. 7.62%) when compared to Berkshire County. Conversely, smaller employment shares were especially pronounced in Educational Services (7.74% vs 12.44%). Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services in the Pittsfield NECTA were very close to the respective employment shares in Berkshire County.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

A number of the major sectors experienced employment declines in the past year such as Accommodation and Food Services (-307) but several key sectors did post job increases. These included Construction (+114), Finance and Insurance (+110), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+280). The STEM-oriented sector of Professional and Technical Services increased by 115 average monthly employees or 5.3% percent. See the attached table entitled: "Pittsfield NECTA Industry Employment Trends".

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 the 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?

The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board conducted a needs assessment in the fall 2019. It identified that the average FY19 job vacancies reported was 1,327 with 46% are professional/technical positions. MassHire Berkshire Career Center assisted 3,400 job seekers and 500 employers with their recruitment, retention, and career pathway needs during FY19.

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 \$16,313-\$28,309 annually. Even with some college or an Associate's degree, the average earnings rise to only \$31,538. This points to 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 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 lead 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. MassHire received a \$350,000 grant from the MA Executive Office Housing and Executive Development to enhance career pathways opportunities in the health care field. The City has recently completed the \$120 million renovation of Taconic High School, the City's vocational high school. Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity has received an Urban Agenda grant in the amount of \$95,000 to develop a workforce development program in partnership with Taconic High School to provide training certifications and apprenticeships.

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.

The 2019 annual update to the Berkshire County CEDS includes multiple Priority Projects located within the City of Pittsfield. They are as follows:

Project Name: Berkshire Innovation Center at William Stanley Business Park

Project Summary: Construction of the Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC), which will be a combined R&D laboratory, training center, and collaboration/conference center. The 23,000-square-foot BIC will provide member companies and community partners access to facilities and equipment such as a wet lab, clean rooms, PC and server room, incubator space, and training classrooms.

Project Name: Columbus Avenue/Summer Street Parking Garage

Project Summary: Construction of a new three-story parking garage between Columbus Ave. and Summer St. in downtown Pittsfield. The garage will be adjacent to the Berkshire Intermodal Transportation Center, the primary rail and public transit hub in the County.

Project Name: Pittsfield Police Station

Project Summary: Construction of new police headquarters facility for the Pittsfield Police Department to replace the current aging and failing facility. New facility will improve safety standards, expand storage, and accommodate entire authorized and funded police force.

Project Name: Pittsfield YMCA Renovation

Project Summary: Renovation of Pittsfield YMCA's original historic building and entire 1980s-era addition on North Street in downtown Pittsfield. Exterior improvements include repointing of the brick façade and reopening of bricked-over windows. Interior improvements include the installation of an elevated track, a new basketball court, an overhaul of the fitness and aquatics area, and an expansion of the childcare section.

Project Name: Tyler Street Streetscape

Project Summary: Overhaul of Tyler Street right-of-way in downtown Pittsfield to accommodate all modes of transportation. Includes addition of bicycle lanes, pedestrian amenities, bus stops, and construction of traffic circle at intersection of Tyler Street, and Dalton and Woodlawn Avenues.

Project Name: Springside House Restoration

Project Summary: Renovation of historic Springside House in Pittsfield's Springside Park into "natural park center" with space for visitor center, natural and historical exhibits, park offices, classrooms, and public gatherings. Potential space for anchor commercial tenant as well as opportunity to house other environmental and/or historic preservation-based non-profits.

Project Name: Wright Building

Project Summary: Renovation of historic Wright Building on North Street in downtown Pittsfield. Completed project will create 21 market-rate residential units on upper two stories and 12,000 square feet of modern commercial space on ground floor.

Project Name: White Terrace

Project Summary: Proposed renovation of historic White Terrace building trio on North Street in downtown Pittsfield into 41 market-rate apartments and ground floor commercial space.

Project Name: 765 Tyler Street

Project Summary: The project includes the restoration of a three-story mixed-use building located at 765 Tyler Street. The building was recently acquired by Mill Town Capital as part of an effort of strategic acquisitions on Tyler Street. As proposed, the building will bolster efforts being made at the former St. Mary's campus in creating new market rate housing in the neighborhood, as well as code-compliant ground floor commercial space.

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 (2019) one adult living in Berkshire County needs to make a minimum of \$26,540 annually, for one adult with a pre-school and school aged child that number leaps to \$57,637. 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.

Self Sufficiency Standard: The Crittenton Women's Union updated The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Massachusetts in 2013, which studies how much income is needed for different family types to adequately meet basic needs without public or private assistance. The standard considers the costs of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous expenses for several family types, as well as any tax credits a family might receive. The study factors in regional costs. Examples of six family types are provided below. Additional information on other family types may be accessed at www.liveworkthrive.org.

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.

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. Median family income in the three central city census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006) is \$23,504 compared with \$43,916 City-wide or 54% of the City as a whole. A breakdown of income levels show that 31% of households in the three central city census tracts make less than \$15,000/year; 24% make between \$15,000-25,000; and 45% make greater than \$25,000. A key disparity again occurs with 55% of all City residents making less than \$15,000 live in the three central city census tracts; and 41% of all City residents making \$15,000-\$25,000.

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

The City experiences areas of racial/ethnic minority disparities as follows. White households comprise 92% of the City's households, while Black/African American, and Hispanic households comprise 7.5%. The three central city census tracts (9001, 9002, and 9006) house 25% of the City's population and 28% of its households. Whites make up 84% of the households in the three core central census tracts, followed by 9.7% Black/African American, 5.4% Hispanic and 3.5% mixed race for a total minority population of 30% - or 18 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. 22% of all White households in the City live in the three central city census tracts as compared with 53% of all Black/African American households: 54% of all mixed race households, and 37% of all Hispanic households. 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.

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. In 2019, new foreclosures in Pittsfield averaged 3 per month. In many instances, it has been a case where families have an insufficient cushion to cover vacancy costs when tenants leave or do not pay their rent.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

There are numerous community assets in these neighborhoods. Foremost perhaps is the level of engagement by the Morningside and Westside Neighborhood Initiatives, which have been in existence for more than 10 years. They have a sophisticated understanding of the issues that improve both the economic conditions and quality of life in these two low-income neighborhoods as well as strong community connections and a commitment to stay in the neighborhood and be part of the solution.

There is also a commitment to supporting the development of affordable housing in these two neighborhoods. Many residents welcome the relief that housing rehabilitation provides to abandoned or blighted property.

Strong social service agencies and creative partnerships are strong assets to both the Westside and Morningside. 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 and they are standing up together to support positive youth intervention strategies to help 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 are hoped 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 of 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 is 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 West Side neighborhoods likely have a lower utilization rate due to the density of low-income households and their inability to pay for an internet subscription.

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

The City of Pittsfield only has one broadband internet provider at the current time, which puts the residents at the mercy of the provider for higher costs. 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. The City of Pittsfield is exploring providing its own fiber-based broadband internet service to provide higher speeds at a more affordable price.

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 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, drought, landslide, wildfire, and earthquake. 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 was conducted. In 2019, the vulnerability assessment work was completed and an action-oriented resiliency plan was finalized.

Pittsfield also simultaneously created a new Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City.

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 also essential in this process. A survey was created and distributed (in both English and Spanish), two public meetings were held, and a public review period of the draft plan was also held as part of the planning process. The City adopted the plan on December 12, 2019.

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 snow storms 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 sever flood, this can displace residents who already experience financial vulnerability.

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 vacancy, 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.

1

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

The City received FY19 MVP Action Grant funds to address high priority culvert improvements on both West Street and Churchill Road. The project included completion of design and permitting documents for replacement of the West Street culvert at May Brook as well as final design, permitting, and construction of the Churchill Street culvert at Churchill Brook.

The City also received FY20 MVP Action Grant funds to remove the Mill Street Dam. The City worked collaboratively with the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration for over 10 years to develop plans for the dam removal due to its importance for public safety and local climate resiliency. In 2000, the dam was classified as "poor condition with significant operational or maintenance deficiencies". Removal of the dam has been completed.

Grant funding in the amount of \$64,210 from the Massachusetts Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program was received for the design and permitting of removal of the Wild Acres Pond Dam located within the Wild Acres Conservation area, owned and operated by the City of Pittsfield. The dam was given a hazards classification of "significant" per the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, with studies resulting from dam breach inundation analysis and mapping showing extension downstream impacts. Evaluations performed of the dam structure, and its appurtenances, shows a number of deficiencies that required the dam to either be considerably rehabilitated, completely replaced, or removed to eliminate safety concerns. Removing the dam was determined to be the most reasonable hazard mitigation option when considering all factors such as cost, effectiveness to mitigate storm hazards, and betterment to the overall function and values of the associated ecological habitats.

The City also applied for and was awarded \$500,000 in grant funding for the replacement of the Dan Casey Memorial Drive culvert through the MassDOT's Small Bridge Program. As of June 12, 2020, we are in the process of applying for FY21 MVP Action Grant for Dan Casey; another priority project. If MVP funds are received, these funds would be used towards the construction of the culvert replacement.

2

The City also recently applied for funding through MassDOT's Small Bridge Program for the replacement of the Pecks Road Bridge due to structural deficiencies noted by the MassDOT and the necessity to implement a lane closure over the structure until it can be replaced. The City is still waiting to hear back on whether or not funding will be granted.

The City has also continued to improve community resiliency by sharing information with the public. Facebook has been utilized more for the City of Pittsfield's City Hall and Police Department communication of updates, road closures, potential flooding, lake treatments, etc. CODE Red is used to make calls in the event of a serious weather or other emergency. Targeted messages can let residents in a neighborhood know of road closures, hydrant flushing, mosquito spraying and other news that is specific to them. The Pittsfield Police Department also has a weekly show "On Patrol with PPD" that is broadcast on our Pittsfield Community Radio and Television stations.

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 among the different activities and 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 unable to meet the needs of this population due to the age and condition of the building. Relocation of the shelter to a more central location with case management, supportive 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 promotes 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.

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 are estimated to leverage approximately \$19,396,267 in FY 2021 through 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.

Forty four entities comprised of City and Regional Boards, housing, economic development, neighborhood initiatives, social services agencies, housing organizations, banking organizations, and state agencies provide a broad institutional structure through which to implement the strategic plan. Twenty eight goals and strategies address the key needs outlined above that will result in the following service outcomes over the next five years:

- 100 renter households will be provided with Section 8 vouchers.
- 125 households will receive rehabilitation assistance

- 20 special needs households will be provided with accessible ramps
- 15 vacant buildings will be demolished
- 8 owner households will purchase new home
- 10 business will be assisted to create/retain 20 jobs for income eligible workers

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.

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

Geographic Area

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 6: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Census Tract 1: Block Group 4, and part of 2. The Morningside neighborhood can be geographically described as Census Tract 1: Block Groups 1, and part of 2, and Census Tract 2: 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. 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?	
	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. While there are currently grant funds available for the construction of the Westside Riverway linear park, funding for other needed improvements remains to be obtained
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 1: Block Groups 1, and part of 2, and Census Tract 2: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	See the characteristics described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	See the answer in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
	Identify the needs in this target area.	See the needs described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	See the opportunities described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	See the barriers described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
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 6: Block Groups 2, 3, and 4, and Census Tract 1: Block Group 4, and part of 2.
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	See the characteristics described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	See the answer in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
Identify the needs in this target area.	See the needs described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	See the opportunities described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	See the barriers described in the combined target area #1 for both the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods.

Table 32 - Geographic Priority Areas

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 in June 2018 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 some demolitions.

CDBG eligible areas (census tracts and block groups) within the City of Pittsfield as of July 1, 2018 are as follows:

Census Tract 9001 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3, and 4

Census Tract 9002 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

Census Tract 9003 Block Group: 2

Census Tract 9004 Block Groups: 1, 2, and 5

Census Tract 9005 No block groups are eligible

Census Tract 9006 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Census Tract 9007 Block Group: 3

Census Tract 9008 No block groups are eligible

Census Tract 9009 Block Groups: 2, and 3

Census Tract 9011 No block groups are eligible

Census Tract 9352 Block Group: 3

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

Priority Needs

1	Priority Need Name	Homelessness Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Prevention
	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 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homelessness Prevention
	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 1,875 renters and 1,255 owners paying more than 50% of their income for housing costs. Additionally, there are 3,685 renter and 2,654 owner households paying more than 30% of their income to cover housing costs. Annually, Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority expects to assist approximately 1,500 Pittsfield households during the upcoming year with homelessness prevention services.
2	Priority Need Name	Homelessness: Transitional Shelter
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing Homelessness Prevention Public Facility Improvement -Replacement Homeless
	Description	There is a moderate need to provide transitional shelter for homeless individuals and families. However, the 3-County Continuum 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 62 units of transitional housing, SSVF prevention, diversion and rapid-rehousing program, and 58 units of permanent supportive housing for veterans. 36 units of permanent supportive housing through ServiceNet is available for individuals. Areas in which there continue to be high need for transitional housing include: domestic violence victims, substance additions and unaccompanied youth.

	Basis for Relative Priority	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 62 transitional beds for Veterans with Solider On. The information also indicates the following emergency shelter beds that are available: 57 year round beds for households with adults and children; 37 year round beds for households with adults; 23 voucher/seasonal/overflow beds for households with adults; and 3 year round beds for Veterans.
3	Priority Need Name	Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing Homelessness Prevention
	Description	There is a high need for the creation of additional permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families because of the most recent 2020 Point in Time Count as well as the fact that there are a reported 428 sheltered homeless persons in the 3 county area requiring permanent supportive housing, at least 131 of whom were from Berkshire County/Pittsfield.
	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	Rental Assistance - i.e. Section 8

	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing Maintain Existing Section 8 Housing Allocations
	Description	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. 3,685 renter households pay in excess of 30% of their income for housing costs and some 1875 pay more than 50%. There are 62 families currently on the PHA's Housing Choice Voucher wait list.
	Basis for Relative Priority	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. 3685 renter households pay in excess of 30% of their income for housing costs and some 1875 pay more than 50%. There are 62 families currently on the PHA's Housing Choice Voucher wait list.
5	Priority Need Name	Production of affordable rental units
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Increase Quantity of Subsidized Housing & Section 8
	Description	There is a high priority need for the production of new affordable rental units within the City of Pittsfield due to the high number of cost burdened households and the high number of households on subsidized housing waiting lists. Currently there are 326 applicants on the waiting list for subsidized public housing.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority need was ranked as high due to the fact that there are so many applicants on the waiting lists for rental assistance vouchers as previously mentioned as well as statistics that reflect the high number of cost burdened renter households.
6	Priority Need Name	Rehabilitation of Existing Owner Housing Units
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG Home Improvements - Owner Housing CDBG
	Description	There is a high need for rehabilitation of existing owner housing units 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 assigned a high priority ranking due to the number of homes in Pittsfield constructed prior to 1978 as well as the number of housing units that may contain lead-based paint hazards. There are 9,835 owner occupied units that were built prior to 1980 that likely contain lead paint hazards.
7	Priority Need Name	Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG Home Improvements - Rental Housing CDBG
	Description	There is a high need to rehabilitate existing rental housing units due to the age of the structures that contain a majority of the apartments. Pittsfield has a higher percentage than the state average of older housing with 84% of the City's housing stock built prior to 1980.

	Basis for Relative Priority	This need is considered to be a high priority due to the number of 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 6,575 households may be living in older housing that may contain lead-based paint hazards.
8	Priority Need Name	Maintain Quantity of Affordable Rental Housing
	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	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Maintain Existing Section 8 Housing Allocations Maintain Existing Subsidized Public Housing
	Description	There is a need to maintain the number of existing affordable rental housing units. Renter Households with incomes of less than 30% AMI, of which 600 have cost burdens of >30%, and 430 have cost burdens greater than >50%. This is a total of 1,030 single person households with severe cost burdens, which is 5.4% of all households in the city.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This need was assigned a high priority ranking because of the number of Pittsfield residents who are considered cost burdened as well as the number of Pittsfield households that remain in need of subsidized affordable housing.
9	Priority Need Name	Maintain Existing Public Housing Units
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low

		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 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homelessness Prevention Public Housing Improvements - Federal Sites
	Description	There is a need to maintain existing public housing units to keep them up to code and rentable.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This need was assigned a high priority need due to the number of households who are eligible for public housing. Waiting lists for public housing are continually full.
10	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 Facility Improvement - Dog Park Public Facility Improvement -Replacement Homeless Public Facility Improvement - Westside Linear Park Public Facility Improvements - Parks Public Facility Improvements - Sidewalks
	Description	There is a need for public facilities such as the creation of parks as well as the upkeep of existing parks with the City. The rehabilitation of the City's only emergency shelter for the homeless is a priority need. There is also a need for the reconstruction of sidewalks and curb cuts particularly in the City's CDBG low income areas. The CDBG Public Survey that was conducted also indicated that the public felt parks were and a youth center were a significant community need.
	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 at the City's two community schools. Additionally, the public facility improvements listed above are consistent with a number of existing plans including the City's Master Plan.
11	Priority Need Name	Public Services
	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 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
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Homelessness Prevention Other Non-homeless Special Needs - Public Services Other Public Services 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.
12	Priority Need Name	Economic Development
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Associated Goals	Economic Development-Community Investment Tax Credit Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program Economic Development - MGCC TA Grant Program

		Economic Development - Mayor's Loan Fund Economic Development- Accessible Loan Program
	Description	There is a need for a workforce that is aligned with the needs of employers. Currently the County is attempting to decrease the number of households making less than \$75,000 per year. 46.6% of Pittsfield's workforce has less than a high school degree. Employers report difficulty in retaining a skilled workforce. This points to a high need for workforce development training including skills in the areas of the local economy that show significant growth and pay a living wage. These are advanced manufacturing, the creative economy, food and agriculture, health care and hospitality and tourism.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This need was assigned a high priority ranking.
13	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 121 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 14 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. American Community Survey data indicates a total of 2,269 vacant units in Pittsfield.
	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.
14	Priority Need Name	Program Administration and Planning
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	

Associated Goals	Program Administration and Planning
Description	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.
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.

Table 33 – Priority Needs Summary

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.

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)	The City continues to see an increasing demand for safe affordable housing. There are currently 1196 TBRA "mobile" vouchers administered through the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Services. Cost burden continues to be one of the largest factors in housing instability for extremely low and low- income households. 3685 renter households pay in excess of 30% of their income for housing costs and some 1875 pay more than 50%. There are 62 families currently on the PHA's Housing Choice Voucher wait list.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	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
New Unit Production	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.
Rehabilitation	Given the age of the housing stock in Pittsfield (84% built before 1980) there is constant need for rehabilitation. From 2000 to 2008, a lot of progress was made in major renovation and in the consistency of routine maintenance. This is supported by building permit history and the price and quantity of property sales. 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
Acquisition, including preservation	Home prices and the number of homes sold increased from 545 in 2015 to 728 in 2018. The majority of these sales are for single family homes. Additionally, multi-family dwellings have experienced a steady increase in sales over the last several years and 2018 marked the highest frequency in sales since 2008. This is an indication that interest in housing located in the central city neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside and interest in owner occupied homes was increasing. In 2018, the median sales price for a home in Pittsfield was \$160,000 which has steadily risen after a dramatic decline experienced in 2011 in the wake of the recession in 2007-08.

Table 34 – Influence of Market Conditions

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 Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,341,750	140,000	379,075	1,860,825	5,960,000	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.
Continuum of Care	public - federal	Public Services Other	611,000	0	0	611,000	2,444,000	The 3 County Rural Continuum of Care received a total award of \$1,805,000 from the yearly HUD Super NOFA application and \$611,000 of it will be used for Pittsfield based transitional and supportive housing programs and services.

General Fund	public - local	Admin and Planning Public Services	144,875	0	0	144,875	579,500	City General funds of \$144,875 will be used to help pay portions of Department of Community Development staff salaries during Year 1 and an estimated \$579,500 will be used over the following 4 years which is the remainder of the Consolidated Plan. In addition, City General Funds of \$51,750 will be used for human (public) service grants to social service agencies. City General Funds will leverage both CDBG admin and public service funding with an estimated \$207,0000 projected over the next four years.
HUD-VASH	public - federal	Housing	447,120	0	0	447,120	1,788,480	Soldier On reports that there are currently 80 HUD VASH housing vouchers in Pittsfield with another 47 vouchers recently awarded by HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The dollar value of the 127 vouchers for Year 1 is estimated at \$447,120 and at \$1,788,480 for the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan.
Public Housing Capital Fund	public - federal	Housing	329,833	0	0	329,833	1,319,332	The Pittsfield Housing Authority will utilize \$329,833 from the Capital Fund Program to make improvements to its federally funded public housing developments during Year 1 and \$1,319,332 over the next four years of the Consolidated Plan. The three federally funded public housing developments in Pittsfield are Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments, and Columbia Arms.
Section 8	public - federal	Housing	7,818,940	0	0	7,818,940	33,268,912	Two Pittsfield agencies will administer Section 8 voucher programs during the upcoming term of this Consolidated Plan. The PHA expects to utilize \$3,442,228 to provide approximately 550 Section 8 vouchers in Year 1 and \$13,768,912 for Section 8 vouchers the remaining four years. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. expects to provide about 646

								vouchers using \$4,376,712 of Section 8 funding in Year 1 and expects to use \$17,500,000 of Section 8 funding over the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan. Both agencies will also pursue additional Section 8 allocations as they are made available by the federal government. It is unlikely that any will be made available as there has been no new allocations over the previous five years.
Other	private	Public Improvements	325,000	0	0	325,000	0	A \$325,050 grant to develop a City dog park was received from the Stanton Foundation and is expected to be utilized during Year 1 of the Consolidated Plan five year span.
Other	public - federal	Housing	3,397,422	0	0	3,397,422	13,589,688	The Pittsfield Housing Authority will use approximately \$1,059,198 in federal and state operating funds to fund and manage 698 units of rental housing at its federal and state public housing developments in Year 1 and an estimated \$4,236,792 to manage the same housing developments over the remaining four years. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. plans to utilize approximately \$2,338,224 in state and federal operating funding to fund and manage 328 units at state and federal public housing developments and an estimated \$9,352,896 for the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan.
Other	public - federal	Housing Public Services Other	500,000	0	0	500,000	2,500,000	Soldier On received a Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant from the federal Veterans Services Administration for \$3 million to provide funds for rental and utility payments and supportive services to Veterans and their families. It is estimated that \$500,000 will be spent during Year 1 and \$2.5 million over the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan.

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Other	public - federal	Public Services	20,000	0	0	20,000	100,000	Berkshire Community Action Council is expected to continue to administer approximately \$20,000 annually in FEMA funds countywide to prevent shutoff of utilities, to pay rent/mortgage arrearages, and to assist with emergency hearing fuel needs. An estimated 30 persons per year in Pittsfield are expected to benefit from these funds and 150 over the five year Consolidated Plan period.
Other	public - federal	Public Services Other	47,318,790	0	0	47,318,790	189,270,384	It is projected that social service agencies serving the homeless with shelter and related programs in Pittsfield will expect to utilize \$1,977,077 in other Federal, State, Local, and private funding in Year 1 and an estimated \$7,903,532 for the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan. It is also projected that social service agencies serving non-homeless special needs populations will utilize \$36,603,240 of other Federal, State, local, and private funding in Year 1 and \$146,412,960 for the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan term. Additionally, it is estimated that social service agencies providing all other public service programs will utilize \$8,738,473 in Year 1 from other Federal, State, local, and private funding sources and \$34,953,892 for the remaining four years.
Other	public - state	Economic Development	50,000	0	0	50,000	150,000	The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) expects to be awarded grant funds of \$50,000 annually from the Mass Growth Capital Corporation that will be used to provide mentoring and technical assistance award technical assistance to small businesses and micro-enterprises in exchange for creating jobs. Mass Growth Capital Corporation grant funds of approximately \$150,000

								are expected over the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan term.
Other	public - local	Economic Development	80,000	0	0	80,000	222,500	The City expects to utilize approximately \$80,000 in Year 1 from the Mayor's Small Business loan and grant program to help local businesses and generate new jobs. It is estimated that \$222,500 from the same program will be used for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan term.
Other	public - local	Public Improvements	0	0	0	0	3,695,000	The City anticipates utilizing Capital Funds of approximately \$3,695,000 for Parks & Open Space projects during Year 1 and during the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan.

Table 35 - 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 \$9,495,561 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. An additional \$275,000 in rehabilitation funds will be leveraged from Mass DHCD under the Gateway Housing Rehabilitation Program to rehab 2-4 unit properties with code related issues.
- 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 \$144,875 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 \$71,750 of City general funds to fund additional public service agency grants.
- CDBG funds in the amount of \$100,000 will leverage approximately \$410,000 in state funds to rehabilitate a building to create an emergency and winter shelter with 40 beds, owned and managed ServiceNet.
- The development of the SkatePark, utilizing \$150,000 of CDBG funding, will leverage approximately \$370,000 of City general funds.
- CDBG demolition funds in the amount of \$50,000 will leverage approximately \$400,000 in City general funds to improve the parking lot and playground at Osceola Park.

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

Over the past year the City took possession of three properties through tax title foreclosure that have existing structures on the property. This is unusual as by the time the tax title foreclosure is complete, a lengthy land court process which sometimes takes many years, property has usually been demolished either by the City or by the owner/ bank and the land is usually vacant. Vacant land of low value is auctioned and sold, usually to the abutting property owners. These three properties required different disposition based on the conditions of the property. The first at 21 Eleanor Road is being rehabbed with CDBG funds in the amount of \$200,000 and will be sold to a low income first time homebuyer. The second, at 761 West Housatonic Street, is not a suitable candidate for rehabilitation. CDBG funds will be used to demolish it and since it abuts a city park, it will become absorbed into the park. The third property at 43 Fort Hill Road will be sold by the City at auction.

The City also funds a Community Gardener to manage 6 gardens, 3 on City owned property at Conte, Crosby and Morningside Elementary Schools in the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods. Three gardens located at affordable housing developments. Volunteers, residents and students help maintain the gardens. Produce is used by the schools, local food pantries, and residents. The gardener has also helped volunteers set up small gardens at Headstart, the Elizabeth Freeman center and the public library.

In 2007 the City with the assistance of the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs lead a community planning process to create an Urban River Plan to improve access to the west Branch of the Housatonic. The river runs through the Westside neighborhood but is walled off to residents. The plan seeks to improve public access to the open space of the river for recreation, green space, and increased walkability of the neighborhood. The first phase of this was the Westside Riverway. Over ten years in the creation which consisted of the City taking ownership of 10 vacant lots parcels through tax title foreclosure and purchase, accessing federal EPA funds to remediate environmental contamination at the site. In FY2019-2020, the City leveraged \$586,000 in grant funding from a combination of sources to design and build the linear park. The City will be looking to access other sources of funding to continue this long range project.

The City owns a few vacant lots and vacant fire station along the Tyler Street business corridor. As part of the Tyler Street Housing Plan conducted in FY2020, these sites are suggested for an infill housing development project.

Discussion

As described above, the City of Pittsfield CDBG funds are estimated to leverage approximately **\$ 11,742,186** during the upcoming 2021 fiscal year (2020 HUD program year). 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. 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
Berkshire Housing Development Corporation	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning Rental	Region
Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Planning Rental	Region
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Inc.	Regional organization	Planning	Region
Berkshire Community Action Council	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness public services	Region
Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation	Regional organization		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	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership neighborhood improvements public services	Jurisdiction
Rental Housing Association of Berkshire County	Non-profit organizations	Rental	Region
Berkshire Housing Services, Inc.	Regional organization	Ownership Public Housing Rental	Region
Morningside Neighborhood Initiative	Community/Faith-based organization	Economic Development Planning neighborhood	Jurisdiction

		improvements public facilities	
Westside Neighborhood Initiative	Community/Faith-based organization	Economic Development Planning neighborhood improvements public facilities	Jurisdiction
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 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	neighborhood improvements	Jurisdiction
City of Pittsfield Building Inspections Department	Departments and agencies	neighborhood improvements	Jurisdiction
City of Pittsfield Fire Department	Departments and agencies	neighborhood improvements	Jurisdiction
Human Services Advisory Council	Public institution	Homelessness public services	Jurisdiction
Pittsfield Parks Commission	Government	Planning neighborhood improvements public facilities	Jurisdiction
Pittsfield Department of Community Development	Departments and agencies	Economic Development Homelessness	Jurisdiction

		Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning Rental neighborhood improvements public facilities public services	
Berkshire United Way, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Planning public services	Region
Elizabeth Freeman Center Of The Berkshires	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness public facilities public services	Region
Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Government	Rental neighborhood improvements	State
Greylock Federal Credit Union	Other	Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements	Region
Lee Bank	Other	Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements	Region
Berkshire Bank	Other	Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements	Region
Mountain One Financial Services	Other	Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements	Region
AdLib, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
Berkshire County Arc	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services	Government	Non-homeless special needs public services	State

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health	Government	Non-homeless special needs public services	State
Brien Center For Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
City of Pittsfield Ralph J. Froio Senior Center	Departments and agencies	Non-homeless special needs public services	Jurisdiction
Berkshire Children And Families, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	neighborhood improvements public services	Region
United Cerebral Palsy	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
Berkshire Medical Center	Non-profit organizations	Non-homeless special needs public services	Region
ServiceNet, Inc.	Non-profit organizations	Homelessness public services	Region

Table 36 - 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	X
Mortgage Assistance			X
Rental Assistance	X		X
Utilities Assistance	X		X
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	X		

Mobile Clinics	X	X	
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X		
Education	X	X	
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X		
HIV/AIDS	X	X	X
Life Skills	X	X	X
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	X
Other			

Table 37 - 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 BCRHA, 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.

Another strength in the Pittsfield service delivery system are a strong legislative delegation that has been supportive of homelessness providers and services. The legislation provided a state earmark of \$150,000 specifically for a winter overflow shelter collaboration between ServiceNet, BCRHA, Solider on Construct (serving South Berkshire County) and Louison House (serving Norther Berkshire County). This was in response to service providers and the community requesting an emergency winter shelter and stressing how very critical this service was for unsheltered individuals in the severe climate of Berkshire County winters. People were at serious health risk during the coldest months of the year due to lack of shelter. This earmark became a line item in the State budget last year. The Western MA Network to End Homelessness includes the preservation of this funding as a key legislative priority for FY2021.

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 is 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.

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	Homelessness Prevention	2020	2024	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing Homelessness Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Prevention Homelessness: Transitional Shelter Maintain Existing Public Housing Units Public Services	CDBG: \$100,000 FEMA: \$20,000 Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$2,880,609 Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): \$3,000,609	Homelessness Prevention: 15000 Persons Assisted
2	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing	2020	2024	Homeless	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing Homelessness: Transitional Shelter Rental Assistance - i.e. Section 8	CDBG: \$225,000 Continuum of Care: \$180,500 HUD-VASH: \$2,235,600 Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$6,500,000	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 1920 Persons Assisted
3	Public Services - CDBG HSAC	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$772,500 General Fund: \$258,750	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3955 Persons Assisted
4	Other Non-homeless Special Needs - Public Services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	Public Service Funding from All	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income

							Sources: \$183,516,200	Housing Benefit: 48160 Persons Assisted
5	Other Public Services	2020	2024	Other Public Services	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$43,692,365	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50000 Persons Assisted
6	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rehabilitation of Existing Owner Housing Units Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units	CDBG: \$150,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Unit
7	Home Improvements - Rental Housing CDBG	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units	CDBG: \$500,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Unit
8	Home Improvements - Owner Housing CDBG	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rehabilitation of Existing Owner Housing Units	CDBG: \$2,000,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 100 Household Housing Unit
9	Homeownership Assistance - CDBG	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas			
10	Maintain Existing Section 8 Housing Allocations	2020	2024	Section 8 Vouchers	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Maintain Quantity of Affordable Rental Housing Rental Assistance - i.e. Section 8	Section 8: \$13,768,912	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 5980 Households Assisted
11	Maintain Existing Subsidized Public Housing	2020	2024	Public Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Maintain Quantity of Affordable Rental Housing	Public Housing Development Operating Funds: \$4,236,792	Other: 1555 Other

12	Increase Quantity of Subsidized Housing & Section 8	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Production of affordable rental units	Section 8: \$2,000,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 150 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 50 Persons Assisted
13	Public Housing Improvements - Federal Sites	2020	2024	Public Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Maintain Existing Public Housing Units	Public Housing Capital Fund: \$957,460	Rental units rehabilitated: 163 Household Housing Unit
14	Public Facility Improvements - Parks	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$150,000 City Capital Funds: \$369,500	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15000 Persons Assisted
15	Public Facility Improvement - Westside Linear Park	2020	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$20,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4000 Persons Assisted
16	Public Facility Improvement - Dog Park	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	Stanton Foundation: \$325,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3500 Persons Assisted
17	Public Facility Improvement - Replacement Homeless	2020	2025	Homeless	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Homelessness: Transitional Shelter Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$100,000	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 40 Beds
18	Public Facility Improvements - Sidewalks	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$200,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4500 Persons Assisted

19	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups	2020	2024	Neighborhood Clean-ups	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$25,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20000 Persons Assisted
20	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Demolition of Vacant Buildings	CDBG: \$1,000,000	Buildings Demolished: 15 Buildings
21	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program	2020	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	CDBG: \$639,058	Jobs created/retained: 20 Jobs Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
22	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	CDBG: \$200,000	Jobs created/retained: 15 Jobs Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
23	Economic Development - Mayor's Loan Fund	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	Mayor's Small Business Fund: \$302,500	Jobs created/retained: 16 Jobs Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted
24	Economic Development - MGCC TA Grant Program	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	Mass Growth Capital Corporation: \$200,000	Jobs created/retained: 30 Jobs Businesses assisted: 15 Businesses Assisted
25	Economic Develop't- Community Investment Tax Credit	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development		Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted

26	Economic Development- Accessible Loan Program	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$375,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 15 Business
27	Program Administration and Planning	2020	2024	Administration and Planning Expenses		Program Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$852,020 General Fund: \$579,500	Other: 0 Other

Table 38 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Homelessness Prevention
	Goal Description	Early intervention programs will be provided by Pittsfield social service agencies such as Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation. The five-year goal is to assist approximately 15,000 persons/households with assistance. In addition to CDBG funding, other federal, state, local, and private funding is expected to be utilized to achieve this goal.
2	Goal Name	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	The provision of transitional housing with a transition to permanent supportive housing along with the provision of case management and service coordination. Over the next five years, the number of homeless individuals estimated to be assisted at Barton's Crossing shelter is expected to be 950; the number of homeless households to be assisted at Our Friend's House is expected to be 180; and the number of chronic homeless individuals expected to be assisted at the Summer Street/Barton's Supportive Housing Project is approximately 210. Approximately 500 persons are expected to be assisted at the Elizabeth Freeman Center through its secure shelter for battered women and children in danger. Additionally, approximately 127 Veterans are expected to be assisted with permanent supportive housing with HUD VASH vouchers administered by Soldier On.
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 3,955 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	Other Non-homeless Special Needs - Public Services
	Goal Description	The City's social service agencies will also assist thousands of other non-homeless special needs persons during the next five years using other federal, state, local, and private funding sources. Utilizing millions in other federal, state, local, and private funding, social service agencies are expected to assist an estimated 48,160 persons in Pittsfield over the next five years with critical services and programs for non-homeless special needs clients.
5	Goal Name	Other Public Services
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, it is estimated that local social service agencies and non-profit organizations will utilize approximately \$47,477,805 in other federal, state, local, and private funding resources to assist low/moderate income households and persons with important programs and services such as affordable child care; fuel assistance; weatherization; counseling services; legal aid; literacy programs, and more. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 persons will be assisted with these services over the next five years.
6	Goal Name	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG
	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 20 disabled persons through this program.
7	Goal Name	Home Improvements - Rental Housing CDBG
	Goal Description	This goal is to increase the quality of rental housing through the provision of the CDBG funded home improvement and lead paint abatement programs. Property owners who rent apartments to HUD income eligible tenants are eligible for low interest rate loans and lead paint abatement grants. Over the next five years, it is anticipated that approximately 25 renter households will be assisted through the CDBG funded home improvement program.
8	Goal Name	Home Improvements - Owner Housing CDBG
	Goal Description	The City's goal to improve the quality of existing owner housing will be accomplished by offering low interest rate loans and grants to HUD income eligible homeowners to make necessary repairs and perform lead paint abatement work. The five year goal is to provide financing to approximately 100 owner households through the City's CDBG funded home improvement program.
9	Goal Name	Homeownership Assistance - CDBG
	Goal Description	This goal will help to increase homeownership by providing CDBG funds for down payment assistance and closing costs. This is considered a low priority need at the moment as assistance is available on the private sector and through MassHousing.

10	Goal Name	Maintain Existing Section 8 Housing Allocations
	Goal Description	Both the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. will continue to administer existing Section 8 rental voucher allocations. The Pittsfield Housing Authority is currently administering 550 Section 8 vouchers and receives their yearly allocation directly from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. is currently administering 646 Section 8 vouchers and receives their yearly voucher allocations through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Both agencies expect to continue to receive and administer approximately the same amount of allocations yearly over the next five years.
11	Goal Name	Maintain Existing Subsidized Public Housing
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, the Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) and Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. (BHS) will continue to own and manage public housing developments located within Pittsfield utilizing both federal and state operating subsidies. Currently, the PHA owns and manages 695 public housing units within the City and BHS manages 328 public housing units.
12	Goal Name	Increase Quantity of Subsidized Housing & Section 8
	Goal Description	There is a need for additional subsidized housing as well as Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers in Pittsfield.
13	Goal Name	Public Housing Improvements - Federal Sites
	Goal Description	The Pittsfield Housing Authority will utilize funds from the federal Capital Fund program to rehabilitate, update, and maintain its three federally funded public housing developments. The PHA estimates that it will utilize approximately \$957,460 to make improvements at Dower Square, Jubilee Hill, and Columbia Arms public housing developments over the next five years.
14	Goal Name	Public Facility 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 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 most likely also be expended for certain parks in income eligible areas of the City.
15	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvement - Westside Linear Park
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, the City plans to continue to assist with the development of the linear park along the West Housatonic River and Dewey Avenue using city owned parcels of land. Approximately \$20,000 of CDBG fund will be utilized to leverage other federal, state, and local funding to help create this unique park expected to benefit approximately 4000 residents of the Westside neighborhood.

16	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvement - Dog Park
	Goal Description	The City received a private grant from the Stanton Foundation in the amount of \$325,000 in order to create a dog park located at Burbank Park. Design and Construction will occur in during the 2021 fiscal year.
17	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvement -Replacement Homeless
	Goal Description	The City plans to provide CDBG funds to assist in moving the Emergency and Winter Shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness to a new location. The current location is not able to meet the needs of the City's homeless population. An existing building in the downtown will be rehabilitated to create 40 beds of emergency shelter and case management services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Berkshire Housing Development, Fenn Street Community Development and ServiceNet are collaborating with the City on this project.
18	Goal Name	Public Facility 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 4,000 linear feet of sidewalks and approximately 50 curb cuts will be constructed with CDBG funds in the next five years. The City is using CDBG funds to leverage additional funds from the Mass. DOT under their Complete Streets program.
19	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. 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.
20	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.
21	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 10 businesses and create approximately 20 new jobs by providing small business loans to start-up businesses or expanding small businesses. The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation will administer 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.

22	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 10 businesses and create approximately 15 new jobs. CDBG funds will be budgeted over the next five years totaling \$200,000, or approximately \$50,000 for each year of the Consolidated Plan.
23	Goal Name	Economic Development - Mayor's Loan Fund
	Goal Description	Over the next five years, funds totaling approximately \$302,500 will be available from the Mayor's Loan Fund for Pittsfield existing small businesses. PERC also administers these funds on behalf of the City. It is anticipated that over the next five years, approximately 16 jobs will be created and 5 businesses will be assisted through this program.
24	Goal Name	Economic Development - MGCC TA Grant Program
	Goal Description	During the next five years, the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) expects to apply for approximately \$50,000 per year from the Mass Growth Capital Corporation for a total of \$200,000. These state funds will be provided to small businesses in the form of technical assistance, training, mentoring and coaching services for small businesses. It is estimated that approximately 15 businesses will be assisted with technical assistance grant funding to create an estimated 30 jobs over the next five years.
25	Goal Name	Economic Development- Accessible 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 to their properties. Over the next five years, it is estimated that this program will assist approximately 15 businesses with financial assistance to help make their buildings accessible. Approximately \$375,000 will be budgeted for this program over the five year period.
26	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 401 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:

- 125 households will receive rehabilitation assistance as follows: 35 owner households (0-30% MFI); 30 owner households (31-50% MFI); 35 owner households (51-80% MFI); 10 renter households (0-30% MFI); 10 renter households (31-50% MFI); and 5 renter household (51-80% MFI).
- 18 special needs households will be provided with accessible ramps: 4 renter households (0-30% MFI); 4 renter household (31-50% MFI); and 5 owner households (31-50% MFI) 5 owner households (51-80% MFI).

Production of New Units:

- 8 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.
7. Health and Safety- The PHA has received a \$250, 000 grant to update cameras, lighting and fencing at Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments and Columbia Arms. This will allow security surveillance for our tenants. The surveillance will be connected to the City of Pittsfield Police department and PHA. The PHA also has night security on duty. The PHA feels safety is a priority for their tenants.

The PHA will continue its efforts to increase resident involvement in management. Each fiscal year the PHA staff will solicit the opinions and input of residents of their public housing developments and voucher holders. The PHA will attempt 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 will utilize the Resident Advisory Boards 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 voucher recipients. These two Resident Advisory Boards are brought together yearly, and will continue to meet, 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 will 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.

During the next five years, the City will request that the PHA encourage its public housing residents to attend financial budgeting classes and to consider applying to first-time homebuyer classes being offered by both the local banks and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation.

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

No

Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation

N/A

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

Barriers to Affordable Housing

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 new 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 9.2%, meaning that of the 21,031 year round housing units in Pittsfield 1, 936 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 five 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.

From an individual project perspective, Habitat for Humanity is close to completing a six-unit attached residential development. This project was made possible through flexible zoning put in place to increase housing choices and diversity, infrastructure funding through MassWorks, and City funding through its

relatively new Community Preservation Funds. In addition Solider On will be completing 14 units of affordable housing made available specifically to women veterans.

In November 2016, Pittsfield's voters adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The purpose of CPA was to enable a locally supported fund supplemented with a partial match from the state that could be utilized for projects that involve historic preservation, open space, outdoor recreation, and affordable housing. In the first year no housing projects applied. In the second year, Habitat for Humanity received \$90,000.00 for the Gordon Deming project, 6 new units of affordable housing for first time homebuyers. This year, Habitat applied for two projects, one a rehabilitation project of a single family property in the Westside and the second involves new construction of two units of affordable housing in the Westside..

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 four years \$1, 118,418 in CDBG funds were spent to rehab 87 units of housing. 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 allocates approximately \$25,000 yearly for this activity.
- The City will continue to give a priority to Home Improvement Program applicants who require handicapped accessible modifications and to continue to provide 0% loans to applicants in order to make accessible improvements to their homes or apartments occupied by income eligible owners and tenants.
- The City will continue to find opportunities to create affordable housing. A tax title foreclosure of a City owned single family house at 21 Eleanor Avenue is currently being rehabbed with CDBG funds and will be sold to a first time income eligible homebuyer.
- The City will administer an additional \$275,000 in Gateway Housing Rehabilitation Funds awarded by the State to address 2-4 family properties in Pittsfield. Designed to address substandard rental housing, participants must be renting to households that meet income guidelines and be in need of urgent need of code related repairs. The program anticipates in being able to assist 8 units of rental housing.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

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

According to the 2020 Point in Time Count conducted by the Three County CoC there were at least 78 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 428 sheltered homeless person in all three counties, at least 131 were from Pittsfield. In addition, there were at least 78 people who were completely unsheltered or sleeping somewhere unsafe for habitation on a single night in January in the Three County CoC, 27 of whom were in Berkshire County.

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. Between July 2019- January 2020 ServiceNet served 87 Individuals at Barton's Crossing with emergency and winter shelter beds. 58 of these were male, 29 were female and 6 met the federal definition of Chronic homelessness. As part of this process case management services are provided which include evaluating the needs of the individual and locating resources to meet that need.

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. The CoC 2019 PIT count for all three counties found 323 people in emergency shelter, 189 people in transitional housing, and 34 people unsheltered for a total of 546 people. The CoC received a total award of \$1,805,000 from the yearly HUD Super NOFA application for FY2019, to be used for and \$400,000 of it will be used for Pittsfield based transitional and supportive housing programs and services. The City of 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); Barton's Crossing (provides emergency and overflow beds for individuals) and an Overnight winter shelter that operates from November-April through a collaborative agreement with Barton's Crossing (ServiceNet) 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 C o C 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 additions 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.

Over the next five years, the number of homeless individuals estimated to be assisted at Barton's Crossing shelter is expected to be 1520 ; the number of homeless households to be assisted at Our

Friend's House is expected to be 210 ; and the number of chronic homeless individuals expected to be assisted at the Summer Street is approximately 100.

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. Permanent supportive housing with a capacity of 27 individuals was provided by ServiceNet and Center for Human Development.

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.

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

The FY 2021 CDBG human (public) service budget is \$154,500. Within this \$154,500 budget, the Department of Community Development will allocate some of the CDBG funds for grants to non-profit human service agencies servicing Pittsfield's homeless population. It is expected that CDBG funds will assist: Barton's Crossing homeless shelter; Elizabeth Freeman Center's shelter for battered women and children; legal assistance regarding eviction defense at Community Legal Aid and persons with homeless prevention activities at Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA).

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 2019, almost 300 Berkshire County received assistance through the RAFT program with over \$6500, allocated in financial assistance, much of which went to stabilize housing. Over 2,000 households received Housing Counseling, specialized Case Management and Housing Service assistance.

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 a 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 37 housing units have been deleaded with CDBG funds from 2015 (FY'16) through 2019 (FY '20), an average of 8/year. The average per unit de-leading cost was \$7,126.00 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. An additional 23 buildings or 28 units of housing were demolished between 2014-2019, 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. Deleading subsidies funded through CDBG are largely concentrated in the target neighborhoods of Westside and Morningside.

Data provided by the MA Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead poisoning Prevention Program, Screening and Incidence Statistics by Community for Calendar Year 2018 documents that a population of 1,592 children in Pittsfield who were between 9-48 months old; 74% were screened (1,181 children). The incidence of Blood Lead Levels among children age 9-48 months that was greater or equal to 5 ug/dL was 45 children (3.8%) and 9 children had levels greater or equal to 10 ug/dL (0.8%).

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.

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

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

Opportunity Insights is a Harvard University based team of researchers and policy analysts that have created an “Opportunity Atlas” for the United States that uses technology to analyze data. The Atlas provides census tract level data for all neighborhoods in the US. The data includes household income, the employment rate and neighborhood characteristics, such as the median rent and the poverty rate. Based on this data, the percentage of residents below the federal poverty line between 2012-2016 for each census tract in Pittsfield is listed here:

9001	32%	9002	22%	9003	13%	9004	20%	9005	5.8%	9006	39%	9007	15%	9008	3.9%
9009	12%	9011	6.1%	9352	17%										

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 LMISD in 2018 which reflected some significant changes from the 2017. 6 block groups Citywide became no longer CDBG eligible. However the census tracts in the center of the City that contain Westside and Morningside neighborhoods saw a drastic increase in the percent of low moderate income households. In Census Tract 9002, one block group moved from 58.79 % of its residents meeting the income guidelines in 2017 to 95.57% of its residents meeting the guidelines in 2018. This was the also the case for block groups in Census Tract 9001 and 9006. This data indicates that while areas of the City have seen improvements in neighborhood income levels, the urban core of the City has an overwhelming concentration of under resourced households as compared to the rest of the City. A recent analysis of neighborhood data by Berkshire Regional Planning found that Morningside and Westside neighborhoods experience significantly more poverty than the rest of the City. The median household income of those neighborhoods is \$22,520 with a 31% family poverty rate compared to \$55,056 median family income and a family poverty rate of 10.5% for 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 research 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) 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. The first option for those with no access to credit is an open use micro-loan of no more than \$500, paid back over a 6 month period. Once repaid, funds may be accessed a maximum of two more times, increasing up to \$1,000. Once successful, the client may be eligible for additional funds under the "Grow Your Home" program. These funds, up to \$1,500 repaid over 6-12 months with a low interest rate, can be used for housing related expenses, such as appliances, furniture, first and last months rent, and are designed to help people stabilize their housing. The third program is the CARS program which provides a low interest fixed car loan up to \$10,000. A local dealership provides a quality used car for the program. Participants in the CARS program are encouraged to use the car to provide transportation access to others, for example by carpooling to their job. All participants in these programs are required to attend several financial counseling sessions. These programs graduate approximately 25-30 people a year and are an important step in stabilizing households, helping them maintain housing and employment.

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 four 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. Since 2015 Habitat has prepared tax returns for 1,514 Pittsfield households with incomes under \$56,000. 683 Berkshire County residents took advantage of the EIC and resulting in \$1,008,706 being returned to those households.

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. The group has outlined three strategies to do this: Getting Ahead, Community Navigators and Workforce Development. GA is a 32 hour program where participants investigate poverty in their community, identify barriers and create a plan for reaching their goals. To date 100 individuals have graduated the GA program, 75% of those are minorities. The program is run in both English and Spanish. Past participants have stabilized their housing situations, one has purchased a home.30% report

increasing their income and 75% report feeling as if they are better advocates for themselves. The Community Navigators are graduates of the GA program who have expressed a desire to work within the community to build neighborhood capacity by linking residents with programs and services, providing advocacy, voter engagement strategies, and helping residents give voice to their concerns. The third arm of this strategy is a Workforce Development Program to prepare workers for building careers by providing direct workforce skills trainings with the supports that include training certifications and connections to apprenticeships. This program also includes the development of an Employer Resource Network which places success coaches within businesses to support new hires and low income workers that have typically had difficulty in obtaining and retaining employment. Habitat received an Urban Agenda grant from the Commonwealth in FY2020 to move this program forward in the next two years.

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 24 CFR 84.51 and 85.40, as applicable.
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:

- 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.
- Program administrator reviews cost reimbursement and expenditure requests for eligibility and reasonableness prior to payment approval.
- Program administrator 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 A-133 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.

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	1,341,750	140,000	0	1,481,750	5,960,000	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.
Continuum of Care	public - federal	Public Services Other	611,000	0	0	611,000	2,444,000	The 3 County Rural Continuum of Care received a total award of \$1,805,000 from the yearly HUD Super NOFA application and \$611,000 of it will be used for Pittsfield based transitional

								and supportive housing programs and services.
General Fund	public - local	Admin and Planning Public Services	144,875	0	0	144,875	579,500	City General funds of \$144,875 will be used to help pay portions of Department of Community Development staff salaries during Year 1 and an estimated \$579,500 will be used over the following 4 years which is the remainder of the Consolidated Plan. In addition, City General Funds of \$51,750 will be used for human (public) service grants to social service agencies. City General Funds will leverage both CDBG admin and public service funding with an estimated \$207,0000 projected over the next four years.
HUD-VASH	public - federal	Housing	447,120	0	0	447,120	1,788,480	Soldier On reports that there are currently 80 HUD VASH housing vouchers in Pittsfield with another 47 vouchers recently awarded by HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The dollar value of the 127 vouchers for Year 1 is estimated at \$447,120 and at \$1,788,480 for the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan.
Public Housing Capital Fund	public - federal	Housing	329,833	0	0	329,833	1,319,332	The Pittsfield Housing Authority will utilize \$329,833 from the Capital Fund Program to make improvements to its federally funded public housing developments during Year 1 and

								\$1,319,332 over the next four years of the Consolidated Plan. The three federally funded public housing developments in Pittsfield are Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments, and Columbia Arms.
Section 8	public - federal	Housing	7,818,940	0	0	7,818,940	33,268,912	Two Pittsfield agencies will administer Section 8 voucher programs during the upcoming term of this Consolidated Plan. The PHA expects to utilize \$3,442,228 to provide approximately 550 Section 8 vouchers in Year 1 and \$13,768,912 for Section 8 vouchers the remaining four years. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. expects to provide about 646 vouchers using \$4,376,712 of Section 8 funding in Year 1 and expects to use \$17,500,000 of Section 8 funding over the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan. Both agencies will also pursue additional Section 8 allocations as they are made available by the federal government. It is anticipated that new allocations will total \$2,000,000 over the next four year period.
Other	private	Public Improvements	325,000	0	0	325,000	0	A \$325,050 grant to develop a City dog park was received from the Stanton Foundation and is expected to be utilized during Year 1 of the Consolidated Plan five year span.

Other	public - federal	Admin and Planning	69,226	0	0	69,226	340,000	The City will use \$69,226 from its Section 108 revolving loan fund bank account to help pay the City's yearly federal HUD Section 108 debt payments. Monthly payments from loans originally funded with Section 108 funds are deposited to this account specifically for this purpose. It is anticipated at approximately \$340,000 will be paid from this account over the remaining 4 years.
Other	public - federal	Housing	3,397,422	0	0	3,397,422	13,589,688	The Pittsfield Housing Authority will use approximately \$1,059,198 in federal and state operating funds to fund and manage 698 units of rental housing at its federal and state public housing developments in Year 1 and an estimated \$4,236,792 to manage the same housing developments over the remaining four years. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. plans to utilize approximately \$2,338,224 in state and federal operating funding to fund and manage 328 units at state and federal public housing developments and an estimated \$9,352,896 for the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan.
Other	public - federal	Housing Public Services Other	500,000	0	0	500,000	2,500,000	Soldier On received a Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant from the federal Veterans Services Administration for \$3 million to

								provide funds for rental and utility payments and supportive services to Veterans and their families. It is estimated that \$500,000 will be spent during Year 1 and \$2.5 million over the remaining 4 years of the Consolidated Plan.
Other	public - federal	Public Services	20,000	0	0	20,000	100,000	Berkshire Community Action Council is expected to continue to administer approximately \$20,000 annually in FEMA funds countywide to prevent shutoff of utilities, to pay rent/mortgage arrearages, and to assist with emergency hearing fuel needs. An estimated 30 persons per year in Pittsfield are expected to benefit from these funds and 150 over the five year Consolidated Plan period.
Other	public - federal	Public Services Other	47,318,790	0	0	47,318,790	189,270,384	It is projected that social service agencies serving the homeless with shelter and related programs in Pittsfield will expect to utilize \$1,977,077 in other Federal, State, Local, and private funding in Year 1 and an estimated \$7,903,532 for the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan. It is also projected that social service agencies serving non-homeless special needs populations will utilize \$36,603,240 of other Federal, State, local, and private

								funding in Year 1 and \$146,412,960 for the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan term. Additionally, it is estimated that social service agencies providing all other public service programs will utilize \$8,738,473 in Year 1 from other Federal, State, local, and private funding sources and \$34,953,892 for the remaining four years.
Other	public - state	Economic Development	50,000	0	0	50,000	250,000	The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) expects to be awarded grant funds of \$50,000 annually from the Mass Growth Capital Corporation that will be used to provide mentoring and technical assistance award technical assistance to small businesses and micro-enterprises in exchange for creating jobs. Mass Growth Capital Corporation grant funds of approximately \$150,000 are expected over the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan term.
Other	public - local	Public Improvements	0	0	0	0	3,695,000	The City anticipates utilizing Capital Funds of approximately \$3,695,000 for Parks & Open Space projects during Year 1 and during the remaining four years of the Consolidated Plan.

Table 39 - 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 \$9,495,561 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. An additional \$275,000 in rehabilitation funds will be leveraged from Mass DHCD under the Gateway Housing Rehabilitation Program to rehab 2-4 unit properties with code related issues.
- 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 \$144,875 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 \$71,750 of City general funds to fund additional public service agency grants.
- CDBG funds in the amount of \$100,000 will leverage approximately \$410,000 in state funds to rehabilitate a building to create an emergency and winter shelter with 42 beds, owned and managed ServiceNet.
- The development of the SkatePark, utilizing \$150,000 of CDBG funding, will leverage approximately \$370,000 of City general funds.
- CDBG demolition funds in the amount of \$50,000 will leverage approximately \$400,000 in City general funds to improve the parking lot and playground at Oscela Park.

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

Over the past year the City took possession of three properties through tax title foreclosure that has existing structures. This is unusual as by the time the tax title foreclosure has gone through a lengthy land court process which sometimes takes many years, property has usually been demolished either by the City or by the owner or bank and land is usually vacant. Vacant land of low value is auctioned and sold, usually to the abutting property owners. These three properties required different disposition based on the conditions of the property. The first at 21 Eleanor Road is being rehabbed with CDBG funds in the amount of \$200,000 and will be sold to a low income first time homebuyer. The second, at 761 West Housatonic Street, is not a suitable candidate for rehabilitation. CDBG funds will be used to demolish it and since it abuts a city park, it will become part of the park. The third property at 43 Fort Hill Road will be sold by the City at auction.

The City also funds a Community Gardener to manage 6 gardens, 3 on City owned property at Conte, Crosby and Morningside Elementary Schools in the Westside and Morningside neighborhoods. Three gardens located at affordable housing developments. Volunteers, residents and students help maintain the gardens. Produce is used by the schools, local food pantries, and residents. The gardener has also helped volunteers set up small gardens at Headstart, the Elizabeth Freeman center and the public library. In 2007 the City with the assistance of the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs lead a community planning process to create an Urban River Plan to improve access to the west Branch of the Housatonic. The river runs through the Westside neighborhood but is walled off to residents. The plan seeks to improve public access to the open space of the river for recreation, green space, and increased walkability of the neighborhood. The first phase of this was the Westside Riverway. Over ten years in the creation which consisted of the City taking ownership of 10 vacant lots parcels through tax title foreclosure and purchase, accessing federal EPA funds to remediate environmental contamination at the site. In FY2019-2020, the City leveraged \$586,000 in grant funding from a combination of sources to design and build the linear park. The City will be looking to access other sources of funding to continue this long range project.

The City owns a few vacant lots and vacant fire station along the Tyler Street business corridor. As part of the Tyler Street Housing Plan conducted in FY2020, these sites are suggested for an infill housing development project.

Discussion

As described above, the City of Pittsfield CDBG funds are estimated to leverage approximately **\$ 11,742,186** during the upcoming 2021 fiscal year (2020 HUD program year). 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. 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	Homelessness Prevention	2020	2021	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Homelessness Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Prevention Maintain Existing Public Housing Units Public Services Rental Assistance - i.e. Section 8	CDBG: \$38,000 Section 8: \$329,833 Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$746,674 Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): \$500,000	Homelessness Prevention: 1300 Persons Assisted
2	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing	2020	2021	Homeless	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Homelessness - Permanent Supportive Housing Homelessness: Transitional Shelter Rental Assistance - i.e. Section 8	CDBG: \$120,000 Continuum of Care: \$611,111 HUD-VASH: \$56,640 Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$1,879,708	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 542 Persons Assisted
3	Public Services - CDBG HSAC	2020	2021	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$202,000 General Fund: \$51,750	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 791 Persons Assisted

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4	Other Non-homeless Special Needs - Public Services	2020	2021	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$23,671,750	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 9632 Persons Assisted
5	Other Public Services	2020	2021	Other Public Services	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	Public Service Funding from All Sources: \$3,955,482	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 981 Persons Assisted
6	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG	2020	2021	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rehabilitation of Existing Owner Housing Units Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units	CDBG: \$25,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit
7	Home Improvements - Rental Housing CDBG	2020	2021	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units	CDBG: \$120,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit
8	Home Improvements - Owner Housing CDBG	2020	2021	Affordable Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rehabilitation of Existing Owner Housing Units	CDBG: \$365,069	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit
9	Maintain Existing Section 8 Housing Allocations	2020	2021	Section 8 Vouchers	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Rental Assistance - i.e. Section 8	Section 8: \$7,818,940	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 1196 Households Assisted
10	Maintain Existing Subsidized Public Housing	2020	2021	Public Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Maintain Existing Public Housing Units	Public Housing Development Operating Funds: \$3,397,422	Other: 1026 Other

11	Public Housing Improvements - Federal Sites	2020	2021	Public Housing	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Maintain Existing Public Housing Units	Public Housing Capital Fund: \$191,492	Rental units rehabilitated: 141 Household Housing Unit
12	Public Facility Improvements - Parks	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$195,000 City Capital Funds: \$3,695,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15000 Persons Assisted
13	Public Facility Improvement - Dog Park	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Facilities and Improvements	Stanton Foundation: \$151,250	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3500 Persons Assisted
14	Public Facility Improvement -Replacement Homeless	2020	2021	Homeless	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements		Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15000 Persons Assisted
15	Public Facility Improvements - Sidewalks	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$262,275	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3500 Persons Assisted
16	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups	2020	2021	Neighborhood Clean-ups	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Public Services	CDBG: \$6,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 8000 Persons Assisted

17	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Demolition of Vacant Buildings	CDBG: \$190,701	Buildings Demolished: 4 Buildings
18	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	CDBG: \$111,485	Jobs created/retained: 4 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
19	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	CDBG: \$165,000	Jobs created/retained: 3 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
20	Economic Development - Mayor's Loan Fund	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development		Jobs created/retained: 4 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
21	Economic Development - MGCC TA Grant Program	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Both Westside & Morningside Areas	Economic Development	Mass Growth Capital Corporation: \$50,000	Jobs created/retained: 4 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
22	Economic Development- Accessible Loan Program	2020	2021	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$85,888	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 3 Business
23	Program Administration and Planning	2020	2021	Administration and Planning Expenses		Program Administration and Planning	CDBG: \$170,404 General Fund: \$144,875	Other: 0 Other

Table 40 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Homelessness Prevention
	Goal Description	Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA) expects to assist approximately 1000 person in Pittsfield with homelessness assistance through a number of programs and services. BCRHA, as well as other social service agencies, will work to prevent homelessness by providing counseling, legal assistance, mediation, housing search, and other programs to extremely low- and very low-income households at risk of losing their housing. FEMA funds will be used in the next year to assist approximately 30 Pittsfield households. Approximately 50 homeless persons are expected to be assisted through Section 8 vouchers. The funding awarded to Soldier On called Supportive Services for Veteran Families expects to provide assistance to approximately 220 persons throughout the coming year.
2	Goal Name	Homeless Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing
	Goal Description	A number of human service agencies will provide transitional and transition to permanent supportive housing services for approximately 542 homeless persons during the upcoming year utilizing HUD Super NOFA funding for the 3 County Rural Continuum of Care as well as other federal, state, local, and private funding. It is estimated that approximately 272 persons will be assisted at Barton's Crossing shelter; the number of homeless households to be assisted at Our Friend's House is expected to be approximately 51; and the number of chronic homeless individuals assisted at the Summer Street/Barton's Supportive Housing Project is expected to be 39. The Elizabeth Freeman Center estimates that it will assist approximately 100 persons at their secure shelter for battered women and children. And 80 Veterans are expected to be assisted with VASH rental housing vouchers.
3	Goal Name	Public Services - CDBG HSAC
	Goal Description	The City's CDBG funded human service agencies will assist approximately 791 persons with \$154,500 in CDBG funding. Additionally, \$51,750 in City General Funds will benefit non-homeless special needs persons during the 2021 fiscal year. Project administration costs or project delivery costs for the CDBG funded human service program are estimated to be \$41,5000 for the year. These project delivery costs will also provide a staff person to assist the two neighborhood initiatives during the year with neighborhood clean-ups and other special projects.
4	Goal Name	Other Non-homeless Special Needs - Public Services
	Goal Description	Approximately 9,683 non-homeless special needs persons will be assisted in the coming year with supportive services costing an estimated \$23,671,750 and funded with CDBG, Other Federal, State, Local, and Private sources. 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 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.
5	Goal Name	Other Public Services
	Goal Description	The City expects social service agencies, in addition to those already listed previously, to provide programs and services to approximately 981 clients during the upcoming 2021 fiscal year utilizing an estimated \$3,955,482 in other federal, state, local, and private funding as follows: Berkshire Children and Families;Habitat for Humanity;Berkshire Immigrant Center; Child Care of the Berkshires; the Salvation Army; Roots Rising; Berkshire Nursing Families; and IS183 Art School.
6	Goal Name	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be used to provide handicapped accessible ramps to non-homeless special needs populations at residential housing units. Approximately 4 households will be assisted through this activity.
7	Goal Name	Home Improvements - Rental Housing CDBG
	Goal Description	The City CDBG funded Home Improvement Program administered by the Pittsfield Department of Community Development expects to rehabilitate approximately 5 rental occupied housing units during the 2021 fiscal year. Expected program income from existing rehab loan payments and existing CDBG revolving loan funds will also be utilized to provide financial assistance for rental units occupies by low-moderate income households.
8	Goal Name	Home Improvements - Owner Housing CDBG
	Goal Description	The City CDBG funded Home Improvement Program will utilize approximately \$365,069 to provide financial assistance to rehabilitate approximately 20 income eligible, owner-occupied housing units during the 2021 fiscal year. Expected program income and existing CDBG revolving loan funds will also be utilized to provide financial assistance during the year. The figure above includes estimated project administration costs. Low interest rate loans, hardship grants, deferred payment loans, and lead paint abatement grants are the financing

		mechanisms used to assist low-moderate income homeowners.
9	Goal Name	Maintain Existing Section 8 Housing Allocations
	Goal Description	During fiscal year 2021, Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. will continue to administer existing allocations of Section 8 rental vouchers and other rental housing subsidy programs such as Mod Rehab, HCEC, HomeBase, RAFT, MRVP, and Shelter Plus Care. Pittsfield Housing Authority will administer approximately 550 Section 8 vouchers utilizing a \$3,442,228 allocation from HUD. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. expects to provide about 646 rental vouchers using approximately \$4,376,712.
10	Goal Name	Maintain Existing Subsidized Public Housing
	Goal Description	Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. own and manage public housing developments within the City of Pittsfield. During the 2021 fiscal year, the Pittsfield Housing Authority will continue to manage 698 units of public rental housing at its federal and state public housing developments using an estimated \$1,059,198 in public housing operating funds. Berkshire Housing Services, Inc. will continue to manage 328 units in their public housing developments utilizing \$2,338,224 in operating funds.
11	Goal Name	Public Housing Improvements - Federal Sites
	Goal Description	During the 2016 fiscal year, the Public Housing Authority plans to utilize \$191,492 in Capital Fund Program funds to make improvements to its federally funded public housing developments. Improvements will take place at two of the three federally funded developments during the upcoming year. The roof will be replaced at Columbia Arms where there are 91 units of elderly housing and the roof at the Dower Square community center will be replaced where there are 50 units of family housing.
12	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvements - Parks
	Goal Description	During the 2021 fiscal year, it is anticipated that park improvements will be made with City Capital funds in keeping with the Parks and Open Space Five Year Capital Plan. It is projected that approximately \$3,695,000 may be used for improvements at Wild Acres Dam Improvements, Skate Park and Osceola Park Playground and Parking Improvements. CDBG funds in the amount of \$150,000 will be budgeted for Phase 2 of the Skate Park and \$45,000 in activity delivery cost will be used for public facility improvements.
13	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvement - Dog Park
	Goal Description	The City anticipates utilizing a \$151,250 grant from the Stanton Foundation to construct a dog park in Pittsfield.
14	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvement -Replacement Homeless
	Goal Description	The City received a \$4,500,000 grant from the state MassWorks Infrastructure Program for the final phase IV of downtown Streetscape improvements. It is estimated that approximately \$922,500 of this grant will be expended during the upcoming 2016 fiscal year for this construction work and the remainder of the funding will be expending in the following 2017 fiscal year.

15	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvements - Sidewalks
	Goal Description	CDBG funds in the amount of \$200,000 are budgeted for fiscal year 2021 for sidewalk reconstruction and the installation of curb cuts from previous year CDBG funds. CDBG funds will only be used for work in income eligible areas of the City.
16	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 2021 fiscal year. CDBG funds of \$3,000 have been budgeted for each neighborhood clean-up. The Department of Community Development provides admin staff support to assist the neighborhood initiatives in organizing the clean-ups and arranging for the dumpsters.
17	Goal Name	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings
	Goal Description	During the 2021 fiscal year, the Department of Community Development will continue to work with the City Health Department, Building Inspections Department, and the Fire Department to determine which vacant, condemned structures are candidates for demolition. CDBG funds in the amount of \$175,000 are budgeted for this activity. CDBG project administration funds in the amount of \$15,701 are also budgeted to carry out these activities.
18	Goal Name	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program
	Goal Description	The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) will serve as a subrecipient and administer the City CDBG economic development programs. During the 2021 fiscal year, PERC will utilize an estimated \$40,000 in program income that it will receive from loan payments to provide small business loans in order to create jobs for low-moderate income persons. PERC will also utilize funds in its revolving loan fund for this purpose. CDBG funds of \$8,500 are also budgeted for the 2021 fiscal year to cover PERC administrative expenses and \$62,985 will be budgeted to cover project administration expenses in delivering the small business loan program, the technical assistance grant program, and other state and local economic development programs under the administration of PERC.
19	Goal Name	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program
	Goal Description	CDBG carryover funds in the amount of \$75,000 will be utilized by the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) as a subrecipient during the 2021 fiscal year to provide technical assistance grants to small businesses and microenterprises in order to create jobs for low-moderate income persons. \$90,000 in CDBG FY 2021 will also be allocated for this activity.
20	Goal Name	Economic Development - Mayor's Loan Fund
	Goal Description	The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) will administer the Mayor's Loan Fund during the 2021 fiscal year. It is expected that approximately \$60,000 will be provided to existing small businesses to create jobs.
21	Goal Name	Economic Development - MGCC TA Grant Program
	Goal Description	During the 2021 fiscal year, the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC) will administer a \$50,000 grant from the state Mass Growth Capital Corporation to provide technical assistance such as mentoring services and training programs and to small businesses and micro-enterprises in order to create jobs for low-moderate income persons.

22	Goal Name	Economic Development- Accessible Loan Program
	Goal Description	During the 2021 fiscal year, CDBG funds are budgeted in the amount of \$60,000 to provide zero per-cent interest, deferred payment loans to for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations for handicapped accessible improvements. Private matching funds are required for this program. CDBG project administration costs of \$10,888, to administer this program, are also budgeted for the 2021 fiscal year.
23	Goal Name	Program Administration and Planning
	Goal Description	The Pittsfield Department of Community Development administers the City's CDBG funds every year. For the 2021 fiscal year the amount of \$170,404 is budgeted to cover salary and fringe benefits of staff as well as supplies and other items related to the cost of doing business allowable under HUD regulations. City General Funds are also budgeted for the 2021 fiscal year to pay for a portion of staff salaries who may work on City projects that are not necessarily funded through the annual CDBG budget.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects will be undertaken during the 2021 fiscal 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: Skate Park
2	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Replacement Homeless Shelter
3	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- Removal Of Architectural Barriers
4	PUBLIC SERVICES: Morningside Neighborhood Clean-up
5	PUBLIC SERVICES: Westside Neighborhood Clean-up
6	PUBLIC SERVICES:HUMAN SERVICE GRANTS
7	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
8	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Rental Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
9	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Technical Assistance Grants
10	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Handicapped Accessible Ramps
11	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Small Business Loans
12	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERC Administrative Expenses
13	CLEARANCE Vacant Building Demolition
14	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Table 41 - 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 2021 fiscal 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 neighborhood initiative improvements; and park 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.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Skate Park
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$195,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be expended to complete Phase 2 of the planned Skate Park. FY2021 funds in the amount of \$195,000 which includes \$45,000 in activity delivery costs and \$12,273 from prior year funds , will be expended to complete this project.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
2	Project Name	PUBLIC FACILITIES: Replacement Homeless Shelter
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Facility Improvement -Replacement Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness: Transitional Shelter Public Facilities and Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to assist with design and architectural fees regarding the rehabilitation of the City's emergency/ winter homeless shelter, this includes \$10,000 of carryover funds from the prior year.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	From May to October , the shelter will have the shelter will have 20 emergency beds. Capacity will increase by 20 beds during November until April . The shelter

		also provides 2 meals a day with emergency transportation, case management services will be provided on site and will include assessment, housing search, accessing entitlements, employment assistance and health care including behavioral health.
3	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- Removal Of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Economic Development- Accessible Loan Program
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$135,000
	Description	\$70,888 in HUD Year 2020 funds will be expended to remove architectural barriers for commercial property owners. \$60,000 in funds will be expended in direct cost and \$10,888 in activity delivery costs.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3 business will be assisted with funds
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	
4	Project Name	PUBLIC SERVICES: Morningside Neighborhood Clean-up
	Target Area	Morningside Initiative
	Goals Supported	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,500
	Description	\$3,500 will be budgeted for a neighborhood clean up serving the Morningside Neighborhood
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Morningside Neighborhood
	Planned Activities	
5	Project Name	PUBLIC SERVICES: Westside Neighborhood Clean-up
	Target Area	Westside Initiative
	Goals Supported	Public Services - Neighborhood Clean-ups

	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,500
	Description	\$3,500 in CDBG funds from FY2021 will be set aside to fund a neighborhood clean up in the Westside neighborhood
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be expended to facilitate a neighborhood clean up in the Westside.
6	Project Name	PUBLIC SERVICES:HUMAN SERVICE GRANTS
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Services - CDBG HSAC
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$196,000
	Description	\$154,500 in CDBG funds will be awarded to programs that address human service needs. An additional \$41,500 will be allocated for activity delivery costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Funds will be available City wide
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be allocated to human services programs serving priority needs.
7	Project Name	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Home Improvements - Owner Housing CDBG
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$276,881
	Description	\$276,881 in CDBG funds will be used to fund a housing rehabilitation program for owner occupied households. This figure includes \$70,000 in program income RLF funds, \$70,000 in FY21 CDBG funds and \$136,881 in Activity Delivery costs
	Target Date	6/30/2021

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Activity is available City wide
	Planned Activities	
8	Project Name	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Rental Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Home Improvements - Rental Housing CDBG
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units
	Funding	CDBG: \$127,664
	Description	\$127,664 in CDBG funds will be expended in FY2021 for housing rehabilitation of rental units. This figure includes \$30,000 in program income from RLF received in the program year, \$9000 in prior year carryover funds and \$58,664 in activity delivery costs from HUD YEAR 2020.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Activity is available City wide.
	Planned Activities	
9	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Technical Assistance Grants
	Target Area	Both Westside & Morningside Areas
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - CDBG TA Grant Program
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$227,985
	Description	CDBG funds in the amount of \$227,9851 will be expended to provide grants to small businesses for technical assistance> This includes \$75,000 in carryover funds, \$85000 in FY2021 CDBG funds and \$62,985 in activity delivery costs
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Activity is available City wide

	Planned Activities	Technical assistance Grants for small business
10	Project Name	HOUSING REHABILITATION: Handicapped Accessible Ramps
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Handicapped Accessible Ramp Program - CDBG
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of Existing Owner Housing Units Rehabilitation of Existing Rental Housing Units
	Funding	CDBG: \$25,000
	Description	\$25,000 in FY2021 CDBG funds will be expended for residential ramp construction to assist disabled homeowners and tenants.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4 low income households will be assisted with these funds
	Location Description	Funds are available for income eligible households City wide
	Planned Activities	
11	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Small Business Loans
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development - CDBG Loan Program
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
	Description	\$40,000 in revolving loan funds received in FY2021 will be available for small business loans.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
12	Project Name	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERC Administrative Expenses
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,500

	Description	CDBG funds of \$8,500 in administrative costs for the Pittsfield Economic Development Corporation who performs the underwriting services for the CDBG economic development programs
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
13	Project Name	CLEARANCE Vacant Building Demolition
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Demolition of Condemned, Vacant Buildings
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$190,701
	Description	\$190,701 in FY2021 CDBG funds has been allocated for demolition of vacant buildings This includes \$15,701 in activity delivery costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
14	Project Name	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration and Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$170,404
	Description	\$170,404 in CDBG F2021 funds will be expended for program administration and planning costs
	Target Date	6/30/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	

	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	

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 6: Block Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Census Tract 1: Block Group 4, and part of 2. The Morningside neighborhood can be geographically described as Census Tract 1: Block Groups 1, and part of 2, and Census Tract 2: 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. The two Neighborhood Initiatives 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
Both Westside & Morningside Areas	50

Table 42 - 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 updated its LMISD in June 2018 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 July 1, 2018 are as follows:

Census Tract 9001 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3, and 4

Census Tract 9002 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

Census Tract 9003 Block Group: 2

Census Tract 9004 Block Groups: 1, 2, and 5

Census Tract 9005 No block groups are eligible

Census Tract 9006 Block Groups: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Census Tract 9007 Block Group: 3

Census Tract 9008 No block groups are eligible

Census Tract 9009 Block Groups: 2, and 3

Census Tract 9011 No block groups are eligible

Census Tract 9352 Block Group: 3

Discussion

The following is a listing of the 2021 CDBG 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.

SkatePark Improvements: 100% will be expended in the HUD – CDBG income eligible Westside neighborhood.

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

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

During the five years of this Consolidated Plan, it is estimated that a total of 200 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.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	40
Total	40

Table 43 - 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	3
Rehab of Existing Units	29
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	82

Table 44 - 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:

Rehabilitation of Existing Units:

- 25 households will receive rehabilitation assistance as follows: 5 owner households (0-30% MFI); 7 owner households (31-50% MFI); 8 owner households (51-80% MFI); 1 renter households (0-30% MFI); 2 renter households (31-50% MFI); and 2 renter household (51-80% MFI).
- 4 special needs households will be provided with accessible ramps: 2 renter household (31-50% MFI); and 1 owner households (31-50% MFI) 1 owner households (51-80% MFI).
- 1 First Time Homeowner household (51-80% MFI) will purchase a former vacant tax title foreclosure rehabilitated with CDBG funds

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

In the mission statement of the Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA), the PHA maintains a commitment to providing a full-range of safe, secure, suitable, and appropriate affordable housing opportunities to extremely low, very-low, and low-income family, elderly, and disabled households in a fair manner. The PHA is also committed to assisting all residents who are moving from welfare-to-work with affordable housing opportunities that do not act as disincentives to economic advancement. The PHA is committed to improving its conventional public housing developments and attempting to provide and support wider access to affordable housing opportunities throughout the entire community. 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 fiscal year 2021, HUD Year 2020, 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

The PHA plans to use the FY 2021 Capital Funds for Dower Square parking lots and walkways. The following is the breakdown of how the funds will be allocated:

- \$ 334,106 to complete the parking lots and walkways at Dower Square (Phase1) (family development).
- \$16,492 to help improve overall operations (training) for the staff of the PHA

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

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.
7. **Health and Safety-** The PHA has received a \$250, 000 grant to update cameras, lighting and fencing at Dower Square, Jubilee Apartments and Columbia Arms. This will allow security surveillance for our tenants. The surveillance will be connected to the City of Pittsfield Police department and PHA. The PHA also has night security on duty. The PHA feels safety is a priority for their tenants.

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

Not Applicable. The Pittsfield Housing Authority is not designated as troubled by HUD.

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. In addition, for fiscal year 2021 the PHA continued to implement the increased fair market rent standard for the Section 8 rental voucher program. As a result, PHA paid landlords participating in the Section 8 rental voucher program anywhere from 90% 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 landlords 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. Since the PHA is one of the only housing authorities in the county, the decision was made to include these neighboring towns in the local preference.

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. Currently, the waiting period is approx. 1 year.

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

Introduction

The 3 County Rural Continuum of Care is the lead applicant for the HUD Super NOFA. The 3 County C o C consists of the entire counties of Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire MA. Hilltown Community Development Corporation was the lead applicant since 2014 and the creation of the C o C. Last year in 2019, Community Action Council of Pioneer Valley (CACPV) became the lead applicant instead of Hilltown CDC. The change was made because Community Action Council was a larger organization than Hilltown CDC and was more able to absorb the administrative burden of applying and administering the funds throughout the three counties. As the lead applicant, CACPV is responsible for preparing and submitting the consolidated application to HUD on behalf of the C o C, evaluating project performance and reporting system wide performance to HUD, providing technical assistance, site monitoring and community engagement. The C o C has a well established board and governance charter. The goal of the C o C is to house individuals and families as quick as possible and provide supportive services to maintain stable housing. The C o C has a well established Board and Governance Charter, the City of Pittsfield has a staff person on the C o C Board and is also represented on 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

As mentioned above, Berkshire County/Pittsfield is part of the 3 County Rural CoC which provides CoC services to the three counties of Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire in Western Massachusetts. In order to expand the reach of the C o C, in FY2021 the C o C will be expanding and improving Coordinated Entry by broadening their “no wrong door approach” with a particular focus on youth, domestic violence survivors and veterans and by using a two step assessment process to include both a crisis assessment and a housing assessment. The C o C also coordinates with funded providers in monthly meetings where agencies discuss strategies to engage homeless persons, particularly those individuals who meet HUD’s guidelines for chronic homelessness. The CoC will also continue to utilize HMIS data which is provided across the entire CoC by all providers to identify unsheltered individuals and families and conduct a gaps analysis on available housing units versus unsheltered populations.

The Berkshire sub-region of the 3 County CoC participates in the Western Massachusetts Regional Network to End Homelessness. The Network facilitates advocacy and engagement with the state legislature and the public regarding priority needs regarding homelessness in Western Mass. IN FY2021, the network is advocating for an increase in funding for the RAFT program which includes additional resources for upstream homelessness prevention resources. This program has made an impact In 2019 almost 300 Berkshire County households received RAFT financial assistance with over \$650,000

allocated in financial assistance. They are also advocating for increases to the MRVP program and continued funding for the Winter Overflow Shelter collaboration that provides winter beds and supportive services for unsheltered individuals.

Outreach capacity will be expanded in Pittsfield over the next year, in terms of cross-institutional and street out reach. ServiceNet is working with Berkshire Health Partners in FY2021 to expand case management services to the unsheltered population. Eliot Services and ServiceNet will continue to supervise a street outreach team that provides support to the homeless population and service providers with emphasis on engaging the chronically homeless population and unsheltered population. Both 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.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The 3 County Continuum of Care has realigned its program capacity to better align with the goal of ending homelessness by using data from evidence based practices. Rather than a “staged” approach to re-housing, which moves individuals from emergency housing to transitional housing and then to permanent housing, the region has adopted a Housing First approach. Housing First focuses on rapid rehousing into permanent affordable housing with flexible supportive services when needed. Diversion and prevention is the preferred approach with shelter only being used for short term placements. This will continue to be the strategy in FY2021.

Pittsfield currently has 60 units of transitional housing, SSVF prevention, diversion and rapid rehousing for homeless at risk veterans. A further 60 transitional beds for individual households will continue to be available in FY2021.

67 year round Emergency shelter beds for adults and children, 20 year round beds for individuals and 30 seasonal overflow beds will be available in FY2021 under ServiceNet’s programs.

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

Berkshire County Regional Housing and Berkshire Housing divert an average of 1000 households from homelessness by accessing financial assistance programs such as Home-Base, RAFT, ESG, and Neighbor 2 Neighbor. Most of these households are eligible for subsidized housing. However with no new voucher allocations being awarded and long waiting lists for available subsidized units, the majority of these families and individuals are absorbed into prevention and self sufficiency programs through BCRHA,

BHS, and BCAC. Housing search and rapid rehousing programming also assists these households through funding provided by MA DHCD Emergency Assistance Programs.

Veterans who are homeless or at-risk, including individuals and families have access to a 3-year (terminal) program - Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) that provides prevention, diversion and rapid-re-housing services including temporary financial assistance. They have priority access to VASH vouchers through the Pittsfield Housing Authority, both VA and SSVF case management, job placement/supports, and on-going follow-up support through Veterans who are Peer Mentors for Veterans/families with more complex issues who may need extended or on-going support.

Pittsfield Public Schools report and increase in the number of unaccompanied youth, 56 youth were identified in school year 2018/2019. To date in 2019/2020, 93 have been identified. The CoC has received funding that includes a plan to ending youth homelessness in the three counties and implementing programs that address youth homelessness. The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program will initially focus on Franklin County but the CoC plans to utilize the strategies implemented in Franklin County across their service area, including hiring staff support a robust Coordinated Entry Process specific to youth and 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 plan will also focus on obtaining tenancy training for youth who will obtain a certification to encourage landlords to house them.

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 have continued to use 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 and the current strategy is to update this form to create a more streamlined approach to assessing vulnerability, in addition to the creation of a crisis assessment tool in order to allow for more places where people experiencing homelessness present, to begin the assessment process, in order to create a "no wrong door" system. This would mean that more homeless persons would be counted and assessed, and ultimately housed through the CoC coordinated entry system. 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.

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.

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

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. DMH programming may include: DMH Case management; Adult Community and Clinical Services through the Brien Center; Respite and Transitional housing through the Brien Center; employment and skills training through Pathways Clubhouse program of Viability Inc.; and employment and education assessment and training through the Viability Inc., and the 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. When ready residents can transition out to an "Agency Based" subsidized apartment. This is an apartment where the tenant is the Brien Center, currently ten individuals in Berkshire County receive these services. There are approximately 33 "Agency Based Community" subsidized apartments with the Brien Center assuming tenancy. As above the Brien is the tenant of the subsidy. The Agency Based subsidies are temporary until the person is qualified for a permanent subsidy, or no longer qualifies. The DMH also helps persons experiencing homelessness find housing if they are eligible for DMH services. The DMH will assess their needs and refer to the

appropriate level of care or treatment. For DMH Adult services a person must have a qualifying diagnosis and an impairment that cannot be managed by standard outpatient treatment. DMH assists people being discharged from hospitals, jails, and other institutions by transitioning into a GLE or our Respite/Transitional housing program. DMH helps low income individuals and families to avoid homelessness by providing subsidies to those who are homeless, rent burdened, or by providing financial assistance for persons in jeopardy of losing their home due to rent or utility payment issues.

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority will continue to utilize HUD Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds to provide prevention services in addition to a state funded Tenancy Preservation Program. Discharge planning is monitored through state policies that state discharge to homelessness as a last resort. This includes, Mental Health, Foster Care, Corrections and Health care facilities. Institutional in-reach will be provided to youth, MH, Health and correctional settings to identify participants who need enhanced case management/coordination in order to ensure rapid re-housing.

Discussion

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.

The CoC is focusing now on equity issues in housing practices. The CoC is partnering with the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness to conduct trainings on serving the needs of the GLBTQ community, specifically in Berkshire County. The CoC has develop a racial equity workgroup and is funding this workgroup to conduct a full three county training on racial equity and housing practices, and has created a monthly equity and inclusion committee that will look at CoC practices in serving people with disabilities, people of color, and other marginalized communities. The Co C has also begun conducting an annual racial disparities report for both youth of color and people of color in adult housing programs. The CoC is also undergoing work with local housing authorities to conduct a "move on" strategy planning, as well as increase the number of mainstream vouchers available to house individuals with disabilities. Housing Authorities are working closely with the CoC to determine how to change eligibility factors and preferences, in order to house this vulnerable population.

The most recently submitted collaborative application in response to HUD's "Notice of Funding Availability for the Continuum of Care Program Competition" received a total grant award of \$1,805,000

of which \$611,000 will be utilized for homelessness programs in Pittsfield homelessness programs. FY2021 CDBG Human Service funds will be used to fund the following programs that address homelessness:

- **ServiceNet** - Case Management Services
- **Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority Housing** Services and Mediation Program
- **Community Legal Aid** Homelessness Prevention Through Legal Aid
- **Elizabeth Freeman Center** Homelessness Response/ Prevention Services
- CDBG FY21 HUD Year 2020 funds will also be used to help facilitate a new homeless shelter

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

Introduction:

As stated previously, there are many types of barriers to affordable housing including discriminatory practices in renting, leasing, and purchasing; zoning that may have been in place for years; lack of affordable and code compliant housing; lack of accessible housing; neighborhood improvements; and a need for additional rental housing vouchers.

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 2021 will be provided by two main entities, the City's Department of Community Development and Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority. There are also many other local organizations that will be offering public programs and services 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.

The Massachusetts Fair Housing Center (also known as the Housing Discrimination Project, Inc.) is the oldest fair housing center in Massachusetts. MFHC serves Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester Counties, and they provide free legal services and accepts housing discrimination complaints. From 2014 to 2019, MFHC filed 22 housing discrimination complaints. Since November 2019, MFHC has been able to meet with Pittsfield clients in town. They expect to have a greater impact in FY2021. MFHC also preserves homeownership, by advocating for distressed homeowners in mortgage lending cases, and by assisting victims of foreclosure rescue frauds.

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 of Pittsfield Department of Community Development, through its Fair Housing Officer, will provide assistance in processing housing discrimination complaints and follow-up with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination; distribute a fair housing guidebook for both tenants and landlords; provide a telephone hotline service to landlords and tenants with questions regarding housing laws and issues; and refer the public to appropriate agencies. In fiscal year 2019, 100 landlords and tenants were assisted through the telephone hotline service and 87 fair housing physical copies of the guidebooks were distributed. The guidebook is available to the public online on the City's website as is other fair housing materials in English and Spanish. It is expected many more guidebooks have been distributed this way.

In FY2021, the City's Fair Housing Officer completed a Language Access Plan which has been provided to all City Departments at City Hall. As part of this process the Fair Housing Officer has worked with

individual departments to translate vital documents for each Department into Spanish and provides translation services on an as needed basis to City Hall.

Discussion:

In fiscal year 2021, **Greylock Federal Credit Union** plans to hold five first-time homebuyer workshops in Pittsfield. These consist of a 6-hour class, held over the course of two nights for 3 hours per session. Workshops are planned for September 2020, October 2020, November 2020, February 2021 and May 2021. It is noted that they are targeting the FTHB October sessions to be presented in Spanish. In addition, GFCU also provides financial support for a Financial Literacy Program, using the “Banzai Financial Literacy” materials that are available for every school in Berkshire County which covers grades 3 thru 12th. The online training is supported with individual classroom sessions and a wrap-up session with the students & teacher after they have completed the curriculum. Greylock has a team of 17 CCUFCs (Certified Credit Union Financial Counselors) that teach (free of charge) the Member Education Series on premise at local colleges, business’, clubs, organizations and non-profit agencies in Pittsfield. The topics are as follows: Bank on Yourself, Build a Basic Budget, Creditability, Power Over Debt, Value of a Dollar-Teaching your K-8 Child about Money and Protecting Yourself from Frauds & Scams.

MountainOne provided financial literacy and fraud prevention programming to various organizations, worked with Berkshire Housing to provide first-time homebuyer seminars, and educated small business owners and entrepreneurs about resources available in the Berkshires through a small business outreach educational series. MountainOne continues to offer several different community development loan products including the ONE Mortgage program, Home Possible, FHA, FHLB Equity Builder, FHLB Housing Our Workforce program, VA, USDA and heat loans.

Berkshire Bank sponsors one of the first time homebuyers workshops held by Berkshire Fund and refers their clients to them for homebuyer education. In fiscal year 2021, Berkshire Bank will also hold its own first time homebuyer workshop.

Discussion:

The Pittsfield Department of Community Development organize 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.

The Pittsfield Department of Community Development will also budget CDBG funds to construct accessible ramps at residential structures for low income households and also provide 0% loans to property owners who need to make accessible improvements to their housing structures.

In FY2021, DCD will be expending funds under the Gateway Cities Rehabilitation Program. \$275,000 will be available to rehab multifamily rental housing of 2-4 units that experiencing code issues. The City expects to be able to rehab 8 units of rental housing over the next two years with these funds.

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 2021 fiscal year as detailed below.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

As in previous years, the City continues to see the greatest underserved needs in the area of human (public) services. Local non-profit agencies are constantly challenged with the ever-growing demands of a City whose population is 53.3% low-moderate income according to the most recently released HUD Low Income Summary Data (LIMSD).

The City of Pittsfield Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) is the decision making committee that decides which of Pittsfield's human service agencies and consortiums receive CDBG and City general fund grants. To help address the federal and state reductions in funding, the City of Pittsfield continues to budget general funds for human service grants and will once again budget \$51,7501 for the 2021 fiscal 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.

First funded in FY20, Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) and funded again in FY2021, 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.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

It has been several years since the two local agencies that administer federal and state Section 8 vouchers have received an increase in funds or the number of vouchers they have been able to administer. As rents rise and the annual allocations remains the same, fewer households can be assisted

with the funds available. Both the Pittsfield Housing Authority and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation have a track record in stretching their existing Section 8 allocations and will continue to do so during the 2020 fiscal year.

The City of Pittsfield Department of Community Development will also continue to administer the revolving loan fund started with HomeCorps grant funds from the state Office of the Attorney General. Funds from the HomeCorps revolving loan fund will continue to be used to assist individuals participating in a receivership program involving abandoned and vacant residential properties. The City code enforcement team has been working closely with the Assistance Attorney General from the Springfield, MA office to ask the court to appoint receivers who then rehabilitate residential properties where the owner is either unable or unwilling to correct code violations. The receiver places a super lien against the property for his costs and may eventually own the property when the court auctions it off. Actions taken by the Assistance Attorney General have also caused lenders to proceed with foreclosure and owners to sell properties that were sitting vacant and boarded up.

During the 2021 fiscal year, the City will continue its CDBG funded Home Improvement Program. The CDBG funded Home Improvement Program provides code related repairs, standard rehabilitation work such as replacing aging roofs, window replacements, as well as emergency repairs to heating systems and sewer lines. The program has allowed property owners to maintain and stabilize their housing situation by providing these much needed repairs.

Six new units of accessible housing will be made available for first time homeowners at the Gordon Deming Project developed by Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity. The City leveraged \$425,000 in MA MassWorks grant funds to make improvements to the site including erosion and drainage utility hook ups and construction of the shared driveway to the development.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The statistics provided by Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health – Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, present the following information: Fiscal year 2015 saw 42 children with confirmed blood lead levels under ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and 8 cases under ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. FY'16 saw 31 children with confirmed blood lead levels under ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and 6 cases under ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. FY'17 saw 30 children with confirmed blood lead levels under ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and 9 cases under ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. FY'18 saw 33 children with confirmed blood lead levels under ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and no cases were confirmed with blood levels under ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. FY'19 saw 34 children with confirmed blood lead levels under ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and 9 cases under ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

According to the Department of Public Health, as lead paint gets older it poses a greater health hazard because it is more likely to chip, peel and create lead dust and debris. As a result, the lead paint which existed in homes when today's adults were young children poses a greater threat now. The paint in houses built before 1945 may contain so much lead that a child exposed to the dust or chips could become lead poisoned in a very short time. Taking all these factors into consideration, there remains a high priority need to address the presence of lead-based paint hazards in Pittsfield's housing units, especially those housing units occupied by extremely low-income and low-income households. Only one

other program exists to help homeowners de-lead their properties, the MassHousing “Get the Lead Out” Program. The program was 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. In an effort to help evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards, the City plans to take the following actions within the upcoming year:

- During FY2021 the City will continue to budget CDBG funds to provide low cost financing and grants to property owners in order 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.
- Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority 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. 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.
- Applicants to the City’s Home Improvement Program are given a 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.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

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. Pittsfield has developed goals, program focus, and policies that target individuals and families with multiple barriers to employment and self-sufficiency including unstable housing. The following programs are designed to reduce the number of poverty level households:

MassHire Berkshire Career Center coordinates policies and practices that support access job readiness and employment at the systems level and builds a well-trained employee workforce and a job market that can pay a living wage to its lowest paid workers.

Habitat for Humanity will be offering a Workforce Development Program, preparing under resourced worker for building careers by providing direct workforce skills trainings with the supports that include training certifications and connections to appreciations.

Berkshire Bridges/ Working Cities are implementing an Employer Resource Network which places success coaches in businesses to work with under resourced workers to support and retain employees.

Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires provides a job readiness, soft skills, retail, office and warehouse skills.

MA Rehabilitation Commission offers job counseling and training for the disabled.

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.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

In the 2021 fiscal year and the following year, the City will see a unique addition to its existing institutional structure. The Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC) opened its doors in February of 2020 and the subsequent development of the PEDAs owned sites at the William Stanley Business Park are expected to help revitalize the Tyler Street business district. The following agencies, committees, corporations, and associations will contribute to the development of the institutional structure to deliver needed services and activities:

- Berkshire Housing Development Corporation
- Berkshire Housing Services, Inc.
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Morningside and Westside Neighborhood Initiatives
- Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation
- Pittsfield Housing Authority
- Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority
- Berkshire Community Action Council

- Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.
- Massachusetts Office of Business Development
- Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development
- Pittsfield Economic Development Authority
- Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
- Berkshire County Continuum of Care
- 3 County Rural 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
- 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; Mountain One Financial Services; 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; Berkshire Children and Families; United Cerebral Palsy; Berkshire Regional Employment Board; Berkshire Training and Employment; Berkshire Medical Center; and ServiceNet, Inc.

The main approach the City will take to overcome gaps in the institutional structure will be to continue its existing highly developed coalitions and neighborhood initiatives. These groups will help the City to continue to look at the needs and gaps of their local areas of interest and make recommendations about the implementation of existing programs and the need for future programs.

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. There are four primary groups that comprise the basic institutional structure and conduct the delivery of housing programs, community development projects, and other related activities during the upcoming 2021 fiscal year:

- The City of Pittsfield Department of Community Development
- Social service providers
- Public and private housing providers
- Quasi-public, non-profit organizations (such as the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation)

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 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 2021 fiscal 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 the two neighborhood initiatives.
- 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.
- The City will provide staff support and assistance to the Westside Initiative and the Morningside Initiative to help in the revitalization of both of these neighborhoods. The importance of these two community initiatives has and will continue to provide invaluable coordination and benefit to both the City and the neighborhoods they represent.
- The City Department of Community Development will work with Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity when issuing bids for residential handicapped ramp construction.

Discussion:

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 Prevention; 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:

The City will utilize its annual CDBG grant allocation; estimated program income; re-programmed funds; carryover CDBG funding; and other federal, state, local, and private grants during the 2016 fiscal year (2015 HUD program year) in order to deliver programs, projects, and services that will benefit the City's low-to moderate-income persons and households. Additional efforts to affirmatively further fair housing are included in the attachments to this plan entitled Grantee Unique Appendices.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	89.00%

Housing Trust Fund (HTF)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(5)

1. Distribution of Funds

- a. Describe the eligibility requirements for recipients of HTF funds (as defined in 24 CFR § 93.2).

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- b. Describe the jurisdiction's application requirements for eligible recipients to apply for HTF funds.
 - c. Describe the selection criteria that the jurisdiction will use to select applications submitted by eligible recipients.
 - d. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on geographic distribution, which is a description of the geographic areas of the State (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) in which it will direct assistance during the ensuing program year.
 - e. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on the applicant's ability to obligate HTF funds and undertake eligible activities in a timely manner.
 - f. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on the extent to which rents for units in the rental project are affordable to extremely low-income families.
 - g. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on the financial feasibility of the project beyond the required 30-year period.
 - h. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on the merits of the application in meeting the priority housing needs of the jurisdiction (such as housing that is accessible to transit or employment centers, housing that includes green building and sustainable development features, or housing that serves special needs populations).
 - i. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on the location of existing affordable housing.
 - j. Describe the jurisdiction's required priority for funding based on the extent to which the application makes use of non-federal funding sources.
2. Does the jurisdiction's application require the applicant to include a description of the eligible activities to be conducted with HTF funds?
 3. Does the jurisdiction's application require that each eligible recipient certify that housing units assisted with HTF funds will comply with HTF requirements?

4. **Performance Goals and Benchmarks.** The jurisdiction has met the requirement to provide for performance goals, consistent with the jurisdiction's goals established under 24 CFR 91.215(b)(2), by including HTF in its housing goals in the housing table on the SP-45 Goals and AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives screens.
5. **Rehabilitation Standards.** The jurisdiction must establish rehabilitation standards for all HTF-assisted housing rehabilitation activities that set forth the requirements that the housing must meet upon project completion. The jurisdiction's description of its standards must be in sufficient detail to determine the required rehabilitation work including methods and materials. The standards may refer to applicable codes or they may establish requirements that exceed the minimum requirements of the codes. The jurisdiction must attach its rehabilitation standards below. If the jurisdiction will not use HTF funds for the rehabilitation of housing, enter "N/A".

In addition, the rehabilitation standards must address each of the following: health and safety; major systems; lead-based paint; accessibility; disaster mitigation (where relevant); state and local codes, ordinances, and zoning requirements; Uniform Physical Condition Standards; and Capital Needs Assessments (if applicable).

6. **Resale or Recapture Guidelines.** Below, the jurisdiction must enter (or attach) a description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HTF funds when used to assist first-time homebuyers. If the jurisdiction will not use HTF funds to assist first-time homebuyers, enter "N/A"
7. **HTF Affordable Homeownership Limits.** If the jurisdiction intends to use HTF funds for homebuyer assistance and does not use the HTF affordable homeownership limits for the area provided by HUD, it must determine 95 percent of the median area purchase price and set forth the information in accordance with §93.305. If the jurisdiction will not use HTF funds to assist first-time homebuyers, enter "N/A"
8. **Limited Beneficiaries or Preferences.** Describe how the jurisdiction will limit the beneficiaries or give preferences to a particular segment of the extremely low- or very low-income population to serve unmet needs identified in its consolidated plan or annual action plan. If the jurisdiction will not limit the beneficiaries or give preferences to a particular segment of the extremely low- or very low-income population, enter "N/A."
9. Any limitation or preference must not violate nondiscrimination requirements in § 93.350, and the jurisdiction must not limit or give preferences to students. The jurisdiction may permit rental housing owners to limit tenants or give a preference in accordance with § 93.303 only if such limitation or preference is described in the action plan.

10. **Refinancing of Existing Debt.** Enter or attach the jurisdiction's refinancing guidelines below. The guidelines describe the conditions under which the jurisdiction will refinance existing rental housing project debt. The jurisdiction's refinancing guidelines must, at minimum, demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing. If the jurisdiction will not refinance existing debt, enter "N/A."

Discussion:

As described in last year's Consolidated Plan, the City of Pittsfield has elected to use a consecutive period of three years (HUD program years 2018, 2019, and 2020) 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 \$140,000 will be budgeted in the upcoming fiscal year.