



CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS

2020 Action Plan

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans, which provide a concise summary of the actions, activities, and the specific federal and non-federal resources that will be used each year to address the priority needs and specific goals identified by the Consolidated Plan.

This Action Plan is for the second year of the five-year 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan. The City of Cuyahoga Falls receives a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Planning and Development Program. This second-year Annual Action Plan will explain how the City of Cuyahoga Falls intends to use its CDBG allocations in program year 2020, and how the funded projects and activities will address the priorities identified in the Consolidated Plan.

The primary objective of the CDBG program, is to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of low to moderate income.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

1. The Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing. To preserve, construct and increase the availability of affordable and livable housing conditions for low to moderate income individuals and families.
2. The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment. To enhance the quality of life and promote healthy neighborhoods for low to moderate income persons through a variety of public services, infrastructure projects and activities that address specific community needs.
3. The Provision of Expanded Economic Development. To expand economic opportunities through the creation and/or preservation of jobs.
4. Programmatic Compliance. To enhance the quality of life of low to moderate income persons through programmatic compliance.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Objectives have been met as outlined in previous Consolidated Strategic Plans and the annual Action Plans and reported in the CAPERS sent to HUD on an annual basis. The City has been successful in assisting its residents and local businesses through the use of its CDBG funds. Though the City has met all of its goals, it was noted through the consultation process, that improvements could be made in the following areas:

- Previous consultations with local small businesses have led to a restructuring of the Community Development Loan and Grant process. This restructuring allows for assistance to an increased number of businesses, providing diversity in job creation and/or retention.
- The Development Department purposely seeks requests for proposal from female and minority owned contractors and subcontractors for its projects. A recent consultation with the Western Reserve Community fund of the Development Finance Authority of Summit County, County of Summit and the Akron Urban League has introduced the Minority Contractor Capital Access Program. The City of Cuyahoga Falls will give financial assistance to the Western Reserve Community Fund for their RV Loan fund to assist female and minority owned contractors that have their primary business located in Cuyahoga Falls. Funds will be used for working capital, for material materias and bonding. The City of Cuyahoga Falls will also be giving financial assistance to the Akron Urban League to provide technical assistance, certifications and support for businesses located in Cuyahoga Falls and enrolled in the Program. The goal of this new program, is to increase the number of qualified female and minority contractors enrolled to participate in CDBG funded activities.
- The City of Cuyahoga Falls Development Department created the Eastside Revitalization Program. This program will rejuvenate the eastside neighborhoods and provide new housing to income qualified low-to-moderate income families in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The City will work with the Summit County Land Bank Reutilization Corporation and Habitat for Humanity of Summit County in We will assist Habitat for Humanity in acquiring parcels, demolition (if necessary) and an affordability subsidy for income eligible homebuyers.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The Citizen Participation process and consultation process are based on the City of Cuyahoga Falls CDBG Participation Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan has recently been modified to include changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Citizen Participation Plan may be found at <https://www.cityofcf.com/departments/community-development/block-grant-program>.

5. Summary of public comments

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

A waiver for the normal period of public comments was received because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The City of Cuyahoga Falls advertised in the Falls News Press, the City of Cuyahoga Falls website and also Facebook. Although the request for comment on Facebook did not generate any questions or ideas, the social media post did receive 8 likes and 6 shares.

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

When comments do not relate to the annual action plan, they are redirected to the appropriate program for response. A Request for citizen comment was posted to the City of Cuyahoga Falls website, the Falls News Press Legal Ads and the City's social media page on Facebook. Although no comments were received, the post received shares and likes. See attachment

7. Summary

Throughout this one-year Action Plan, staff will work to address the needs identified as part of the citizen participation process and will continue to coordinate and refine our efforts through ongoing consultation with vested parties.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	CUYAHOGA FALLS	Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The Community Development Department carries out the comprehensive Community Development Block Grant Program, which includes Fair Housing, Public Service, Housing Rehabilitation, Economic Development, Infrastructure and Capital Improvements.

Cuyahoga Falls Community Development houses three (3) interlinked divisions, Housing and Code Enforcement, Planning and Economic Development, Zoning, and Community Development Block Grant Administration. Each division heavily contributes to CDBG project and activity planning.

Community Development Block Grant Funds are administered by the CDBG Entitlement Administrator in conjunction with the Development Director and Development Deputy Director.

Oversight for activities and expenditures is provided by the Loan and Grant Committee, the Board of Control, City Council, the Mayor, Director and Deputy Law Director, and Finance Director.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

For information regarding the City of Cuyahoga Falls' 2020 Annual Action Plan, contact Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director at (330) 971-8135. The Plan is available for public viewing by visiting the City website at www.cityofcf.com/departments/community-development/block-grant-program, or you may inquire about the plan at the Cuyahoga Falls City Building, Community Development Department located at 2310 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221.

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

1. Introduction

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Development Department staff meets with representatives from the local public housing authority, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), Summit County Continuum of Care (CoC), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managed by United way of Summit County and the local Fair Housing Authority, Fair Housing Advocates Association (FHAA). The CDBG Entitlement Administrator participates in monthly CoC Steering Committee meetings and is an Executive Board member of the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care. Meetings are held concerning homelessness, rapid rehousing, and public housing at the United Way of Summit County (HMIS) and Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA). The Fair Housing Advocates Association Director is in direct communication with the Development Department CDBG Entitlement Administrator, regarding court cases, classes and monthly audits.

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

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

The City continues to work closely with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and various partners. The City also works with neighborhood residents, businesses, social service agencies, etc. when preparing Renewal and Redevelopment Plans for selected project areas. Where new housing is involved, the City also works with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County as necessary. The City works closely with CBDO's to provide assistance and support in both new housing activities and housing rehabilitation.

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

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The Summit County Continuum of Care represents a broad collaborative effort of homeless service providers, support service providers, hospitals, the University of Akron, banks and foundations. Homeless providers work together to further enhance a system providing emergency, transitional and permanent shelter options to homeless individuals, families, families with children, veterans, unaccompanied youth and other special needs populations. The Continuum of Care system provides the homeless with shelters as well as supportive services to equip them with the tools necessary to overcome homelessness.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls as part of the Continuum of Care Committee meet regularly and participates in the Point in Time Count and evaluation of homeless needs within the community. The Cuyahoga Falls CDBG Administrator currently serves on the Board of Directors as secretary and also as a member of the Steering Committee. A Point in Time Count was held in 2020 throughout Cuyahoga Falls with trained volunteers, assessing the number of homeless and their needs.

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

The City of Akron, the lead agency along with the Continuum of Care recognize the need to develop performance standards for the administration of the ESGP program and all Continuum of Care projects. The City of Akron and the Akron/Barberton/Summit Continuum of Care have fully implemented the HEARTH Act. The City of Akron and the CoC continue to:

- * Update the planning process for the ESG and CoC policies and procedures manual identifying a committee structure, meeting guidelines, roles and responsibilities, refine performance measures, and criteria for poor performers;
- * Continue to monitor gap prioritization within the ESG and CoC and establish a community process for determining relative priorities;
- * Develop short-and long-term strategic goals in the establishment of permanent supportive housing and determine the future of transitional housing programs. Establish ESGP performance measures and outcomes; and
- * Update the written ESG and CoC plan, continuing to serve on the Steering Committee and also on the Board of Directors for the Akron/Barberton/Summit Continuum of Care.
- * Participate in the Point in Time Count.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of Summit and Medina
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	United Way of Summit County is a CoC partner agency and the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)administrative agency. The City and United Way work closely to provide homeless data as to make policy and funding decisions as they apply to our homeless population. The City contracts with the United Way to provide a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. United Way provides a Lifeline Program, an electronic telephone emergency alarm response system for seniors and disabled living alone; provides an Information & Referral Program, a twenty-four hour centralized information, referral and follow-up service which serves as a linkage between persons in need of human services and available non-profit and government services; and provides a Community Voice Mail Program, which provides a consistent telephone number and free access to a 24-hour, local, personalized voice mail service which directly links persons in crisis and transition to jobs, housing, healthcare and stability. Community Development staff continue to serve on the Continuum of Care Steering Committee and also the Board of Directors for improved coordination efforts.

2	Agency/Group/Organization	Fair Housing Advocates Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Fair Housing
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City works with Fair Housing Advocates Association to promote fair housing and address fair housing issues in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Fair Housing Advocates association provides trainings to landlords and residents.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	AMHA is consulted to provide basic overview of housing needs and what they need to do to improve their facilities. Environmental Reviews are completed by the City of Cuyahoga Falls as requests are submitted.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Neighborhood Development Services Is consulted regularly concerning services for owner occupied housing rehabilitation and improved coordination.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Support Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Falls consults with Community Support Services street outreach teams to assist homeless individuals with shelter, housing, financial assistance, mental health counseling.

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

N/A

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	City of Akron	The City of Cuyahoga Falls is an active member of the Akron/Barberton, Summit County Continuum of Care, participating , funding and implementing the regional organizations efforts towards ending homelessness in Summit County.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

A legal notice of the proposed FY2020 Action Plan was published in the *Cuyahoga Falls News Press* a newspaper of General Circulation allowing interested parties ample time to review the information and/or provide comments in writing to the City of Cuyahoga Falls Development Department. A press release was also placed on the City of Cuyahoga Falls website and on all social media platforms. The City of Cuyahoga Falls encourages participation of all its residents, reaching out to minorities, non-English speaking residents, people with limited mobility, visual or hearing impairments, etc.

All residents are encouraged to respond, comment, and provide feedback during all stages of plan submission. Goal setting and projects are influenced by the feedback provided.

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	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/ broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing			All comments were accepted and responded to.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/ broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing			All comments were accepted and responded to.	www.facebook.com/cityofcf
3	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/ broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing			All comments were accepted and responded to.	https://www.instagram.com/cuyahogafallsoh/

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Internet Outreach	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/ broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing			All comments were accepted and responded to.	https://www.cityofcf.com/news

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The 5-year Consolidated Plan for 2019-2023 must identify the federal, state, local, and private resources expected to be available to the City of Cuyahoga Falls to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Strategic Plan. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is a direct entitlement community for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, receiving an annual allocation of Federal funding from the U.S. Department of HUD. Below is a breakdown of this anticipated funding resource.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	671,283	206,260	549,663	1,427,206	0	

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	public - federal	Admin and Planning Economic Development Public Services Other	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

CDBG funds can be leveraged with other Federal, state, local or private funds to increase the impact of the funds. Facing local budget shortfalls, CDBG funding remains a crucial source of funding that helps communities leverage funds for key infrastructure and economic development projects.

CDBG funds will be used as a leverage match for County of Summit Lead Abatement, County of Summit Home Weatherization and the Summit County Land Bank Reutilization Corporation.

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

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Discussion

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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	Programmatic Compliance and Planning	2019	2023	Administration & Planning	CITY-WIDE	Program Administration & Planning	CDBG: \$190,000	Other: 1 Other
2	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Public Services	CDBG: \$25,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted
3	Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD CITY-WIDE	Owner Occupied Housing	CDBG: \$175,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 8 Household Housing Unit
4	Increased Affordable Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD CITY-WIDE	Owner Occupied Housing	CDBG: \$50,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Expanded Economic Development	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Economic Development	CDBG: \$886,706	Jobs created/retained: 100 Jobs Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted
6	Public Facilities and Improvements	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$100,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Programmatic Compliance and Planning
	Goal Description	CDBG Program Compliance and Planning for housing, homelessness, Fair Housing efforts, economic development, infrastructure and projects that are accessible to and increase the quality of life for low to moderate income individuals and families.
2	Goal Name	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be designated for public services to support income qualified individuals and families, such as the Senior Snow Program, the Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors Food Pantry Program, the Vantage Aging - Aging in Place Program, and the International Soapbox Derby STEM Education Program.

3	Goal Name	Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing
	Goal Description	Funds will be dedicated to rehabilitation of existing housing stock to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for low to moderate income individuals. The City will maintain partnerships with Summit County Lead and the Home Weatherization Assistance Program to leverage funds and provide increased assistance to residents who would otherwise not be able to afford these services.
4	Goal Name	Increased Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to support Community Based Development Organizations in the building of new homes for income qualified families. The City of Cuyahoga Falls may also provide support referring to acquisition, site clearance or site improvement. CDBG funds may also be used to provide down payment assistance through CBDOs who also provide homeowner education programs.
5	Goal Name	Expanded Economic Development
	Goal Description	Expanded Economic opportunities through creation and/or preservation of jobs mainly directed towards low-to-moderate income individuals. Cuyahoga Falls leverages funds with developers, businesses and other agencies to create new local businesses, help expand economic opportunities for new business owners, create and maintain jobs for people who work and live in the City of Cuyahoga Falls.
6	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Goal Description	The CDBG program identifies publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure such as, streets, playgrounds, and underground utilities, and buildings owned by non-profits that are open to the general public, as Public Facilities and Improvements. Safe and accessible infrastructure is essential to quality of life and to building community diversity and stability. The City of Cuyahoga Falls contains many public facilities and parks, some of which are located in low to moderate income areas. This goal creates ADA accessible playground equipment, bathrooms, electronic doors, and safety improvements benefitting low to moderate income individuals and/or limited clientele.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The 2020 Action Plan outlines the projects planned for year 2 of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan. Each project accomplishes a goal that is determined by needs assessments, developed through organization and citizen input via public meetings and Citizen Comment periods. The City of Cuyahoga Falls creates and maintains an inclusive, vibrant and prosperous community through commitment and implementation of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Administrative
2	Homeless Management Information System
3	Fair Housing Services
4	Planning - Contractual Services
5	Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors - Food Pantry
6	Senior Snow Program
7	Aging in Place, Independent Living Services
8	STEM Education Initiative
9	Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Activity Delivery Costs
10	Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Revolving Loans
11	Increased Affordable Housing Initiative
12	Economic Development Matching Grant Program
13	Economic Development Low Interest Loan Program
14	ED - Historic District Facade Improvement Matching Grant Program
15	ED - South State Road Facade Improvement Matching Grant Program
16	ED - City of Cuyahoga Falls Public Facilities Improvements

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The projects listed in the 2020 Action Plan are prioritized through research of American Community Survey data, as well as input from local government leadership, Community Based Development Organizations, non-Profit organizations, Fair Housing Advocates, Local Business and Public Participation through public meetings and comment periods. NIMBYism (Not in my back yard) tends to be the biggest obstacle to addressing underserved needs within the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The City focuses on public education as a means to promote inclusivity among it's residents.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Administrative
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Programmatic Compliance and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration & Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$130,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be used for the activity delivery costs of the Community Development Block Grant program. This includes the day to day monitoring and assistance given to all CDBG-grant recipients; staff will track time spent on each individual project.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	[intentionally left blank]
	Location Description	[intentionally left blank]
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
2	Project Name	Homeless Management Information System
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Programmatic Compliance and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration & Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	The HMIS database is maintained by the United Way of Summit County. The database collects and tracks information on homelessness and resources available. The HMIS data base receives funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds for this project must be paid for from the Administrative and Planning portion of the Community Development Block Grant.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Cuyahoga Falls has increasingly been involved in the yearly Point In Time count for chronically homeless individuals and families. Street outreach activity has increased. The newness of this activity makes it is unclear how many homeless individuals and families in Cuyahoga Falls will benefit from this activity.
Location Description	United Way of Summit County.	

	Planned Activities	HMIS tracking is a system that monitors the availability of homeless programs in Summit County.
3	Project Name	Fair Housing Services
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Programmatic Compliance and Planning Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration & Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,000
	Description	Fair Housing Advocates Association provides the City of Cuyahoga Falls residents with access to Fair Housing, Landlord-Tenant, Comprehensive Housing Counseling Services and will work to promote awareness and utilization of these services throughout the community through education and outreach.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 370 individuals/families will benefit from assistance from Fair Housing Advocates Association.
	Location Description	Fair Housing Assistance is available City-wide.
	Planned Activities	Fair Housing Advocates Association provides mediation, training on fair housing and tenant-landlord laws, discrimination complaint investigations.
4	Project Name	Planning - Contractual Services
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Programmatic Compliance and Planning
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration & Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
	Description	Funds will be used to carry out CDBG administration, as well as planning activities associated with promoting healthy neighborhoods, enhancing the quality of life for low-to-moderate income persons and to expand economic development opportunities, including Historic Preservation.
	Target Date	12/31/2020

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	[intentionally left blank]
	Location Description	[intentionally left blank]
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
5	Project Name	Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors - Food Pantry
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$2,500
	Description	Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors is a non-profit organization that assists families and individuals in need with groceries, clothing, household items, Christmas gifts and school supplies. The City of Cuyahoga Falls provides CDBG funding to provide food for low to moderate income families through the Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors food pantry.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	In 2019 food was provided to struggling families on 2394 separate occasions, benefitting a total of 554 families. Each grocery serving equals 3-5 days of fresh meat, fresh vegetables, and canned/boxed items such as pasta, cereal, pasta sauce, crackers, rice, etc. Eggs and cheese are also commonly provided. In program year 2020, we predict the need for groceries provided by Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors will increase substantially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and loss of jobs.
Location Description	Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors is located at 1742 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio which is currently designated as a low to moderate income area of the City. The Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors program is accessible to and benefits all residents whose income levels meet the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Emergency Food Assistance Program.	
Planned Activities	Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors will provide food as needed for low to moderate income residents of the City of Cuyahoga Falls.	
6	Project Name	Senior Snow Program
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment

	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$13,000
	Description	CDBG Funds will be used to assist Senior Citizens age 62 and higher and/or handicapped homeowners with snow removal.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	At least 65 low-to-moderate income homeowners will benefit from this snow removal activity. This activity makes it possible for elderly and handicapped individuals to get out of their homes, receive visitors, deliveries and aid during inclement weather.
	Location Description	The location is City-Wide.
	Planned Activities	Removal of snow for senior citizens and handicapped individuals.
7	Project Name	Aging in Place, Independent Living Services
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	Vantage Aging assists senior citizens with every day needs including:1. Homemaker Services: Light housekeeping, running errands, and assisting with appointments. 2. Personal Care Services: Bathing, grooming, and eating assistance.3. Companionship Services: Over-the-phone companionship program. (free)4. Deep Cleaning Services: Spring Cleaning all year-round.CDBG funds will be used to help income qualified seniors remain in their home.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	at least 5 income qualified senior citizens will receive increased benefits from this activity.
	Location Description	This activity takes place city wide.
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
8	Project Name	STEM Education Initiative
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Services

	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to create a STEM-focused curriculum in gravity racing. The curriculum will be used in the Cuyahoga Falls school district with at least 51% of students being low- to moderate-income. The students will learn the curriculum and build a Derby kit car.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 120 students will benefit from the International Soapbox Derby STEM education program. Of the 120 students, at least 51% will be children from low-to-moderate income families.
	Location Description	During the 2020 program year, Elizabeth Price and Preston Elementary Schools will be participating in this STEM learning program.
	Planned Activities	Students will build mini stock cars while learning Science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
9	Project Name	Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Activity Delivery Costs
	Target Area	HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing
	Needs Addressed	Owner Occupied Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Neighborhood Development Services provides Comprehensive and minor home repair, ADA modifications for low to moderate income residents. All work is competitively bid with a minimum of 3 contractors bidding per job. All permits are pulled when necessary. The maximum activity delivery cost is \$5,250.00. All activity delivery costs are tracked using time sheets. The City will utilize CDBG funds to maintain and/or increase the amount of decent, safe and sanitary housing. This project is also an AFH goal associated with priority need - Availability of Affordable Units. (Impediment: Lack of Affordable Rental Housing/Lack of Accessible Housing Stock)
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	In 2020, it's anticipated that 8 low-to moderate income households will be assisted through housing programs.

	Location Description	The Housing Rehabilitation Program is offered City-Wide to families with low-to moderate income.
	Planned Activities	Neighborhood Development Services, a subrecipient of Cuyahoga Falls, provides activity delivery of comprehensive housing rehabilitation to income qualified residents. In addition to NDS, the City of Cuyahoga Falls, in partnership with Summit County HWAP (Home Weatherization Assistance Program) and Summit County Lead have committed to leveraging funds for the benefit of low to moderate income households.
10	Project Name	Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Revolving Loans
	Target Area	HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing
	Needs Addressed	Owner Occupied Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$125,000
	Description	CDBG revolving funds will be used to provide low interest deferred loans to income qualified individuals for housing rehabilitation.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that 8 low to moderate income families will benefit from the owner occupied housing rehabilitation program.
	Location Description	This project is for city-wide housing.
	Planned Activities	Neighborhood Development Services, a subrecipient of Cuyahoga Falls, provides activity delivery of comprehensive housing rehabilitation to income qualified residents. In addition to NDS, the City of Cuyahoga Falls, in partnership with Summit County HWAP (Home Weatherization Assistance Program) and Summit County Lead have committed to leveraging funds for the benefit of low to moderate income households.
11	Project Name	Increased Affordable Housing Initiative
	Target Area	HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing Increased Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Owner Occupied Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000

	Description	CDBG funds may be used for acquisition and/or demolition of properties. A Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) will build affordable housing for low-to-moderate income families.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that one low-to-moderate income family will benefit from this project.
	Location Description	[intentionally left blank]
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
12	Project Name	Economic Development Matching Grant Program
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Expanded Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$308,706
	Description	CDBG funds will be given as matching grants on a first come first serve basis to local businesses including small business and micro-enterprises, for the purpose of creating and/or retaining jobs, primarily in low-to-moderate income areas. Grant amounts and conditions are based on a tier system and approved by the CDBG Loan & Grant Committee, Board of Control (grants over \$5,000), and City Council (grants over \$50,000).
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	[intentionally left blank]
	Location Description	[intentionally left blank]
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
13	Project Name	Economic Development Low Interest Loan Program
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Expanded Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$178,000

	Description	CDBG funds will be used to provide financial assistance with to local businesses, including small business and micro-enterprises, for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs. CDBG funds may also be used for the Minority Contractor Capital Access Program (MCCAP) to provide minority contractors with access to capital and other resources for business growth.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	[intentionally left blank]
	Location Description	[intentionally left blank]
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
14	Project Name	ED - Historic District Facade Improvement Matching Grant Program
	Target Area	SOUTH FRONT STREET
	Goals Supported	Expanded Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000
	Description	CDBG funds will be used for facade improvements and sign matching grants in the Historic Downtown.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This proposed activity will create or retain 8 jobs for low-to-moderate income individuals in the Historic District.
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Falls Downtown Historic District.
Planned Activities	The City anticipates 4 Facade Matching Grant Activities, up to \$50,000.00 each including \$3,000.00 for design.	
15	Project Name	ED - South State Road Facade Improvement Matching Grant Program
	Target Area	South State Road
	Goals Supported	Expanded Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000

	Description	CDBG funds will be allocated to assist South State Road business owners with facade improvements.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	[intentionally left blank]
	Location Description	This project will take place in the South State Road Business District.
	Planned Activities	[intentionally left blank]
16	Project Name	ED - City of Cuyahoga Falls Public Facilities Improvements
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	The CDBG program identifies publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure such as, streets, playgrounds, and underground utilities, and buildings owned by non-profits that are open to the general public, as Public Facilities and Improvements. Safe and accessible infrastructure is essential to quality of life and to building community diversity and stability. City of Cuyahoga Falls public facilities will be updated with to include (but not limited to) ADA accessible bathrooms, doorways and playground equipment as well as structural repairs for the safety of residents. The City of Cuyahoga Falls contains many public facilities and parks, some of which are located in low to moderate income areas. This goal creates ADA accessible playground equipment, bathrooms, electronic doors, and safety improvements benefitting low to moderate income individuals and/or limited clientele.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	[intentionally left blank]
	Location Description	Public facilities located in low-to-moderate income areas of the City.

	Planned Activities	Parks located in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods may be updated with ADA accessible playground equipment for disabled children. Bathrooms in recreational facilities may be updated with ADA accessible bathrooms and building infrastructure improved for safety.
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AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is home to approximately 50,000 residents. The City defines a concentration of low- to moderate-income persons as a census tract or block group in which 45.8 percent or more of the total population is low- to moderate-income according to HUD guidelines.

Minority concentrations within the City can be found near Prange Drive and Wyoga Lake Road which are in the northern part of the City.

The City does not have an NRSA, nor are CDBG funds allocated to a specific target area as defined by HUD and/or any areas that would be established locally. During the 2020 Action Plan Period, CDBG funds will be used on a city-wide basis.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD	
CITY-WIDE	100
SOUTH FRONT STREET	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

To varying degrees, there is a need for CDBG-assistance throughout the community, as such, the City does not focus on a specific geographic area. CDBG funds are utilized on a city-wide basis.

Discussion

As part of the yearly planning process, Development and Planning staff meet to discuss whether or not there is a benefit to targeting funds to a specific area. With so many diverse needs throughout the community, staff feel that making CDBG funds available for use throughout the community is the most prudent approach. This city-wide approach has been used successfully during the previous Action Plan periods of the current Consolidated Plan.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City strives to make housing decent, safe, sanitary and affordable. This program year funds will be allocated toward the rehabilitation of owner-occupied structures through the City's comprehensive housing rehabilitation program. During the 2020 Action Plan period, the City will also work with Summit County Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Summit County Lead to leverage funds and expand housing rehabilitation efforts. Additionally, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will engage a community partner, Habitat for Humanity to build new affordable single family homes, increasing the amount of affordable housing within the city.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	8
Special-Needs	0
Total	8

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	2
Rehab of Existing Units	6
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	8

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

Discussion

The COVID-19 pandemic has made a large impact on the number of homes that can realistically be rehabilitated during the 2020 program year. A large percentage of senior and disabled residents take advantage of the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program, and due to their compromised condition, interior work has to be carefully handled for their health and safety. In keeping with the social distancing state mandate, concentration has been placed on exterior rehabilitation to keep the program moving forward.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City does not own or operate public housing. In Ohio, public housing is administered directly through local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). Pursuant to HUD requirements, public housing authorities are not eligible to apply for CDBG funds directly. However, the City collaborates with Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) in regards to public housing concerns. The City provides fair housing services to all residents including those living in public housing.

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

During the 2020 Action Plan period, the AMHA will continue repair initiatives on public housing located in Cuyahoga Falls. AMHA currently operates a project-based voucher (PBV) program and plans to continue working with community partners to identify specific target populations to be served by their PVB program.

The Suttliff Building is a 185 unit Senior Housing Complex. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has 3 housing complexes for Family Housing, the 125 unit Honey Locust complex, the 105 unit Maplewood Villa & Garden and the 12 unit Lobello Lane.

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

The City does not administer PHA funds, or have any oversight over PHA tenants. As such, the City has no actions directed specifically to public housing residents; however, during 2020, AMHA will continue to monitor and implement a strategic plan for service delivery to include emphasis on stability and quality of life, economic independence, health and education.

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

The local PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

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

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

The City of Cuyahoga Falls took part in the Point-in-Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This count illuminated the need for the City of Cuyahoga Falls to take a hands-on approach to helping homeless and chronically homeless individuals. Bus passes, high protein - shelf stable food, warm clothing, toiletries, and shelter/housing information are being provided as needed. Cuyahoga Falls also participates on the Continuum of Care Steering Committee, Board of Directors and attends chronic homeless meetings to monitor and assist in decisions effecting the homeless of Summit County.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Summit County has a limited amount of shelter beds available to serve individuals and families. ACCESS and Haven of Rest are the two largest providers of shelter beds in the community. Those agencies are the only providers for individuals, with Haven of Rest being the primary provider for individual males. Stays within the shelters can vary in length according to availability and client adherence to the rules in these facilities. Shelters for women with children are provided by ACCESS, Harvest Home and the Battered Woman's Shelter (BWS); space is often limited at these locations. Shelter Care provides 24 beds for unaccompanied youth ages 10 through 17. HM Life Opportunity Services (HMLOS), the Ohio Multi County Development Corporation (OMCDC), CSS, Haven of Rest, BWS Shelter Care, Legacy III, and Summit County Children Services all provide transitional housing beds in our community. They prioritize those being served in their programs by taking referrals directly from shelters or those living on the streets whenever possible or target those with greatest needs such as drug and alcohol dependence, mental health, families, youth aging out of foster care or pregnant teens.

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

Summit County relies on the aforementioned CoC housing stock to address the needs of those persons emerging from public institutions, health care centers, or emancipating from Foster Care. These persons often face a lengthy wait period between their discharge and the availability of housing, leaving them in a vulnerable state for recidivism and exploitation. Some faith-based organizations exist to serve a small percentage of those persons re-entering from corrections facilities, but there are often long wait lists for these beds. The Summit county community does operate various hotlines and support groups to connect people with services and opportunities that are available, but those resources remain very limited.

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

The Summit CoC has at least 165 beds dedicated to the Chronic Homeless population including several programs that adopt a Housing First model designed to triage Chronic Homeless with housing as a first step towards stabilization. The Summit CoC and its Central Intake follow HUD policies regarding prioritization for those requiring housing assistance including placement of individuals with multiple barriers to otherwise secure housing. Once housed, residents can receive treatment for issues such as, substance abuse, mental illness or physical problems that often keep a person homeless. The CoC is adapted the policies set forth by HUD Release CPD-14-012, which sets a guideline for placement in CoC housing according to applicant need. Beds within the CoC housing stock should be prioritized for applicants that are Chronically Homeless and/or have multiple barriers to achieving housing stability. Moreover, the HUD release advises communities to rededicate Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds to those that fit the criteria for classification as Chronic Homeless. They have initiated this process and a number of their PSH beds which are not currently allocated to serve the Chronically Homeless and will make them available upon bed turnover and if the need is still there. Through the use of Central Intake, applicants will be assessed with a Vulnerability Index to determine those with the greatest need for PSH or Transitional Housing. Those with the highest needs will be prioritized for available PSH beds and programs. Applicants with lower needs or barriers will be referred to programs such as Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention for short-term assistance designed to bridge the gap from a temporary crisis to housing stability. Currently, Summit County is operating both Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) for those individuals in shelter or facing eviction from existing housing. Additionally, RRHP programs for Veterans and Veteran families are being operated within the county. HPRP programs combine short-term assistance up to 9 months and Case Management and Life Skills programming designed to help residents stabilize from a housing crisis. Summit County currently has 27 CoC beds dedicated to homeless young adults and young adults emancipating from Children Services Custody. It is worth noting that the need for all these types of housing programs far exceeds the current supply.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction:

Barriers to affordable housing exist in every community. While some of these barriers can be addressed through legislative or procedural changes, others are very difficult to alter because they are the result of socio-economic and/or market conditions. Analysis shows some of the following barriers to affordable housing exist in the City of Cuyahoga Falls:

- Smaller supply of affordable single-family housing units that make it difficult for low-to-moderate income first time homebuyers to make the transition from renting to homeownership.
- Older supply of housing not meeting the need of every family or seniors.
- The current average sales price for many of the homes on the market are below the national average, but still above the affordability level of many low-to-moderate income households.
- Housing rehabilitation is often costly making it difficult for low-to-moderate income households to afford necessary repairs. Bank financing to assist with such repairs is often more difficult for lower income individuals and families.
- Minimum lot sizes that increases the cost of land and decreases the feasibility of providing smaller, more affordable homes.
- Cost prohibitive local ordinances, zoning ordinances and building codes for storm water systems, sidewalks and landscaping that often add unnecessary costs to affordable housing development projects.
- Environmental conditions such as brownfields eliminate the possibility of building homes in some of the more affordable areas of the community. Ohio brownfield remediation grant funding has been cut in recent years with the change in the State legislature.
- NIMBYism (Not in my back yard) attitudes often dictate where affordable housing projects are located. NIMBYism has been the subject of fair housing laws for years.
- Lack of Transportation or lack of public transportation options has a negative effect on affordable housing location choice.

Policies to market available housing opportunities could be further expanded to include measures ensuring housing information reaches traditionally underserved populations, such as advertising in targeted media sources, distributing information at churches or community gatherings or conducting special outreach efforts to targeted groups. The City will strive to address negative effects and barriers to affordable housing during the 2020 plan period.

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

The City is committed to removing or reducing barriers to affordable housing whenever possible. During 2020, the City:

1. will continue to assure the availability of adequate sites for the development of affordable housing and researched state and federal funding sources to support efforts to construct affordable housing;
2. continue to support the AMHA as a valued business in our community;
3. if funding is available the City and in conjunction with a CBDO, will develop affordable housing;
4. the City will support Low -Income Housing Tax Credit projects as they arise;
5. continue to utilize the Ohio and USEPA Brownfield programs to remediate underutilized sites;
6. the City will continue to offer CRA tax abatements to those homes located in an approved CRA District; and
7. The City will also continue to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to preserve and improve the stock of affordable housing options.

Fair housing programming will also continue to play a critical role in addressing barriers to affordable housing. The City will continue to take appropriate actions to affirmatively further fair housing and reduce all negatives effects of public policies within the City. Additionally, during the 2020 Action Plan period, the City will work with other, local HUD-funding recipients to create an updated analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. This effort will look at Summit County as a whole, as well as taking community-specific issues into consideration.

Barriers to affordable housing are a reality in every community, and although some of these barriers can be addressed others are very difficult to alter because of societal, financial and/or market conditions.

Discussion:

N/A

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Cuyahoga Falls addresses a number of items to strengthen the community and the carrying out of this Action Plan as detailed below.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

One obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the lack of funding. Whether it is adequate numbers of affordable housing units, adequate numbers of beds in homeless shelters, permanent supportive housing units, large sanitary sewer expansion or other public facilities, funding is frequently the biggest obstacle. As such the City strives to leverage funding whenever possible. Leverage may be provided through other grant programs, foundations, private, and/or local funds.

Whenever possible, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will try to use CDBG funds, not as a main source of funding, but as a means of leveraging other funding sources.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City plans to maintain and foster affordable housing units through the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program and support CBDOS to create additional affordable housing. The City will work with the Land Bank of Summit County and Habitat for Humanity of Summit County to find lots. Additionally, the City will also continue to support LIHTC projects as they are presented.

Although the City does not financially support the AMHA directly, it will continue to collaborate and supports AMHA's programs that aid residents in becoming economically self-sufficient. Additionally, the City will enhance its housing rehabilitation activities to provide comprehensive assistance. Funds will be used to ensure that homes are made decent, safe and sanitary rather than just addressing one or two smaller issues and putting homeowners at risk of future home repairs that could be cost prohibitive. Assistance will also be offered as 0% interest, differed loans to prevent additional financial burdens from being placed upon residents.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

In 1992, HUD passed the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, which is also known as Title X. NDS had already been performing owner occupied housing repair loan programs, so staff was in place at the inception of the rule in 1992 and therefore has a long history of the background and intent of the rule itself. This has put NDS in a position to effectively execute the rule with absolute compliance since its inception. NDS employs two (2) licensed Lead Risk Assessors and two (2) Licensed Lead Abatement Contractors. All four (4) employees carry the EPA RRP Certificate. With credentials in these disciplines, program staff are qualified to both identify lead paint and lead paint hazards, interpret 3rd party risk assessments and lead paint inspections and accurately specify work and design the abatement projects. NDS staff is trained and qualified to supervise the means and methods used by contractors and ensure lead safe procedures are being followed to minimize risk to occupants and workers. Lastly, NDS creates an Occupant Protection Plan from which the lead contractor and occupants have a written outline to ensure they are not exposed to undue lead hazards throughout the course of the project. This particular function is exclusively limited to Lead Abatement Contractor License Holder.

At the conclusion of all City lead abatement or interim control activities, a Clearance Examination is conducted prior to the re-entry of occupants. The report is then provided to the homeowners for their use and information regarding the conditions of the home prior to and after the construction.

In addition to the above, the City and Summit County Public Health Department are collaborating and leveraging funds to carry out the Lead Hazard Control Grant. Income qualified homeowners can apply for assistance if the home was built before 1978 and if children under the age of 6 lives in the home or visits the home for a period of 62 hours per year.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

In 2001 Congress directed HUD to ensure the collection of more reliable data regarding the use of homeless programs. HUD requires all Continuum of Care agencies who receive funding to participate in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). However, to gain the fullest understanding of homelessness and the use of homeless services over time, all homeless service providers in Summit County, regardless of whether they have or ever will receive government funding submits data to be included in the HMIS.

The United Way of Summit County provides hosting service for HMIS. In 2020, the City will provide \$5,000 toward HMIS support.

Currently, HMIS is using a software application called ServicePoint. It is a powerful web-based information management system that provides client tracking and case management, service and referral management, bed availability for shelters, resource indexing and reporting.

In addition, the City assisted residents by identifying various housing, social services and educational programs. The Development Department continues to work with new and existing businesses and local Chambers to expand opportunities to strengthen the current local economy.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The Development Department is responsible for managing CDBG funds. The City has established goals under the Entitlement Program and works to integrate planning and projects with the related activities of other departments utilizing the Citizen Participation Plan, direct email requests, surveys and various other methods of communications to facilitate this goal. The City does not plan to duplicate services of other established and successful programs. The City's system of institutional structure is strong and well-coordinated. Additional efforts will be made to refine policies and procedures, as well as continued training for staff. Staff will also seek out external training opportunities whenever possible.

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

The City has continued to financially support social services meeting the needs of Cuyahoga Falls lower income residents and that are consistent with Consolidated Plan goals. The City and other housing providers will continue their relationships to ensure continuation of the housing rehab program. The AMHA administers the Section 8 and public housing programs for the City and will continue to collaborate to increase the quality of life for lower income residents.

Discussion:

N/A

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction:

This section provides information regarding various program specific requirements for the CDBG program under which the City of Cuyahoga Falls has been allocated funding by the U.S. Department of HUD for various housing and community development projects and activities to be undertaken in this Annual Action Plan.

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. | 80.00% |

The City of Cuyahoga Falls uses a one year period to determine overall benefits of CDBG funds to persons of low to moderate income (LMI). During FY-2020, approximately 80% of CDBG funding will benefit this population.

A regular review of the following areas is used to determine the decision making process:

- Identification of fair housing concerns and problems through the creation of the updated Analysis of Impediments
- Review of demographic data and income characteristics during program monitoring periods
- Identification of Impediments to Housing Choice
- Review of existing programs, services, and activities