

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

The purpose of this report is to meant to serve as the reporting and compliance requirements set forth by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended. The objective of this report is to review the activiites, actions and resources anticipated and used from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The aforementioned activities, actions and resources must have originated or been leveraged using Federal funds and/or resources. This report is meant to assess the City's effectiveness in using these resources and to assess the City's annual performance in relationship to meeting the priorities and objectives as outlined in their five-year Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan.

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

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
AFH - Emotional Disabilities (Service Animals)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%			

AFH - Lack of Lending to Minority Groups	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$100,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		1	1	100.00%
AFH - Lack of Lending to Minority Groups	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%			
AFH - NIMBYism	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	0		1	1	100.00%
AFH - NIMBYism	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%			
AFH - Programmatic Compliance	Administration & Planning	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	1	100.00%	1	1	100.00%
AFH - Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%			
AFH - Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$125,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	12	24.00%	8	5	62.50%

The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	2				
The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$12,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	100	1068	1,068.00%	100	679	679.00%
The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$13,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	2	2	100.00%			
The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0		0	0	
The Provision of Expanded Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$100,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5	2	40.00%			
The Provision of Expanded Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$400,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	0	8				

The Provision of Expanded Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$469,464	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	100	98	98.00%	100	83	83.00%
The Provision of Expanded Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$469,464	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	5	86	1,720.00%	5	74	1,480.00%

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

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

The City of Cuyahoga Falls outlined 6 objectives in their 2020 Action plan.

1. Programmatic Compliance and Planning: Federal funds were used to carry out CDBG related activities, such as the salary of our CDBG Administrator, Furthering Fair Housing activities, support of the local Continuum of Care's HMIS system and administrative costs for the implementation of a Master Public Arts Plan. CDBG-CV funds were also used to pay salaries earned while administering 62 COVID-19 small business working capital grants and to purchase supplies necessary for the administration of COVID-19 funds.
2. The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment: The City carried out a variety of public service activities to enhance the quality of life of low-to-moderate income individuals throughout the City. These programs included such services as assistance to a local food pantry that provided 554 families with food, assistance to a non-profit to help allow 5 senior citizens to live independently and providing assistance to a non-profit to help bring a STEM program to 130 low-to-moderate income students attending 2 Cuyahoga Falls grade schools.
3. The provision of Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing: The City used \$72,188. 00 of Federal dollars and/or resources to increase the amount of decent, safe and sanitary housing throughout the City. This goal was accomplished through an owner-occupied rehabilitation program and the Senior Snow Removal program for 49 income qualified homeowners over the age of 65 or disabled. Due to the pandemic, 5 out of the normal 8 home rehabilitation activities were completed with 3 in progress.
4. Increased Affordable Housing: 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. Two activities to increase affordable housing were started at the end of 2020 and will be reported on the 2021 CAPER.

5. Expanded Economic Development: 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. In 2020, twelve businesses were awarded a total of \$367,487 in funding that will result in 21 jobs for low-to-moderate income individuals. A total of \$310,000.00 in CDBG-CV funds were used in 2020 to assist small businesses in the City of Cuyahoga Falls during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sixty-two low-to-moderate income individuals were retained and 62 businesses were able to stay in business.

6. Public Facilities and Improvements: 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. Although public facilities and Improvement projects were identified, these activities will begin in 2021 and be reported when they are complete.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	645
Black or African American	82
Asian	20
American Indian or American Native	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	749
Hispanic	6
Not Hispanic	743

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

Narrative

Individuals self-report their racial and ethnic status. The largest racial and ethnic groups served were Whites and Non-Hispanics, this reflects the U.S. Census data that shows that Whites and Non-Hispanics are a greater percentage of the City's population than minorities. The data above is consistent with this trend. The City, however will continue to strive to increase services to racial and ethnic minorities. Those assisted in the statistics above received assistance through housing rehabilitation, independent-living, food assistance, snow removal, furthering fair housing initiatives and/or a STEM course for grade school students.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,369,713	547,475
Other	public - federal	0	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

According to the data captured in the chart above and the PR26 report, The City had \$1,369,713 in resources made available (\$671,283 in 2020 entitlement funds, \$131,490 in 2019 program income and \$566,940 in previous years' entitlement funds). In 2020, the City expended \$547,475.

Additionally, the City was awarded \$394,954.00 in resources made available to prevent, prepare and respond to the spread of COVID-19 through the CARES Act. In 2020, the City expended \$264,115.14 of the CARES Act Award.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CITY-WIDE	100	100	City-Wide
HESLOP NEIGHBORHOOD			
SOUTH FRONT STREET			

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City utilizes CDBG funds on a city-wide basis to ensure an increased quality of life for all low-to-moderate income residents.

Leveraging

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

Although the CDBG program does not require a match in funding for its activities, the City does strive to match private, state and local dollars in every CDBG activity when feasibly possible. The City has begun working with the County of Summit to leverage funds through their Home Weatherization Program, allowing residents to receive energy efficiency improvements at no cost or loan to them in conjunction with their owner-occupied home rehabilitation program.

In its economic development activities, the City provides the appropriate form of gap financing needed by an individual or business to leverage funds with private, local and state funding. All economic development grants require matching from the business. In other words, if the City provides a \$10,000.00 equipment grant, the business must provide receipts to reflect that they have spent \$10,000.00 of their own funding as well.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	8	5
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	8	5

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	2	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	6	5
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	8	5

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

In 2020, the City continued to provide an owner-occupied rehabilitation program to low-to-moderate income individuals. Through this program, the City was able to provide a zero percent interest deferred loan to low-to-moderate income individuals, that only becomes due and payable upon sale or transfer of the property or if the unit is no longer owner-occupied. As mentioned previously, the City leverages funds with the County of Summit Home Weatherization Program to allow homeowners to receive

energy efficiency improvements at zero cost to them. This program allows the City to ensure that affordable, decent, safe and sanitary homes are provided to its low-to-moderate income residents.

The City had a one-year goal of assisting 12 households, but were actually able to assist 5. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a pause in the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program due to social distancing and rules that were put in place for the safety of the homeowners and contractors. In order to meet our intended goal for 2021, the City will be advertising the program throughout the City, especially in the City's east-side neighborhood as outlined in the Five Year Consolidated Plan and the 2019 Annual Action Plan.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Although no one is certain how COVID-19 will impact owner-occupied housing rehabilitation going forward, the City, it's sub-recipient and contractors will follow any COVID-19 directives that are in place at that time. This should not affect future annual action plans.

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

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	1	0
Low-income	2	0
Moderate-income	2	0
Total	5	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

The City was able to complete 5 owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects, 1 which was extremely low income, 2 which were low income individuals and 2 which were moderate income individuals. The City was also able to begin 3 additional owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects, which will be completed in 2021. The City feels that this is an achievement to have completed 5 owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects, while also keeping the health and safety of our residents, subrecipients and contractors as our number one priority.

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

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

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

The City is a partner agency with the Summit County Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC consists of partner agencies and housing providers who receive Federal Funding that collaborate on policies and procedures to meet the needs of the homeless persons throughout Summit County. Through this collaboration, the CoC ensures that assistance reaches the largest number of homeless persons possible in a cost-effective manner. The CoC is able to provide a central intake for persons who are homeless or about to become homeless. A person facing homelessness is able to call one central line that is able to provide housing referrals based on the length of need/stay. It also maintains a prioritized waitlist and makes referrals to the CoC permanent and transitional housing programs, as well as, maintaining a prioritized wait list for family shelter providers.

Partner Agencies of the CoC, such as Community Support Services and Safe Landing Youth perform street outreach to homeless individuals who are living in situations that are unfit for habitation, such as neighborhood parks, abandoned buildings and encampments throughout the community. Individuals from these organizations attempt to perform triage and provide referrals that connect people with supportive services, such as those for substance abuse and mental health issues.

CoC partner agency members also perform a HUD mandated Point in Time Count for persons who are experiencing homelessness. The Point in Time Count includes those individuals living in and outside of shelters and is usually conducted at the end of January. Volunteers conduct street outreach at this time and offer homeless individuals information on resources available to them, bus passes and/or necessary food and clothing.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Summit County has a limited amount of shelter beds available to those experiencing homelessness, the majority of those available are inside the City of Akron. The two largest shelters, Haven of Rest and ACCESS are located within the City of Akron. Haven of Rest is the primary shelter for males experiencing homelessness and ACCESS, Harvest Home and the Battered Women's shelter primarily serve women and their children. Shelter Care provides shelter for unaccompanied youth ages 10 through 17. HM Life Opportunity Services (HMLoS), the Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation (OMCDC), Community Support Services, Haven of Rest, Battered Women's Shelter, Legacy II and Summit County Children Services provide transitional housing beds within the community and prioritize those being served in

their programs by taking referrals directly from shelters or those living on the streets or target those with the greatest needs, such as those suffering from alcohol or substance abuse, those with mental

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

The CoC have beds dedicated to the Chronic Homeless population including several programs that adopt a Housing First model designed to triage Chronic Homeless with housing as the first step towards stabilization. Chronically homeless persons are prioritized for referral to these permanent housing beds, and our CoC hopes to meet the Federal goal of ending Chronic Homelessness in our community. 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 has adapted the policies set forth by HUD Release CPD-14-012, issued July 28, 2014 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 a 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 has designated CoC beds for 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.

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.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The City does not own or operate public housing. Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) is the local Public Housing Authority for our area. The City works in conjunction with AMHA to address public housing needs and/or concerns, including fair housing services.

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

The City does not take any actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership as we do not administer Public Housing Authority funds. This is an action that is carried out by AMHA.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

As the City is not responsible for PHA funds, it does not evaluate the status or condition of PHAs. This is an action that is carried out by AMHA.

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

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The City is committed to reducing barriers to affordable housing. During the program year, the City continued to look for sites that could be acquired for the purpose of the development of affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing for low-to-moderate income individuals. At the end of program year 2020 a vacant lot was located and processes were begun to evaluate this property for the purpose of donation to Habitat for Humanity of Summit County as a possible future development of affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing for low-to-moderate income individuals.

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

In Program Year 2020, the City provided snow removal and independent living services to low-to-moderate income senior citizens. The City also provided assistance to Good Neighbors of Cuyahoga Falls to provide meals and clothing to individuals in need. We provided STEM program materials to low-to-moderate income students in 2 grade schools throughout the City. In addition to these services, we continued to provide an owner-occupied home rehabilitation program that was able to provide necessary improvements to individuals with a zero percent interest deferred loan that is due upon sale or transfer of the property or if the unit is no longer owner-occupied. We began partnering with the County of Summit to leverage funds with their Home Weatherization Program that provides energy efficiency improvements to low-to-moderate income homeowners, which in turn helped ensure that each homeowner was able to receive the maximum amount of assistance needed while improving their home.

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

In 2020, the City has engaged Neighborhood Development Services (NDS) to administer its owner-occupied home rehabilitation program. NDS employs 2 licensed lead risk assessors and 2 licensed lead abatement contractors, all of which have an EPA RRP Certification. NDS is responsible for all 3rd party risk assessments and lead paint inspections. If lead-based paint was suspected to be present, NDS was required to inspect, test and ensure all lead abatement was undertaken and performed in compliance with EPA and HUD regulations by a lead-abatement certified contractor. During the 2020 program year, the City referred qualifying lead hazard cases to Summit County for abatement under their lead-hazard control grant. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic stalled testing and abatement of owner occupied housing. For program year 2021, the City has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with Summit County for their Combined General Health District Lead Based Hazard Control Program, to help ensure that the City leverages all federal funds when applicable.

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

As a partner agency of the Summit County Continuum of Care (CoC), the City participates in the Homeless Management System (HMIS) to ensure a collection of reliable data regarding the use of homeless programs. All homeless service agencies throughout Summit County, regardless of their funding source, submit data into this system to ensure that our agency partners are able to have a better understanding of homelessness and what additional services and/or improvements are needed in the future. United Way of Summit County is the host agency for this system and utilizes their 2-1-1 information line to help provide resources to individuals throughout Summit County. 2-1-1 is able to provide resource information to individuals including food assistance programs, substance abuse treatment, mental health programs and disaster relief services. In 2020, the City provided a match of \$5,000 in CDBG funds to assist with this program.

The City also provided assistance to businesses to create and/or maintain jobs for low-to-moderate income individuals for our city.

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

The Department of Development is responsible for administering the CDBG program throughout the City. It integrates planning and projects related to the goals set forth in our Five-Year Consolidated Plan. It will continue to engage our community through public meetings, website postings and/or direct email requests when planning and implementing new programs funded through CDBG monies. The City does not plan duplicate services of other established and successful programs. The City's institutional structure is strong and well-coordinated without any duplication of services.

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

The City will continue to work with social service agencies and non-profits to provide services for low-to-moderate income individuals housing and service needs. We will continue our partnership with Habitat for Humanity to look for possible future sites to build affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing units throughout our City. We will also work with other service agencies to provide fair housing services and any other services determined to be needed and/or beneficial to low-to-moderate income individuals. AMHA will continue to administer public housing programs and we will assist them as we are asked and needed to do so.

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

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing and to adopting an Action Plan that compliments and supports the Consolidated Plan. This Fair Housing Action Plan

enhances and furthers equal opportunity in housing enabling residents to more readily seek, obtain, use and enjoy the housing that exists within the City. The plan adopts the programmatic objectives laid out in the opening of HUD's 1996 publication "Fair Housing Planning Guide," which gives guidance on this process: The Department of Housing and Urban Development is committed to eliminating racial and ethnic segregation, illegal physical and other barriers to persons with disabilities and other discriminatory practices in housing. Additionally, the Department will use all of its programmatic and enforcement tools to achieve this goal. The fundamental goal of HUD's fair housing policy is to make housing choice a reality through Fair Housing Planning (FHP).

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

As specified in 24 CFR Part 85.40, the City of Cuyahoga Falls is responsible for the day to day operations of its program funding and activities to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local program requirements. The monitoring responsibilities associated with the use of CDBG program funded activities will be carried out by the Development staff using a variety of methods to review compliance. Monitoring techniques will include phone conversations, written correspondence, desk monitoring and on-site monitoring visits. The Development Department will complete one monitoring visit per year per funded activity unless the project is identified as high risk. Projects which are determined to be at "higher risk" would then be monitored more frequently than "lower risk" projects. Regardless of the frequency with which a project is monitored by staff, the purpose and intent of any monitoring activity is to identify potential areas of noncompliance and assist the program recipient in making the necessary changes to allow for the successful completion of the activity. By identifying and correcting any compliance issue, the likelihood of efficient and effective services being delivered to the intended beneficiaries increases dramatically and ensures the continued success of both the program recipient and the entitlement program. In addition, the City's CDBG program is monitored annually for compliance by the State of Ohio.

The City is committed to supporting minority business growth and development and views viable MBE programs as an important element of an overall effort to encourage minority entrepreneurial activity in all of its CDBG funded programs. Consistent with Departmental policy as set forth at 24 CFR 85.36(e), the City strives to take affirmative steps to utilize MBE's to the greatest extent possible. Tools the City will utilize to facilitate utilization of minority entrepreneurs include, but are not limited to, the following: Identification of area minority businesses. Solicitation of such businesses whenever they are a potential source for supplies or services. Dividing total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit maximum minority business participations. Using the services of the areas Minority Business Development Agency, the Small Business Administration and the State of Ohio's Office of Minority Business Development. The City utilizes Crain's Minority-Owned Business Directory. Not only does Crain's include businesses that are at least 51% minority-owned, the directory is open to LGBT certified and non-profits that focus on minority issues. The City also requires that prime contractors take the same affirmative steps with respect to subcontracting.

Our objective is to increase MBE participation in our programs. In 2020, as in prior years the City advertised in The Reporter, a local newspaper that provides news operated by and dedicated specifically to the African-American population. The City sought out and specifically sent invitations to bid to minority owned businesses. Neighborhood Development Services is required to send bid requests to

MBE companies for every home rehabilitation project in an effort to increase opportunities for MBE contractors in the area.

The City has joined with the Western Reserve Community fund of the Development Finance Authority (DFA) to support the Minority Contractors Capital Access Program (MCCAP) which focuses on minority-owned businesses, defined as businesses owned by racial or cultural minorities, women, veterans, LGBTQ people and disabled people in Summit County. The City will provide assistance to to the Western Reserve Community fund when an eligible Cuyahoga Falls business applies for assistance. Assistance will be used as working capital for materials, bond needs and technical assistance.

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

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

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91, citizen participation requirements, the City provides more than adequate notice at the opening of the 15 day comment period. The notice is provided through legal advertisement in the City's local news paper, placed on the City's website and posted to the City's Facebook and Instagram accounts. The City accepts public comments in any form convenient to the public.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

During the 2020 program year, the 2019 Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan were amended to include CARES Act Funding and changes in how the public would participate in decision making, such as virtual attendance, use of social media to reach as many citizens as possible and shorter comment periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it is hoped that such changes will not be necessary going forward, it has permanently added new ways of reaching out to the City's citizens and stakeholders.

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

grants?

No

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

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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