

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued new rules consolidating the planning, application, reporting and citizen participation processes for four formula grant programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The new single-planning process was intended to more comprehensively fulfill three basic goals: to provide decent housing, to provide a suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunities. It was termed the *Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development*.

According to HUD, the Consolidated Plan is designed to be a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for housing and community development actions. It offers entitlements the opportunity to shape these housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood and community development strategies. It also allows for strategic planning and citizen participation to occur in a comprehensive context, thereby reducing duplication of effort.

As the lead agency for the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan, the Community Development Department (CDD) hereby follows HUD's guidelines for citizen and community involvement. Furthermore, it is responsible for overseeing these citizen participation requirements, those that accompany the Consolidated Plan and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME).

Purpose of the Annual Action Plan

The *2024 Fort Smith Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development* is the one-year planning document identifying the needs and respective resource investments in addressing the city's housing, homeless, non-homeless special needs populations, community development and economic development needs.

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.

The goals of the Community Development Department are to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities for the city's low-and moderate-income residents. The CDD strives to accomplish these goals by maximizing and effectively utilizing all available funding resources to conduct housing and community development activities that will serve the economically disadvantaged residents of the city. By addressing need and creating opportunity at the individual and neighborhood levels, the CDD hopes to improve the quality of life for all residents of Fort Smith. These goals are further explained as follows:

- *Providing decent housing* means helping homeless persons obtain appropriate housing and assisting those at risk of homelessness; continue collaborating with homeless providers to supply a continuum of services; preserving the affordable housing stock; and increasing the supply of supportive, transitional, and permanent housing.
- *Improve the condition and availability of affordable housing over the five-year plan* by improving the condition of housing for low-income homeowners; increasing the viability for potential homeownership opportunities; increasing the number of newly constructed homes available on the affordable housing market in Fort Smith; support the increase of the housing supply available to low-income renters; and expanding the funding available for affordable housing programs.
- *Providing a suitable living environment* entails improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; increasing access to quality facilities and services; and reducing the isolation of income groups within the area through de-concentration of low-income housing opportunities.
- *Expanding economic opportunities* involves creating jobs that are accessible to low- and moderate-income persons; making mortgage financing available for low- and moderate-income persons at reasonable rates; providing access to credit for development activities that promote long-term economic and social viability of the community; and empowering low-income persons to achieve self-sufficiency to reduce generational poverty in federally-assisted public housing.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

As of March 17, 2023, all Program Year 2019 CDBG and HOME projects have been completed with the exception of the CV-1 and CV-3 administrative funds and CV-3 funds for Next Step Day Room's transitional housing project-which only lacks submission of one invoice- and the Next Step Homeless Facility which is soon to start construction.

Funding remaining in Program Year 2020 includes Housing Rehabilitation Funds. Due to a brief hiatus during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, housing rehab funds have required additional time to expend. A delay in available materials as well as available workforce caused a delay in spending out funding but project is set to be completed within 60 days.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The initial notice that went out was the “Notice of Funding Availability” to organizations to assist the city with carrying out the goals, objectives and strategies of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2024. That notice was published on January 12, 2024 and on January 24, 2024 and provided information about the required Application Workshop which was held on January 26, 2024 for staff to provide technical assistance to those contemplating an application. No citizen led proposals were requested at the meeting. The application deadline was on February 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. On March 15, 2024 a legal notice was published and electronic messages were distributed to notify all parties of the public hearings for input and as specified in the City's Citizen Participation Plan.

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) met on February 7, 2023 at 2:00 to vote on a chairperson, a vice-chair, a secretary and then were provided with assistance with the ZoomGrants Programs and questions were answered about expenditure of funds from the previous program year.

Public input meetings were held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at the Blue Lion at 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to offer the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the projects proposed. These meetings were advertised in the newspaper on March 15, 2024 and interested persons and agencies were notified by email and press releases. The citizen participation list was notified by electronic messages.

A final public hearing was held at the Blue Lion located on May 7, 2024 at 101 North 2nd Street at 6 p.m.

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.

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

7. Summary

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 |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Agency | Fort Smith | |
| CDBG Administrator | Fort Smith | Community Development Department |
| HOPWA Administrator | | |
| HOME Administrator | Fort Smith | Community Development Department |
| HOPWA-C Administrator | | |

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

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Narrative (optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

As part of the consolidated planning process, as the lead agency, the CDD must consult with a wide variety of organizations in order to gain understanding of the housing and community development stage. This represents a collective effort from a broad array of entities in Fort Smith, ranging from advocacy groups for the disabled to economic development organizations, and city leaders. Private, non-profit, and public organizations, including, persons interested in the CDBG and HOME programs, and persons associated with Continuum of Care organizations were contacted through several means, such as, e-mail correspondence, telephone calls and face-to-face interactions. These persons were solicited to discuss housing and community development needs in Fort Smith, including the ranking of those needs and activities that the CDD might consider in better addressing needs throughout the city. Further, individuals were asked to provide additional insight into prospective barriers and constraints to addressing housing and community development needs in Fort Smith.

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

The city provides for an annual meeting of all funding agencies to coordinate activities and additionally provides Certificates of Consistency with the 5 Year Consolidated Plan. These certificates allow the agencies to apply to other areas of the federal and state government grant and / or loan programs including tax credits.

The city staff conducts a Housing Partners meeting every third Thursday of the month at the Blue Lion to discuss issues with projects and clients with special needs. This includes the CHDO which is also a CAP agency and uses weatherization funds, SNAP and other home repairs resources. City staff also meets monthly with downtown business owners and homeless agencies to discuss potential solutions to homeless issues as well as with the Continuum of Care monthly.

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 staff meets monthly with the Old Fort Homeless Coalition about services that are provided and where there is a great need such as families with children. The Salvation Army received public services funds in PY 2019 for the first time to provide rapid rehousing. The Community Rescue Mission has also received funding to assist with more assistance to homeless families within Fort Smith.

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 Old Fort Homeless Coalition meets with the Arkansas Department of Health about allocation of ESG funds since the city does not receive a direct allocation, however the city does provide the Certificates of Consistency with the 5 Year Consolidated Plan for each agency that applies in ESG.

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

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Agency/Group/Organization | CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy |
| | Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 2 | Agency/Group/Organization | CSCDC-CRAWFORD-SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Service-Fair Housing |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy 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? | Meetings, phone, email messages; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 3 | Agency/Group/Organization | FORT SMITH EMERGENCY CHILDREN'S CENTER |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Education Services - Victims Child Welfare Agency |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy |
| | Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 4 | Agency/Group/Organization | Girls, Inc. of Fort Smith |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Services-Children Services-Education |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | 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? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 5 | Agency/Group/Organization | HEART TO HEART PREGNANCY SUPPORT CENTER, INC. |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Services-Children Services-Health Services-Education |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | 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? | |
| 6 | Agency/Group/Organization | Riverview Hope Campus |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 7 | Agency/Group/Organization | NEXT STEP DAY ROOM, INC. |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Housing Services-homeless Services-Employment |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy |
| | Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 8 | Agency/Group/Organization | Sebastian Retired Citizens Association, Inc. |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Services-Elderly Persons |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | 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? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 9 | Agency/Group/Organization | THE ARC FOR THE RIVER VALLEY, INC. |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | 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? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |
| 10 | Agency/Group/Organization | WESTARK RSVP (A PROGRAM OF WESTERN AR COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE CENTER, INC.) |
| | Agency/Group/Organization Type | Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education |
| | What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation? | Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development |
| | Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination? | Meetings, phone, email message; improving coordination among other service providers. The anticipated outcomes are greater cooperation of all public service providers. |

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

Not known.

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 | Old Fort Homeless Coalition | Transitional housing, services, and emergency shelters. |

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

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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

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A final public hearing was held at the Blue Lion located on May 7, 2024 at 101 North 2nd Street at 6 p.m.

Citizen Participation Outreach

| Sort Order | Mode of Outreach | Target of Outreach | Summary of response/attendance | Summary of comments received | Summary of comments not accepted and reasons | URL (if applicable) |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Public Meeting | Non-targeted/broad community | | | | |

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Fort Smith receives funding from the U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs. Together these programs are \$1,270,000 into the City to support affordable housing, homeless and community development programs during this second year of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan also known as Program Year 2024. Additional funding will come from program income (including HOME recaptured funds).

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 | 810,000 | 100,000 | 0 | 910,000 | 910,000 | This is the expected amount of CDBG funds for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan. It is estimated by the Year Four (4) allocation times one (1). |

| 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: \$ | | |
| HOME | public - federal | Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA | 460,000 | 300,000 | 0 | 760,000 | 760,000 | This is the expected amount of HOME funds for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan. It is estimated by the Year Four (4) allocation times one (1). |

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

Each agency is currently asked to match funds in both CDBG and HOME programs when applying for funds. CDBG is required to match 10% while HOME must match 15%.

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

None currently identified. The City staff will continue to evaluate any public lands for possible development.

Discussion

The City has allocated \$1,270,000 for the 2024 CDBG / HOME Program Year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025). These funds will be used to operate a range of public services, homelessness, and affordable housing activities as described within this annual action plan.

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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 | Aff. Hsg. 1 - Rehabilitation | 2021 | 2025 | Affordable Housing | Citywide | Emergency Home Repairs Housing Rehabilitation | CDBG: \$329,063 | Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 50 Household Housing Unit |
| 2 | Aff. Hsg. 2 - CHDO | 2021 | 2025 | Affordable Housing | CDBG Eligible | Housing Development and Reconstruction | CDBG: \$69,000 HOME: \$506,219 | Homeowner Housing Added: 3 Household Housing Unit |

| Sort Order | Goal Name | Start Year | End Year | Category | Geographic Area | Needs Addressed | Funding | Goal Outcome Indicator |
|------------|-----------------|------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|---|
| 4 | Public Services | 2021 | 2025 | Non-Homeless Special Needs | Citywide | Child Care Services Crime Prevention Disability Services Domestic Violence Shelters Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Health Services Homeless Case Management Homeless Prevention and Emergency Assistance Homeless Supportive Services, Transportation Legal Services Mental Health/Supportive Services Senior Nutrition Senior Services Transportation Youth Services | CDBG: \$121,500 | Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2375 Persons Assisted |

| Sort Order | Goal Name | Start Year | End Year | Category | Geographic Area | Needs Addressed | Funding | Goal Outcome Indicator |
|------------|--|------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| 5 | Homelessness | 2021 | 2025 | Homeless | Citywide | Emergency Assistance Homeless Case Management Homeless Prevention and Emergency Assistance Homeless Supportive Services, Transportation Transitional Housing | CDBG: \$116,971 | Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 103 Persons Assisted |
| 6 | Administration | 2021 | 2025 | Administration | Citywide | Administration | CDBG: \$162,000 HOME: \$46,000 | Other: 0 Other |
| 7 | Aff. Housing 3 - Downpayment and Subsidy Assist. | 2024 | 2025 | Affordable Housing | Citywide | Housing Assistance | HOME: \$345,000 | Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 10 Households Assisted |

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Goal Name | Aff. Hsg. 1 - Rehabilitation |
| | Goal Description | |
| 2 | Goal Name | Aff. Hsg. 2 - CHDO |
| | Goal Description | |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| 4 | Goal Name | Public Services |
| | Goal Description | |
| 5 | Goal Name | Homelessness |
| | Goal Description | |
| 6 | Goal Name | Administration |
| | Goal Description | |
| 7 | Goal Name | Aff. Housing 3 - Downpayment and Subsidy Assist. |
| | Goal Description | |

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Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects are as a result of the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting to hear proposals in three different public hearings held on March 28, 2024 and then prepared funding recommendations to the Fort Smith City Board of Directors. The Fort Smith Board of Directors reviewed the recommendation at the voting session at the regular meeting on May 7, 2024. On May 7, 2024, Mayor McGill opened the Final Public Hearing with _____ comments made, Resolution # _____ was adopted approving the project recommendations of the CDAC.

Projects

| # | Project Name |
|----|---|
| 1 | Community Rescue Mission - Transitional Housing |
| 2 | FS Childrens Emergency Shelter - Gym Restroom Addition |
| 3 | Crawford - Sebastian CDC - Dental Clinic |
| 4 | Next Step Day Room - Transitional Housing Case Mngmnt & Utilities |
| 5 | Riverview Hope Campus - Case Management |
| 6 | Girls, Inc. of FS - Membership, program & transportation services |
| 7 | Antioch CA for Youth and Families - Food |
| 8 | FS Boys & Girls Club - Summer Program Assistance |
| 9 | Community Rescue Mission - Case Management |
| 10 | Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy - Case Management |
| 11 | Sebastian Retired Citizens Assoc.- Senior Nutrition |
| 12 | Crawford - Sebastian CDC - Downpayment & Subsidy Assistance |
| 13 | Crawford - Sebastian CDC - House Acquisition, Rehab. & Resale |
| 14 | FS CDBG Administration |
| 15 | Unprogrammed CDBG Funds |
| 16 | FS HOME Administration |

Table 7 - Project Information

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

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 1 | Project Name | Community Rescue Mission - Transitional Housing |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Homelessness |
| | Needs Addressed | Transitional Housing |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$145,270 |
| | Description | The construction of three duplex affordable transitional housing units. CRM has purchased two lots and Mr. Robert Miller donated a lot on 4th street adjacent to our main campus, and we have completed the re-zoning requirements to allow for 3 duplex buildings for a total of 6 family houses to be built. CRM has completed the initial work with the architect and has received the rough draft for construction costs. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2024 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 6 families that are homeless |
| | Location Description | 505 North 4th Street |
| | Planned Activities | Construction of three duplexes to serve six homeless families. |
| 2 | Project Name | FS Childrens Emergency Shelter - Gym Restroom Addition |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Homelessness |
| | Needs Addressed | Homeless Facilities |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$25,918 |
| | Description | The construction of a restroom addition to the gym behind the main building. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2026 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 38 homeless youth |
| | Location Description | 3015 South 14th Street |

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| | Planned Activities | The construction of a restroom which is planned to be unisex and simply have a toilet and a sink. |
| 3 | Project Name | Crawford - Sebastian CDC - Dental Clinic |
| | Target Area | |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services |
| | Needs Addressed | Health Services |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$17,435 |
| | Description | Provide professional dental care and dental hygiene services at no cost to low-income Fort Smith individuals and families. |
| | Target Date | |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 422 individuals are estimated to benefit. Since it is individual health care no families are expected to benefit. |
| | Location Description | 3428 Armour Avenue |
| | Planned Activities | Dental care |
| 4 | Project Name | Next Step Day Room - Transitional Housing Case Mngmnt & Utilities |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services Homelessness |
| | Needs Addressed | Homeless Supportive Services, Transportation |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$17,291 |
| | Description | This activity will provide funds for case management of individuals and families that are homeless and working towards permanent housing. Additionally, these funds will assist with the utilities of the transitional homes to allow them to save money for permanent housing. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 86 individuals and families that are homeless will benefit from these activities |
| | Location Description | Various locations throughout the city. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Planned Activities | Case Management and Utility Payments. |
| 5 | Project Name | Riverview Hope Campus - Case Management |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services Homelessness |
| | Needs Addressed | Homeless Case Management |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$15,435 |
| | Description | Case management service for homeless persons. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 463 homeless individuals |
| | Location Description | 301 South E Street |
| | Planned Activities | Case management for homeless individuals. |
| 6 | Project Name | Girls, Inc. of FS - Membership, program & transportation services |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services |
| | Needs Addressed | Youth Services |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$12,238 |
| | Description | These funds are proposed to be used as follows but will be based on final funding approval amounts: 50 membership x \$30 = \$1500; 30 summer scholarships x \$200 (\$25 a week x 8 weeks) = \$6000; 25 transportation scholarships x \$200 (\$25 a month for 8 months) = \$5,000; 83.3 outreach memberships and program fees (\$30 for membership, \$30 for program fee) = \$5000 |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2024 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 90 individuals representing various family types. |
| | Location Description | 1415 Old Greenwood Road |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Planned Activities | <p>50 membership x \$30 = \$1500</p> <p>30 summer scholarships x \$200 (\$25 a week x 8 weeks) = \$6000</p> <p>25 transportation scholarships x \$200 (\$25 a month for 8 months) = \$5,000</p> <p>83.3 outreach memberships and program fees (\$30 for membership, \$30 for program fee) = \$5000</p> <p>All amounts will be adjusted based on final allocation funds and in a budgeted agreement.</p> |
| 7 | Project Name | Antioch CA for Youth and Families - Food |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services |
| | Needs Addressed | Health Services |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$12,863 |
| | Description | Procurement of food for food bank assisting LMI individuals and families. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 810 individuals and families of various types. |
| | Location Description | 1420 North 32nd Street |
| | Planned Activities | Purchase of food to be distributed to Fort Smith individuals and families. |
| 8 | Project Name | FS Boys & Girls Club - Summer Program Assistance |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services |
| | Needs Addressed | Youth Services |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$12,363 |
| | Description | Provide summer program assistance to youth. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 123 youth from various family types |
| | Location Description | 3101 North 6th & 4905 North O Streets |
| | Planned Activities | Program fees for youth participation. |
| 9 | Project Name | Community Rescue Mission - Case Management |
| | Target Area | |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services Homelessness |
| | Needs Addressed | Homeless Case Management |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$12,005 |
| | Description | Case management services for homeless individuals and families. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 195 individuals and various family types |
| | Location Description | |
| | Planned Activities | 310 North F Street |
| 10 | Project Name | Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy - Case Management |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services |
| | Needs Addressed | Legal Services |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$11,863 |
| | Description | Case management for abused children. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 177 children from various types of families |
| | Location Description | 2713 South 74th Street, Suite 203 |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| | Planned Activities | Case management services for abused children |
| 11 | Project Name | Sebastian Retired Citizens Assoc.- Senior Nutrition |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Public Services |
| | Needs Addressed | Senior Nutrition |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$10,007 |
| | Description | Food purchase to be distributed to the elderly through meals on wheels service |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 9 individuals will be served. no families are anticipated to be served through this activity. |
| | Location Description | Various residential addresses; 2700 Cavanaugh Road - Senior Center Location |
| | Planned Activities | |
| 12 | Project Name | Crawford - Sebastian CDC - Downpayment & Subsidy Assistance |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Aff. Housing 3 - Downpayment and Subsidy Assist. |
| | Needs Addressed | Housing Assistance |
| | Funding | HOME: \$345,000 |
| | Description | The proposed activity will provide income qualified individuals and families with downpayment assistance and purchase subsidy based on their income to purchase a single family home. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2026 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 10 individuals or families of various types are estimated to benefit from this activity. |
| | Location Description | To be determined by homebuyers. |
| | | Planned Activities |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 13 | Project Name | Crawford - Sebastian CDC - House Acquisition, Rehab. & Resale |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Aff. Hsg. 2 - CHDO |
| | Needs Addressed | Housing Development and Reconstruction |
| | Funding | HOME: \$69,000 |
| | Description | This proposal is to purchase a single family home, rehabilitate it to current building codes standards and resale to an income qualified homebuyer. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2026 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | 1 family is estimated to benefit from this activity |
| | Location Description | To be determined once an agreement is ready to be executed |
| | Planned Activities | Housing rehabilitation |
| 14 | Project Name | FS CDBG Administration |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Administration |
| | Needs Addressed | Administration |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$162,000 |
| | Description | The administration services for Program Year 2024 CDBG |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2026 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | Not Applicable |
| | Location Description | 623 Garrison Avenue, Room 331 |
| | Planned Activities | Administrative Services |
| 15 | Project Name | Unprogrammed CDBG Funds |
| | Target Area | |
| | Goals Supported | |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| | Needs Addressed | |
| | Funding | CDBG: \$20,250 |
| | Description | 5% of the CDBG allocation for cost overruns for activities and / or housing assistance projects. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2025 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | Not Applicable |
| | Location Description | 623 Garrison Avenue, Room 331 |
| | Planned Activities | unprogrammed funds |
| 16 | Project Name | FS HOME Administration |
| | Target Area | Citywide CDBG Eligible |
| | Goals Supported | Administration |
| | Needs Addressed | Administration |
| | Funding | HOME: \$46,000 |
| | Description | The administration of the Program Year 2024 HOME program. |
| | Target Date | 6/30/2026 |
| | Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities | Not Applicable |
| | Location Description | 623 Garrison Avenue, Room 331 |
| | Planned Activities | Administrative Services |

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

Much of the funding from the CDBG and HOME programs is available for use in any of the CDBG neighborhoods or citywide based on income qualification or depending on the specifics of the designated activities. Also, most funding is available according to individual benefit rather than area benefit. It is, therefore, difficult to provide reasonable projections of the distribution of funds by target area. The numbers below are strictly estimates based on experience.

Geographic Distribution

| Target Area | Percentage of Funds |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Citywide | 30 |
| CDBG Eligible | 70 |

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The proposed allocation of funds is based on federal funding requirements for each formula-allocated grant. Areas of low to moderate-income concentration and certain areas of high minority concentration are targeted. Areas of low homeownership and deteriorating housing conditions were also considered in the targeting process.

Discussion

The distribution of funds by target area is projected to be primarily in the CDBG Eligible areas due to use of funds for public services, non-profit support, and individual benefit-oriented (housing, etc.) programmatic uses of the funds. The remaining funds are estimated to be spread through smaller CDBG-eligible areas.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The following annual goals listed previously specify the production numbers below for housing assistance and for homeless, non-homeless, and special needs populations.

| One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported | |
|---|----|
| Homeless | 0 |
| Non-Homeless | 51 |
| Special-Needs | 0 |
| Total | 51 |

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 | 1 |
| Rehab of Existing Units | 50 |
| Acquisition of Existing Units | 0 |
| Total | 51 |

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

Discussion

These numbers relate to the production targets specified in the annual PY 2024 goals. It is the belief of city staff, based on experience, that the city should be able to undertake activities that may target more households.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Smith no longer has public housing units.

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

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Smith no longer has public housing units.

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

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Smith no longer has public housing units.

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

Not applicable.

Discussion

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Smith no longer has public housing units but does issue Section 8 vouchers and has Rental Assistance Demonstration projects within the city limits.

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

Introduction

The City of Fort Smith is an active member of the Fort Smith Continuum of Care, addressing issues related to homeless in the region. Funding for homeless projects and services are sources primarily through that process. The City staff was involved in the opening of the Riverview Hope Campus and has provided information about the campus as requested by citizens. Last year the city supported the campus by providing CDBG funds for case management for homeless persons. The city is currently working with the Next Step Day Room to leverage grant funds for the construction of their non-congregate homeless facility. The city has also started working with a third homeless provider- The Community Rescue Mission. The mission serves homeless families within the city and is currently working on a transitional housing project to provide more housing opportunities for the homeless.

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 Fort Smith Continuum of Care, the coalition of local homeless service agencies, conducts annual Point in Time (PIT) counts of homeless individuals, including unsheltered persons. These surveys serve to help focus agency activities for the coming year, as well as provide documentation in response to HUD program requirements. The unsheltered now have the opportunity to enter First Step Homeless facilities at the Riverview Hope Campus with fewer restrictions in an effort to eliminate unsheltered persons in Fort Smith. The facilities have kennels for pets since most homeless will not leave their pet. Homeless families also have the option to be sheltered at the Community Rescue Mission- a homeless shelter facility that specializes in family assistance.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

For 2024, CDBG Public Service has provided \$15,435 for case management for the HOPE campus, case management for the Community Rescue Mission for \$12,005 and case management for the Next Step Day Room for \$17,291. Additionally, \$25,918 in CDBG funds is provided for a restroom addition for the Children's Emergency Shelter and the Community Rescue Mission will receive \$145,270 for the construction of duplexes for transitional housing. The Next Step Day Room also continues to spend grant funds to construct their non-congregate homeless campus with tiny homes.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals

and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City of Fort Smith has plans that would affect transitional housing by providing for case management in an effort to get those persons and families back into permanent housing. The Riverview Hope Campus emergency shelter will receive funding as described in the previous paragraph.

All other activities for shelters and transitional housing is described in the section above.

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.

Through the city's housing rehabilitation assistance program the city will continue to work with those being discharged from medical facilities to get back home through accessible ramps, bathrooms and any other physical barriers. The city continues to assist the non-profit agencies to provide funds for public services for the identified groups described. No other actions are planned for this annual action plan.

Discussion

The Continuum of Care works closely together to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families through the continuum of services coordinated through the partnership. The city continues to be a partner to effect the improvements to the emergency shelter through the Riverview Hope Center and the shelters for the Crisis Intervention Center, the Community Rescue Mission, Next Step Day Room and the Fort Smith Children's Shelter.

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

Introduction:

Affordable housing has become a challenge within the city due to rising housing and construction costs. This year, the city worked with our Community Home Development Organization to switch from a new construction program to one for down payment assistance. With the program change, 10-15 families can be served instead of what can be served through new construction- usually around 4 families.

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

There are no identified public policy barriers to affordable housing development in Fort Smith.

Discussion:

The Community Development Department will continue to work with the Planning Department to ensure that there are no undue land use controls and zoning ordinances that would negatively affect affordable housing.

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AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City currently provides a variety of services to the residents of Fort Smith, some funded by CDBG and HOME allocations, with private, State, and City funding bringing additional assets to bear on these problems. Below are some of the actions currently performed by the City or are under consideration in the future.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City staff continues to look for new funding sources for programs to address underserved needs. Funding is the major obstacle in providing the services needed to focus on the vast variety of issues that prevent families from breaking out of poverty and from living in the best, most affordable housing possible. The City is currently in the process of receiving HOME ARP funds. The \$1,501,450 in funding will serve the Fort Smith citizens under the grant's qualifying populations who are at risk of homelessness or already homeless.

The city is also looking for partners to help federal dollars stretch further. This year, the staff met with a non-profit organization looking to assist in funding for housing rehab assistance projects that exceeded grant amounts. Through partnering with organizations like this one, the city will be able to better serve our citizens.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City has worked with our CHDO to increase subsidy amounts for the remaining new construction projects we have but also to increase subsidy amounts in future down payment assistance funds. This will allow more homeowners to receive assistance but will also allow them more funding to be able to combat rising inflation and become homeowners.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Continue to meet HUD lead-based paint abatement standards in housing rehabilitation programs.

- Seek funding as it becomes available to provide testing and abatement of lead-based paint hazards in single-family housing where young children are present.
- Expand the stock of lead safe housing units through housing initiatives.
- Seek funding as it becomes available to provide for testing, abatement, training, and educational awareness.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue its efforts in conjunction with the Fort Smith Continuum of Care to reduce the number of poverty-level families through the development of services needed to assist those families with educational opportunities, job growth, and life skills training through the various social service agencies and financial institutions operating in the city. The city's housing assistance program helps those families that are poverty stricken to improve living conditions by offering housing rehabilitation for vital health and safety issues such as heat, electrical, roofing and plumbing issues. The funding the city is able to provide for these projects helps these families use the money for other items essential to daily life.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

- Work with non-profit organizations to address community needs and provide support to federal and non-federal funding initiatives.
- Work with private industry to address important issues that hamper housing and community development efforts.
- Identify opportunities to create private/public partnerships for project finance and development to leverage federal funds.

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

The City will continue to coordinate planning activities with private housing and social service agencies by having meetings as needed. City staff will also continue its participation in other coalitions and study groups as the opportunity arises. The department currently hosts a housing development meeting each month with our CHDO and other housing partners. This meeting is success in providing a platform for agencies to network and utilize the services provided by each respective agency for potential and current clients.

Discussion:

These actions are primarily the continuation of what the City is currently doing in the various areas. No major obstacles in the institutional structure have been identified that need to be addressed. The City is also satisfied with its efforts to coordinate with private housing and social service agencies.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed | 0 |
| 2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan. | 0 |
| 3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements | 0 |
| 4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan | 0 |
| 5. The amount of income from float-funded activities | 0 |
| 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. | 70.00% |

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:
 1. The City of Fort Smith does not use other forms of investment beyond those identified in Section 92.205.

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

Recapture Restrictions

In the event of a failure of a HOME Program beneficiary to satisfactorily adhere to all applicable affordability requirements, City of Fort Smith will use the following recapture provision to ensure that the intent of the HOME funded activity is accomplished or that the un-forgiven portion of the HOME funds are recaptured and used for other activities eligible under the HOME Program.

Home Owner Housing

- acquisition/rehabilitation/sale of affordable housing
- new construction/sale of affordable housing
- provision of mortgage subsidy
- provision of down payment assistance/closing cost subsidy

Recapture Option

A. Recapture that portion of HOME Program investment unforgiven by the elapsed affordability period or recapture the maximum net proceeds from sale of property (whether recapture is effected through foreclosure or no foreclosure action)

B. Net proceeds recovered will be used to:

- Reimburse the HOME Program (Approved Activity) for the outstanding balance of HOME funds not repaid or forgiven during the applicable affordability at the time of recapture.
- Reimburse the HOME Program (Administration) for “holding costs” or other costs associated with the recapture action (legal fees, insurance, taxes, realtor fees, appraisal / BPO costs, etc.) If net proceeds recaptured are less than the outstanding balance of HOME funds invested in the property (for all approved activities and holding costs incurred), the loss will be absorbed by the HOME Program and all HOME Program requirements would be considered to have been satisfied. If net proceeds recaptured are greater than the outstanding balance of HOME funds invested in the property (for all approved activities and holding costs incurred), the balance of net proceeds would be distributed to the homeowner (or his/her estate). If the recapture of proceeds is effectuated through a completed foreclosure action, and the property is legally owned by City of Fort Smith, the balance of net proceeds recaptured will inure to City of Fort Smith.

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

Duration of Affordability Restrictions

The housing being constructed or rehabilitated will qualify as affordable housing pursuant according to the requirements of 24 CFR 92.254, for the “Affordability Period” and after the completion of the project, covenants and restrictions in the deed restriction would terminate without any further action required by the owner or the City.

Termination of Affordability Restrictions

The affordability restrictions will terminate due to foreclosure or a transfer of the property in lieu of a foreclosure; however, if the owner obtains an ownership interest in the property before the foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure, during the original affordability period, the affordability restrictions shall be reviewed.

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

HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG. The City does not intend to use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds. In addition, the funds will not be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program. The City is aware that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

HOME funds are not currently used for TBRA.

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

HOME funds are not currently used for TBRA.

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

CDBG and HOME funds are not currently used for rental housing.

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