

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

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

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

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

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

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

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

In previous years, the City has been successful in assisting its residents and local businesses through its use of CDBG funds. The COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have a significant impact on the rate at which the City has been able to use its CDBG funding. Businesses are finding it difficult to hire new employees to meet the national objective, homes are being rehabilitated at a slower pace due to supply chain issues that continue to effect the program. Due to these and other issues, the City has taken a closer look at underutilized programs to continue meeting goals. The City will switch gears with the following programs in an effort to continue support to low-and-moderate income citizens in our community.

- A portion of CDBG Revolving Loan funds, that are used primarily for the CDBG Minor Home Rehabilitation Program and Economic Development Business Loans, will be reprogrammed for public service, housing, and public facilities and improvements projects. Projects may include but are not limited to ADA improvements to public facilities such as the Natatorium, Quirk Cultural Center (Senior Center), and parks and playground equipment, located in low-to-moderate income areas or adapted features for disabled children in our community. Housing projects include an ADA ramp grant program, for accessibility for disabled residents.
- The Housing Rehabilitation Program will continue to produce better, safer living environments for low-and-moderate income individuals and families. As supply chain problems normalize, the City will achieve 6-8 homes rehabilitated on a yearly basis.
- New activities have been added such as a literacy program, a wheelchair ramp program, and a digital equity and inclusion program.
- In program year 2023, Public Facilities and Improvements Programs will add more accessibility to shared community spaces, including an outdoor access bathroom/changing room at Quirk Cultural Center (Senior Center), adapted playground equipment, wheelchairs for use in public buildings, and infrastructure improvements such as accessible pedestrian crosswalk signals for our vision impaired residents, ADA curb ramps, and waterline replacements in low-to-moderate income areas.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The Citizen Participation process and consultation process are based on the City of Cuyahoga Falls' CDBG Participation Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan may be found at www.cityofcf.com/departments/community-development/block-grant-program.

5. Summary of public comments

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

The City of Cuyahoga Falls would like to thank the residents and community partners who responded to the City's request for public comment. All comments and responses may be found in attachment: Public Meeting Comments and Sign-in sheets.PDF.

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

When comments do not relate to the Annual Action Plan, they are redirected to the appropriate program for response. A request for citizen comment was posted to the City of Cuyahoga Falls' website, the Falls News Press Legal Ads, and through social media on the City's Facebook account.

7. Summary

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

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

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

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

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

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

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

Cuyahoga Falls Community Development houses three (3) interlinked divisions, Housing and Code Enforcement, Planning and Economic Development, Zoning, and Community Development Block Grant Administration. Each division heavily contributes to CDBG project and activity planning. Community Development Block Grant Funds are administered by the CDBG Entitlement Administrator in conjunction with the Development Director and Development Deputy Director. Oversight for activities and expenditures is provided by the Loan and Grant Committee, Board of Control, City Council, the Mayor, Director and Deputy Director of the City's Law Department, and Director, Deputy Director, and Treasurer of the City's Finance Department.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

For information regarding the City of Cuyahoga Falls' 2023 Annual Action Plan, contact Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director at (330) 971-8135. The Plan is available for public viewing by visiting the City website at www.cityofcf.com/departments/community-development/block-grant-program, or you may inquire about the plan at the Cuyahoga Falls City Building, Community Development Department located at 2310 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221.

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

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote a communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access

to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

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

The City of Cuyahoga Falls as part of the Continuum of Care Committee meet regularly and participates in the Point in Time Count and evaluation of homeless needs within the community. The Cuyahoga Falls CDBG Administrator currently serves on the SCCoC Board of Directors and also as a member of the Steering Committee. A Point in Time Count was held in 2023 throughout Cuyahoga Falls with trained volunteers, assessing the number of homeless and their needs. The point in time count is required by HUD every 2 years. The SCCoC conducted a count in known encampments, centralized intake, visitors to Community Support Services and an SOS Drop-in Youth count in January of 2023.

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

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

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

- Participate in the Point in Time Count.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of Summit & Medina
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	HMIS Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City provides a local match along with Akron, Summit County, and Barberton to support the Homeless Management Information System. (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. The City also participates along with community volunteers for the annual Point in Time Count.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Fair Housing Advocates Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Fair Housing
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Fair Housing Advocates Association attends public meetings for the development of the annual action plan, is consulted individually for more in-depth planning for Cuyahoga Falls and is consistently in contact with the CDBG Administrator as well as the Housing Department regarding fair housing cases.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	AMHA is consulted to provide basic overview of housing needs and what they need to do to improve their facilities. Environmental Reviews are completed by the City of Cuyahoga Falls as requests are submitted by the agency. In program year 2023, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will work with AMHA to complete a Digital Equity and Inclusion program for public housing within Cuyahoga Falls.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Akron/Barberton/Summit County CoC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Cuyahoga Falls consults with the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care several times a month to discuss issues regarding the homeless populations in our community and how funds can be allocated to assist those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, including the chronically homeless, families with children, veterans and youth of our community. In program year 2023, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will be providing a match with Akron, Barberton and Summit County for the Landlord Mitigation and CoC planning to provide better assistance to the homeless in our community.

5	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Support Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Falls consults with Community Support Services street outreach teams to assist homeless individuals with shelter, housing, financial assistance, and mental health counseling.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Neighborhood Development Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy Housing Rehabilitation for LMI residents

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Neighborhood Development Services and City staff meet regularly to discuss current and upcoming owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects. Regular consultation improves project start-times and project outcomes for the low-to-moderate income homeowner, sub-recipient and the City. Neighborhood Development Services also operates as a subrecipient for public facilities projects as needed.</p>
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

The City of Cuyahoga Falls consults with all its community partners and keeps communication open for possible new partnerships that may benefit the community.

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

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

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

Community partnerships are very important to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Innovative ideas to provide new and better support for low-and-moderate income families in our City often come from these partnerships. It is with this in mind that Cuyahoga Falls reaches out to invested groups and individuals for their comments and ideas.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

A legal notice of the proposed FY2023 Action Plan was published in the Cuyahoga Falls News Press, a newspaper of General Circulation allowing interested parties ample time to review the information and/or provide comments in writing to the City of Cuyahoga Falls' Development Department. A press release was also placed on the City of Cuyahoga Falls' website and on the City's social media via Facebook. The City of Cuyahoga Falls encourages participation of all its residents, reaching out to minorities, non-English speaking residents, people with limited mobility, visual or hearing impairments, etc.

A public meeting was held on February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Natatorium Lincoln Conference Room. A notice for the public meeting was published 14 days in advance in the Falls News Press, a free local newspaper that is distributed to all residents and local invested partners. A second meeting was held on February 14, 2023 in the Natatorium Lincoln Room at 6:00 PM. This meeting notice was published in the Falls News Press, a free local newspaper 14 days in advance. The notice of public meeting was also placed on the City's website. Members of Neighborhood Development Services and the City's Fair Housing Representative were in attendance to provide feedback regarding ways CDBG may be used to support Fair Housing and ongoing housing rehabilitation efforts.

Residents and invested partners are encouraged to respond, comment and provide feedback during all stages of plan submission. Goal setting and projects are heavily influenced by the feedback provided.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community				https://cuyahogafallsnewspress-oh.newsmemory.com/
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community				www.cityofcf.com/news
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community				szalaypl@cityofcf.com

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

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

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	645,000	545,311	1,071,827	2,262,138	0	Estimated Annual Allocation \$645,000 Current Program Income \$35,309 Current Revolving Loan Program \$508,002 \$300,000.00 will be reprogrammed from revolving loan to general program income for use in public service, housing and public facilities and infrastructure projects.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

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

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

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

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Discussion

In program year 2023, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will reprogram \$300,000.00 in revolving loan funds to general program income for use as grants for the following projects:

- Public Service Activities such as the new literacy program, and the landlord mitigation program, AMHA digital equity devices; and
- Housing such as the new wheelchair ramp grant program and wireless internet infrastructure for AMHA; and
- Public Facilities and Improvement activities such as ADA accessible bathroom at Quirk Cultural Center (Senior Center), pickleball courts for seniors, adapted playground equipment, electric buttons for ADA accessibility, accessible pedestrian crosswalk signals for vision impaired residents, and ADA curb ramps to remove architectural barriers providing access for people with disabilities.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Programmatic Compliance	2019	2023	Administration & Planning	CITY-WIDE	Program Administration & Planning	CDBG: \$129,000	Other: 1 Other
2	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Public Services	CDBG: \$96,750	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1 Households Assisted
3	The Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	CITY-WIDE	Preservation of Existing Housing Stock	CDBG: \$101,391	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 6 Household Housing Unit Other: 1 Other
4	The Provision of Expanded Economic Development	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Economic Development		Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 1 Business Jobs created/retained: 10 Jobs Businesses assisted: 1 Businesses Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Programmatic Compliance
	Goal Description	CDBG Program Compliance and Planning supplies crucial funding to support increased affordable housing, supports programs that strive for functional zero homelessness in our community, continues Fair Housing efforts to ensure greater opportunities, increase diversity, and eliminate racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty in the City, provides economic development to increase job opportunities, planning and design for infrastructure projects that increase accessibility and quality of life for low to moderate income individuals and families.
2	Goal Name	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Goal Description	CDBG funds will be designated for public services to support income qualified individuals and families, including but not limited to the Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors Food Pantry Program, the Vantage Aging - Aging in Place Program, and the International Soapbox Derby STEM Education Program, the Literacy Program.
3	Goal Name	The Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing
	Goal Description	Funds will be dedicated to rehabilitation of existing housing stock to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for low to moderate income individuals. The City will maintain partnerships with Summit County Lead Abatement and the Home Weatherization Assistance Program to leverage funds and provide increased assistance to residents who would otherwise not be able to afford these services. In program year 2023, the City will add wheelchair ramp grants and digital equality and inclusion infrastructure activities to housing projects.

4	Goal Name	The Provision of Expanded Economic Development
	Goal Description	<p>The City will continue to provide economic development assistance to businesses to include: working capital loans, matching equipment grants, matching facade and sign grants (in both the Downtown Historic and South State Road Districts), and emergency working capital grants. The City will also assist businesses through acquisition, disposition, demolition, historic preservation, infrastructure improvements, and rehabilitation of publicly or privately owned commercial/industrial space and brownfield remediation.</p> <p>The City's main goal is to provide ongoing support to business districts within the City of Cuyahoga Falls for businesses that provide employment to low-to-moderate income individuals and those that are situated in a low-to-moderate income area. The support of businesses throughout the City will help grow the local economy, increase tax revenues and provide employment opportunities for low-to-moderate income individuals.</p>

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The 2023 Action Plan outlines the projects planned for year 5 of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan. Each project accomplishes a goal that is determined by needs assessments, developed through organization and citizen input via public meetings and Citizen Comment periods. The City of Cuyahoga Falls creates and maintains an inclusive, vibrant and prosperous community through commitment and implementation of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Admin/Planning
2	Public Service
3	Housing
4	Economic Development
5	Public Facilities/Infrastructure

Table 7 - Project Information

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

In previous years, the City has prioritized the Minor Housing Rehabilitation Program and Economic Development to create jobs for low-to-moderate income individuals and affordable housing for low-to-moderate income families. With hiring and supply chain issues, the City has reassessed its CDBG program, finding new ways to assist our low- and moderate-income residents. Program year 2023 will prioritize public service and public facilities/infrastructure projects to keep CDBG funds flowing to benefit our low- and moderate-income community members.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Admin/Planning
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Programmatic Compliance
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration & Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$129,000
	Description	Administrative Funds will be used for salaries, wages, and related costs of the recipient's staff, the staff of local public agencies, or other staff engaged in program administration. Planning funds will be used where activity delivery costs for projects are not appropriate.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Current data suggest that of the approximate 50,000 citizens, 8.22% are at poverty level, which equates to approximately 4,044 residents living at or below poverty level. The proposed activities are aimed at providing suitable living environments in the form of public service, the provision of decent housing through housing rehabilitation and ADA improvements, Economic Development which provides jobs for low-and-moderate income individuals, and finally Public Facilities and improvements which provides accessibility, infrastructure improvements and public art.
	Location Description	Program Administration and Planning normally takes place at City Hall, 2310 Second Street, but may include other locations where public meetings might occur.

	Planned Activities	<p>Program administration includes the following types of assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide local officials and citizens with information about the CDBG program; 2. Prepare program budgets and schedules, and amendments thereto; 3. Developing systems for assuring compliance with program requirements; 4. Developing interagency agreements and agreements with subrecipients and contractors to carry out program activities; 5. Monitoring program activities for progress and compliance with program requirements; 6. Preparing reports and other documents related to the program for submission to HUD; 7. Coordinating the resolution of audit and monitoring findings; 8. Evaluating program results against stated objectives; and 9. Managing or supervising persons whose primary responsibilities with regard to the program include assignments as those described above.
2	Project Name	Public Service
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$96,750
	Description	CDBG regulations may be used for a wide range of public service activities, including but not limited to employment services, crime prevention and public safety, childcare, health services, substance abuse services, fair housing counseling, education programs, energy conservation, services for senior citizens, services for homeless persons, welfare services, down-payment assistance, and recreational services.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 4,044 low income individuals will benefit from CDBG public services projects.
	Location Description	Activities will take place City-wide and in Low-to-moderate income areas of the City.

	Planned Activities	<p>The following are some of the public service activities planned for program year 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging in Place Program • CoC - Planning Program • CoC - Landlord Mitigation Program • Digital Equity and Inclusion Program • Fair Housing Program • HMIS Program • Literacy Program • Senior Snow Removal Program (Nov 2023 - May 2024) • AMHA Digital Equity Devices
3	Project Name	Housing
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing
	Needs Addressed	Preservation of Existing Housing Stock
	Funding	CDBG: \$266,391
	Description	<p>CDBG revolving Loan funds will be used to provide zero interest deferred loans to income qualified individuals for housing rehabilitation. Loans become due upon sale or transfer of the property or if the home is no longer being utilized as the mortgagor's primary residence. Due to the rising cost of supplies, qualifying projects may require the use of entitlement funds in the form of a grant to help complete larger projects over \$30,000.00. Digital Equity and Inclusion housing infrastructure activities and ADA wheelchair ramp projects have been added to Housing activities for Program Year 2023.</p>
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	<p>The Minor Housing Rehabilitation Program generally benefits 6-8 households each year. For program year 2023, the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program will benefit more than 100 LMI residents.</p>

	Location Description	Housing activities are completed City-wide for low-and-moderate income residents.
	Planned Activities	<p>Activities planned for the 2023 program year include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair Ramp Program • Digital Equity and Inclusion Program - AMHA wireless internet infrastructure • Minor Home Rehabilitation Program - Housing Rehabilitation Projects • Minor Home Rehabilitation Program - Admin • Minor Home Rehabilitation Program - Activity Delivery Costs • Minor Home Rehabilitation Program - Lead Testing and Abatement
4	Project Name	Economic Development
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of Expanded Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$258,002
	Description	CDBG funds may be used to finance eligible economic development projects, including microenterprise and small business development, large-scale commercial and industrial development, and job creation, job retention, and job training activities.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Businesses assisted with CDBG funds are required to meet the Low-Mod Jobs national objective by creating or retaining jobs for low-to-moderate income individuals in our community. In project year 2023, an estimated 13 full-time equivalent jobs will be created or retained for low-to-moderate income individuals.
	Location Description	Activities are undertaken throughout the City's business corridors and neighborhood small business locations.

	Planned Activities	The following activities may be undertaken in program year 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment & Supply Matching Grants; • Working Capital low interest loans; • Facade Matching Grants - Currently available to the Cuyahoga Falls South State District and the Downtown Historic District; and • Signage Matching Grants - Currently available to the Cuyahoga Falls South State District and the Downtown Historic District.
5	Project Name	Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,511,995
	Description	CDBG funds used for Public Facilities and Improvement activities help support infrastructure and facility projects for the community.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Although Public Facilities & Improvements benefit the entire City, they are intended to benefit the approximate 4034 low-to-moderate income individuals residing in the community.
	Location Description	Activities will be performed at the Quirk Cultural Center (Senior Center), Harrington Park (LMA), Natatorium (LMA, LMC), and City-wide (LMC)

<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>Activities planned for program year 2023 include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Adapted playground equipment; • Parks Adapted story-walk equipment; • Parks Pickleball court at Quirk Senior Center LMC and Harrington Park (LMA); • Public Facility donation station parking meters LMC; • Public Facility electric door buttons; • Public Facility land wheelchairs; • Public Facility aquatic wheelchair pool lift; • Public Facility ADA locker room equipment; • Public Facility ADA accessible outdoor access restroom/changing room; • Infrastructure ADA accessible Pedestrian Crosswalk Signal for vision impaired residents; • Infrastructure ADA accessible curb ramps; and • Infrastructure Waterline Improvements in LMA's
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AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

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

Minority concentrations within the City can be found near Prange Drive and Wyoga Lake Road which are in the northern part of the City. The City does not have an NRSA, nor are CDBG funds allocated to a specific target area as defined by HUD and/or any areas that would be established locally. During the 2023 Action Plan Period, CDBG funds will be used on a city-wide basis.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CITY-WIDE	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

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

Discussion

As part of the yearly planning process, Development and Planning staff meet to discuss whether there is a benefit to targeting funds to a specific area. With so many diverse needs throughout the community, staff feel that making CDBG funds available for use throughout the community is the most prudent approach. This city-wide approach has been used successfully during the previous Action Plan periods of the current Consolidated Plan.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City strives to make housing decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable. This program year funds will be allocated toward the rehabilitation of owner-occupied structures through the City's comprehensive housing rehabilitation program. During the 2023 Action Plan period, the City will also work with Summit County Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Summit County Lead Program to leverage funds and expand housing rehabilitation efforts.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	6
Special-Needs	0
Total	6

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	0
Rehab of Existing Units	6
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	6

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

Discussion

The City will continue to offer 0% interest deferred loans for the Minor Housing Rehabilitation Program but will add funding as grants for larger rehabilitation projects that exceed the \$30,000 household limit, to combat the rising cost of supplies for this activity. The City has also added a wheelchair ramp program to assist disabled residents with accessibility issues and will be assisting AMHA to place the necessary wireless networks in 2 of their housing units located in our City.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

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

According to the AMHA 2023 Action Plan, the PHA will continue repair initiatives on public housing located in Cuyahoga Falls. AMHA currently operates a project-based voucher (PBV) program and plans to continue working with community partners to identify specific target populations to be served by their PVB program. The Sutliff II Building is a 185-unit Senior Housing Complex. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has 3 housing complexes for Family Housing, the 125-unit Honey Locust complex, the 60-unit Maplewood Gardens, and the 12-unit Lobello Lane.

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

The City does not administer PHA funds, or have any oversight over PHA tenants. As such, the City has no actions directed specifically to public housing residents; however, during 2023, AMHA will continue to monitor and implement a strategic plan for service delivery to include emphasis on stability and quality of life, economic independence, health, and education.

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

The Akron Metropolitan Authority is not designated as a troubled PHA.

Discussion

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is working with AMHA through the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program on a wireless mesh network for high-speed internet access for the Ray C. Sutliff building, Honey Locust and Lobello Lane apartments. The City will also provide funding for digital devices for AMHA residents as a public service activity, using the remainder of the City's COVID-19 funds.

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

Introduction

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

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

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

The City of Cuyahoga Falls took part in the 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This count illuminated the need for the City of Cuyahoga Falls to take a hands-on approach to helping homeless and chronically homeless individuals. Bus passes, high protein - shelf stable food, warm clothing, toiletries, and shelter/housing information are being provided as needed. Cuyahoga Falls also participates on the Continuum of Care Steering Committee, Board of Directors and attends chronic homeless meetings to monitor and assist in decisions affecting the homeless of Summit County.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

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

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to

permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

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

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

The Summit CoC has at least 165 beds dedicated to the chronic homeless population including several programs that adopt a Housing First model designed to triage Chronic Homeless with housing as a first step towards stabilization. The Summit CoC and its central intake follow HUD policies regarding prioritization for those requiring housing assistance including placement of individuals with multiple barriers to otherwise secure housing. Once housed, residents can receive treatment for issues such as, substance abuse, mental illness, or physical problems that often keep a person homeless. The CoC has adapted the policies set forth by HUD Release CPD-14-012, which sets a guideline for placement in CoC housing according to applicant need. Beds within the CoC housing stock should be prioritized for applicants that are chronically homeless and/or have multiple barriers to achieving housing stability. Moreover, the HUD release advises communities to rededicate Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds to those that fit the criteria for classification as chronic homeless. They have initiated this process and a number of their PSH beds which are not currently allocated to serve the chronically homeless and will make them available upon bed turnover and if the need is still there. Through the use of central intake, applicants will be assessed with a vulnerability index to determine those with the greatest need for PSH or transitional housing. Those with the highest needs will be prioritized for available PSH beds and programs. Applicants with lower needs or barriers will be referred to programs such as rapid re-housing and homeless prevention for short-term assistance designed to bridge the gap from a temporary crisis to housing stability. Currently, Summit County is operating both Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) for those individuals in shelter or facing eviction from existing housing.

Additionally, RRHP programs for veterans and veteran families are being operated within the county. HPRP programs combine short-term assistance up to 9 months and case management and life skills programming designed to help residents stabilize from a housing crisis. Summit County currently has 27 CoC beds dedicated to homeless young adults and young adults emancipating from Summit County Children Services custody.

Discussion

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is researching additional activities that benefit homeless individuals and those who are at risk of being homeless. In project year 2023, the City hopes to install donation stations in high traffic areas of the City to directly benefit our homeless community.

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

Introduction:

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

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

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

The City is committed to removing or reducing barriers to affordable housing whenever possible. During program year 2023, the City will:

1. Continue to assure the availability of adequate sites for the development of affordable housing and researched state and federal funding sources to support efforts to construct affordable housing;
2. Continue to support the AMHA as a valued business in our community;
3. If funding is available the City in conjunction with a CBDO or CHDO, will develop affordable housing;

4. The City will support low-income housing tax credit projects as they arise;
5. Continue to utilize the Ohio and USEPA brownfield programs to remediate underutilized sites;
6. The City will continue to offer CRA tax abatements to those homes located in an approved CRA District; and
7. The City will also continue to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to preserve and improve the current stock of affordable housing options.

Fair housing programming will also continue to play a critical role in addressing barriers to affordable housing. The City will continue to take appropriate actions to affirmatively further fair housing and reduce all negative effects of public policies within the City.

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

Discussion:

Policies to market available housing opportunities could be further expanded to include measures ensuring housing information reaches traditionally underserved populations, such as advertising in targeted media sources, distributing information at churches or community gatherings, or conducting special outreach efforts to targeted groups. The City will strive to address negative effects and barriers to affordable housing during the 2023 program year.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

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

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The current inability to complete housing rehabilitation projects due to supply chain issues, and a slowdown in job creation through Economic Development has caused the City to re-evaluate its CDBG Program. In order to continue to push funds out into the community in support of our low-to-moderate income residents, the City has planned to fund additional public service, other types of housing projects such as Digital Equity and Inclusion, and public facilities and infrastructure activities.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The cost of supplies for the Minor Housing Rehabilitation Program continues to be high. Projects on work-specs are sometimes limited to those that are hazardous to the health of the family. The City will be converting a portion of the revolving loan funding to to assist with affordable housing efforts in addition to other previously discussed projects.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Cuyahoga Falls and Summit County Public Health Department continue to collaborate and leverage funds to carry out the Lead Hazard Control Grant. Income qualified homeowners can apply for assistance if the home was built before 1978 and if children under the age of 6 live in the home or visit the home for a period of 62 hours per year.

Lead-based paint hazards are also tested and abated through the Minor Home Rehabilitation Program for those residents who do not meet the qualifications for the Lead Hazard Control Grant through Summit County Public Health Department.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

In 2023, the City will provide \$5,000 as a local match for financial support to HMIS and participate in the Summit County Continuum of Care to work towards functional zero homelessness in our community. The City will also provide a local match for CoC planning and the Landlord Mitigation Fund, which provides stimulus to landlords in Cuyahoga Falls to provide housing to the homeless community.

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

chambers to expand opportunities to strengthen the current local economy.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

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

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

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

Discussion:

The City of Cuyahoga Falls continues to look for ways to strengthen its housing stock and provide support to those members of our community that need housing resources.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

All of the CDBG funds the City expects to receive in program year 2023, including program income, have been committed to the projects described throughout this report.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	80.00%

The City of Cuyahoga Falls uses a one-year period to determine overall benefits of CDBG funds to persons of low-to-moderate income (LMI). During FY-2023, approximately 80% of CDBG funding will benefit this population.

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

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

