



CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS

2018 Action Plan

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The plan outlined in the following pages sets forth specific goals and objectives that can be used to evaluate the progress and success of the programs undertaken as part of the 2018 grant year.

Additionally, the Consolidated Strategic Plan states the City's intent to pursue the following goals and objectives of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs. As such, the Action Plan serves the following functions:

- A planning document for the city;
- An application for Federal funds under HUD's formula grant programs;
- A strategy for carrying out HUD programs;
- A management tool for assessing performance and tracking results; and
- A description of annual projects/activities that the City will undertake to carry out strategies in order to meet priority needs.

Activities carried out as part of this Action Plan are derived from the four major components of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan & Strategy:

1. Needs Assessment (Housing, Homeless, Non-Homeless & Non-Housing Needs)
2. Housing Market Analysis
3. The Housing and Community Development Five-Year Strategic Plan; and
4. The One-Year Action Plan

All proposed 2018 Action Plan activities must meet one objective and one outcome:

Objectives:

1. Create suitable living environments
2. Provide decent and affordable housing
3. Create economic opportunities

Outcomes:

1. Availability
2. Affordability
3. Sustainability.

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.

During the development of the Consolidated Strategic Plan, the City of Cuyahoga Falls identified four main objectives.

These objectives will be continued throughout the 2018 Action Plan and are as follows:

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 2004, the City of Cuyahoga Falls began receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. During previous Consolidated Strategic Plan periods, the City of Cuyahoga Falls has met or exceeded most of the goals set forth to ensure decent housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities. To date, the City has allocated all funding sources to complete programming outlined in the annual Action Plans.

Objectives have been met as outlined in previous Consolidated Strategic Plans and the annual Action Plans and reported in the CAPERS sent to HUD on an annual basis. The City has been successful in assisting its residents and local businesses through the use of its CDBG funds. The challenge has historically been and continues to be, working with limited local and federal resources in order to meet the ever expanding needs of our citizenry. The disparity between resources and need became even more pronounced following the economic downturn. The negative economic climate generated a ripple effect that touched upon the city's housing market, business community and negatively impacted many residents, particularly low income households.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

As with the development of the City of Cuyahoga Falls 2014-2018 Consolidated Strategic Plan, this annual Action Plan is the result of consultation with a wide spectrum of public and private agencies. The Citizen Participation and Consultation Processes included a variety of methods for input gathering and served as outreach mechanisms to various organizations, neighboring entitlement jurisdictions, non-profit service providers and residents. Staff also consulted with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) and all stakeholders were encouraged to provide input regarding annual projects and strategies in order to shape budgets and address programming issues.

During the 2018 Action Plan process, citizens were offered the opportunity to participate and provide input during three (3) public meetings, including the annual budget discussions, and which were held on:

- November 27, 2017
- May 26, 2018
- July 16, 2018.

City Council discussed the Plan on July 16, 2018 and approved the plan on July 23, 2018. The City published notices inviting the public to attend community meetings where attendees were encouraged to provide input on community needs and assesses the priority of those needs. Additionally a notice ran in the Falls News Press announcing the thirty (30) day period of public comment. Notice of the meetings and the public comment period were also included on the City's website.

The impact of the participation and consultation was three-fold in that it helped to:

- Determine community needs as well as gaps in resources;
- Improve understanding of the Action Plan process; and
- Serve as a catalyst for communication between the City, stakeholders and citizens.

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 following comments were received:

1. Improved ability to help immigrants via the Welcoming Cities initiative.
2. Fair housing issues related to persons living with disabilities and support animals.
3. A request to develop a program that would aid landlords in making reasonable accommodations.
4. Use of the Summit County landbank to further economic development efforts.
5. Inquiries regarding the funding amount for Good Neighbors.

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

All of the comments were accepted and the specific responses are listed below.

Response to Comment 1: Efforts to increase outreach and assist the refugee populations will be accomplished by working with the International Institute, as well as, Fair Housing Advocates Association and Asia Inc. to better assist these populations. The Welcoming Cities Initiative will further enhance these efforts.

Response to Comment 2: The City already works closely its fair housing provider to address issues specific to those living with disabilities and those living with disabilities who also need support animals.

Response to Comment 3: In terms of the request for a landlord assistance program, while it's worth consideration, currently there is a lack of funding and capacity to adequately administer such a program. The City will continue to explore options for such a program.

Response to Comment 4: The City has an ongoing dialog with staff from the Summit County Land Bank and several residential projects have been completed. City staff will continue to identify possible ways that the Land Bank can be a project partner on CDBG-funded economic development initiatives.

Response to Comment 5: Each year the City provides Good Neighbors with funding specific to their food pantry. During a previous plan year they received a one-time additional grant for repairs to their facility.

7. Summary

Through citizen participation and consultation with a variety of stakeholders, the City of Cuyahoga Falls has identified a number of needs. As part of the plan process, goals and actions have been established to address those needs.

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		Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

City of Cuyahoga Falls Development Department
330.971.8135

Director of Development - Diane Sheridan
sheridan@cityofcf.com

Deputy Director of Development - Sara Leedham
leedham@cityofcf.com

CDBG Administrator - Peggy Szalay
szalaypl@cityofcf.com

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

1. Introduction

A variety of strategies, including public notices and meetings were used as part of this process. This section addresses the consultation efforts of the City in completing the 2018 Action Plan.

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 works to develop new collaborative relationships, while also strengthening existing relationships with our neighboring HUD partners. To this end, Development staff have initiated an ongoing dialogue with representatives from the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), the ADM Board, Western Reserve Hospital (formerly affiliated with Summa), Community Health Center and a wide variety of service agencies. Increased participation in community meetings and events will further coordination opportunities.

During the 2018 plan year, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will also begin work on a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Taking a smaller regional approach this collaboration includes the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), the Cities of Akron and Baberton and Summit County. Work on this analysis will continue through the 2018 Action Plan period, as well as into preparations for the next five-year plan.

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 Akron/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. HMIS

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 Continuum of Care Committee meets regularly to continuously evaluate the needs within the community and to identify any gaps.

For those at risk of homelessness, Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) exists as a collaboration between Infoline, Inc., Summit County Children's Services and the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is the lead agency for the program and assists eligible households (screened through

Infoline, Inc.) by developing a three to six month case plan and providing financial assistance for rental costs, utilities and other moving-related expenditures. The Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter also receives funding for rapid re-housing for victims of domestic violence as well as other populations.

In addition to attending the Community meetings, City of Cuyahoga Falls staff also serve on the Continuum of Care Executive Board and participate on the Review and Ranking Committee.

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

As the lead ESG agency, the City of Akron consulted and collaborated with the Continuum of Care Community Committee to determine how to allocate ESG funds, as well as to develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes. The City of Akron held several meetings to establish basic written standards for the provisions of ESG assistance.

In August 2006, Infoline, Inc. and the Continuum of Care established a HMIS policy and procedures manual. The HMIS Advisory Committee meets bi-monthly to review the document and make appropriate changes. HMIS and reporting on homelessness remains the focus as Summit County strives to end homelessness by 2020.

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	Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Throughout development of the plan, staff from the AMHA provided guidance and input related to housing initiatives.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	AKRON
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth 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?	In addition to participation in the Continuum of Care, City of Cuyahoga Falls staff relied upon City of Akron staff from the Comprehensive Planning Department to provide insights on the various sections dealing with homeless populations.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	BARBERTON
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment 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?	City of Cuyahoga Falls staff have ongoing discussions the City of Barberton staff to share local initiatives and discuss best practices as part of the plan development.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	County of Summit Department of Community and Economic Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development 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?	City of Cuyahoga Falls staff have ongoing discussions the City of Barberton staff to share local initiatives and discuss best practices as part of the plan development.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	INFOLINE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims

	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 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?	Infoline staff continue to play a key role in the evolution of the HMIS and Continuum of Care.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Battered Women's Shelter provided input on a number of sections in this plan, particularly those sections dealing with Victims of Domestic Violence.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Fair Housing Advocates Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment 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?	Fair Housing Advocates Association provides a variety of services related to fair housing. City staff work with Executive Director Vince Curry to address fair housing issues and develop possible solutions.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	NEOSCC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Vibrant NEO provided region wide insights into issues about the economy, housing and fair housing. They also provided a regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Employment

	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 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?	The Continuum of Care and HMIS provided detailed information and insights into the issues surrounding the homeless population within Summit County.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater Akron Chamber
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from the Greater Akron Chamber were consulted to provide an overview of Economic Development initiatives throughout Summit County. City of Cuyahoga Falls staff also attend quarterly Chamber meetings. The City and Chamber also work together on economic development initiatives.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City of Cuyahoga Falls Development staff have an ongoing dialogue with leaders from the City of Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce in order to meet the needs of local businesses and to refine our economic development initiatives.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Cuyahoga Falls Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Development staff have good working relationships with many of the council members. During development of the plan, staff met with Council members and discussed ways in which they would like to see issues within the community addressed, including housing needs, infrastructure and economic development initiatives.

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

Developing new relationships with local agencies and service providers will continue to be an area of focus during the 2018 plan period.

No agency was deliberately omitted and staff members will continue to forge relationships with area service providers.

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 works to further the goals of the CoC by providing CDBG funds annually that support the HMIS.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Consolidated Plans	Cities of Akron, Barberton and the County of Summit	Communication and coordination between each of the entitlements will strengthen the use of our CDBG monies and efforts to improve the Summit County community as a whole.
Vibrant NEO Guidebook	NEO Sustainable Communities Consortium Initiative	The overarching goal of NEOSCC's mission is to create conditions for a more vibrant, resilient and sustainable NEO. This mission is reflected in many of the City's Strategic Plan goals.
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	City of Cuyahoga Falls	The AI will guide the City in determining fair housing initiatives throughout the Consolidated Plan period.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

In addition to consultation with area agencies, the City will work to include input and participation of minorities and women as well as entities owned by minorities and/or women. These efforts will include real estate firms, construction firms, appraisal firms, management firms, financial institutions, underwriters, accountants and providers of legal services. The City will do this through advertising in the local minority publication and will also require the same of all Subrecipients.

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

On May 26, 2018, and July 16, 2018, city staff held public meetings to gather input regarding the 2018 Action Plan.

Action Plan budget allocations were also discussed as part of the City's 2018 Budget hearings with City Council on November 27, 2017.

Overall, the process of gathering citizen input confirmed that efforts to address housing, infrastructure, public services, and economic development activities are all merited and desired.

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	Attendance varied during each of the public meeting events and related Council meetings, including, but not limited to the November budget hearings. It is estimated that at least 250 people had the opportunity to comment and provide feedback.	People are encouraged by redevelopment efforts in the downtown; however, most people agree that more financial resources are needed to assist start-up businesses.	None.	
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Legal notices were published in the Falls News Press to advertise all of the public meetings held and the availability of the 2018 Action Plan for review and comment.	None.	None.	

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)
3	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Meeting notices and the availability to comment on the Action Plan were also put on the City's website; however, there were no direct responses to this method of posting information.	None.	None.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

During the 2018 Action Plan period, the City will continue to leverage all resources made available for community development needs, including any state, local, federal and/or private funding. The City will continue to develop strong relationships with other agencies in order to maximize leveraging opportunities.

A variety of resources will be used during the 2018 Action Plan period. These resources include the 2018 federal entitlement award, reprogrammed prior year funds, loan repayments and converted NSP funds. City staff will also continue to pursue other grant funding when available.

Prior and current year Revolving Loan Fund monies will also be used for housing and economic development activities. RLF monies originate from revenues received via monthly loan payments and/or loan balance pay offs. Payments that the City anticipates receiving during the 2018 program year are identified as program income, whereas prior year RLF monies are included in the prior year resources calculation.

Activities will also be supplemented with converted NSP monies. Per guidance from the HUD Columbus Field Office, the NSP monies are not identified as a *Source of Funds* or *Expected Amount Available* in the Priority Table or on the SF-424; however, origins and use of the NSP funds will be explained in greater detail later in this plan.

Competitive CoC (McKinney-Vento) funding is not a direct funding source for the City; therefore, it is not included in projected 2018 funding. Additionally the City does not receive funding under the HOME or ESG programs.

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	648,660	40,190	568,100	1,256,950	0	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The City strives to fund programs that maximize other funding sources as much as possible. Summit County Public Health Department lead abatement funding, HWAP, OPWC, EPA, ODNR, ODA, DOT, grants from entities such as the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition, and the general fund are several of the funding sources that the City will utilize this Plan period.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls will join the Cities of Akron and Barberton as well as Summit County to contribute CDBG funds as match for the Akron/Summit County Continuum of Care HMIS program, Summit County Public Health Lead Hazard Control grant.

As part of the economic development incentive program, applicants are required to identify a gap in financing as well as funds leveraged.

The City will also seek other grants as a source of funding for local activities and a means of leveraging funds.

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

No publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction will be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

Discussion

ANNUAL ALLOCATION

The City will receive an entitlement allocation of \$648,660 which is an increase from 2017.

PROGRAM INCOME

The City's existing loan portfolio is comprised of monthly repayments from housing and economic development loans. With the exception of loans that are currently in default, in 2018, the City anticipates receiving approximately \$40,190 in monthly revolving loan repayments. This does not include any loan balance payoffs received after submission of this plan. During the 2018 Action Plan period the City anticipates receiving the following Revolving Loan Funds (RLF):

2018 Loan Repayments: \$40,190

In addition to the loan repayments, during the 2018 Action Plan year, NSP funds will be converted to CDBG Program Income. Per guidance from the HUD Columbus Field Office, these funds will only be identified as part of the narrative and not as part of the Priority Table, nor will these funds be identified as program income on the SF-424.

PRIOR YEAR RESOURCES

Prior year funds that are available to be reprogrammed as part of the 2018 Action Plan period include:

Prior Year Reprogrammed EN Monies: **\$276,034**

Total Reprogrammed RLF Monies: **\$292,066**, which includes the following:

- Reprogrammed RLF ED Monies: \$25,885
- Reprogrammed RLF Housing Monies: 266,181

Total Prior Year Resources: \$568,100 (*This amount is the combined total of Reprogrammed EN, RLF ED*)

and RLF Housing monies.)

OTHER RESOURCES

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was created to help cities, counties and states deal with community problems that were the result of the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

NSP funds were intended to stabilize neighborhoods. To achieve this, grantees were allowed to use NSP funds to:

- Establish financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed homes and residential properties;
- Purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties abandoned or foreclosed;
- Establish land banks for foreclosed homes and residential properties;
- Demolish blighted structures; and
- Redevelop demolished or vacant properties.

Proceeds from the NSP program are still available and as part of the 2018 Action Plan will be converted to CDBG Program Income. The City will use remaining NSP proceeds for CDBG-eligible activities.

As part of the 2018 Action Plan process, NSP Program Income monies in the amount of \$206,260 will be converted to CDBG Program income.

The conversion of NSP Program Income to CDBG Program Income will include the following action items:

- A letter from the City to OCD confirming the balance of NSP Program Income and the activities associated with generating funds.
- The provision of a bank statement from the City showing the balance of NSP Program Income funds.
- Documentation that reconciles NSP Program Income with the City's internal financial records.
- Identifying the use of NSP funds as part of the City's 2018 Action Plan.

The City will work with the Ohio Development Services Agency and the U.S. Department of HUD to convert this valuable financial resource.

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	The Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing	2014	2018	Affordable Housing	CITY-WIDE	Preservation of Existing Housing Stock	CDBG: \$485,135	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 12 Household Housing Unit
2	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Public Services	CDBG: \$26,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted
3	The Provision of Expanded Economic Development	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	CITY-WIDE	Infrastructure Improvements Economic Development	CDBG: \$559,035	Jobs created/retained: 14 Jobs
4	Programmatic Compliance	2014	2018	Administration & Planning	CITY-WIDE	Program Administration & Planning	CDBG: \$186,780	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	The Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing
	Goal Description	The City will utilize CDBG funds to maintain and/or increase the amount of decent, safe and sanitary housing. Efforts will involve the City and several project partners/subrecipients. These efforts will include, but are not limited to comprehensive owner-occupied rehab, the development of in-fill housing, as well as programs to address needed exterior and/or emergency repairs.
2	Goal Name	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Goal Description	A variety of public services will be provided via partner agencies such as Mature Services and Good Neighbors. The Senior Snow program will also be offered with CDBG funds. The City anticipates assisting at least 100 low-to-moderate income persons through its public service offerings.
3	Goal Name	The Provision of Expanded Economic Development
	Goal Description	Funds will be used to create and/or retain jobs that will be made available to low-to-moderate income persons. Activities may include, but will not be limited to historic preservation, facade improvements in the downtown, brownfield redevelopment, and acquisition of property, as well as grants and/or loans (forgiveable or active pay) to businesses.
4	Goal Name	Programmatic Compliance
	Goal Description	CDBG monies will be used to carry out the administration of various programs, as well as planning activities associated with promoting healthy neighborhoods, enhancing the quality of life for low-to-moderate income persons and to expand economic development opportunities.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

During the 2018 plan period, CDBG monies will be used to fund the following projects:

1. Owner Occupied Housing Activities - \$485,135
2. Public Services - \$26,000
3. Economic Development - \$559.035
4. Programmatic Compliance - \$186,780

Activities vary within each of the projects, and include, but are not limited to things such as the City-run senior snow removal program, loans and grants for business development and/or retention, as well as funding for several planning initiatives. Additional activities include fair housing initiatives, support for the local HMIS, and funding toward the renovation of a historic theater. During 2018, our housing rehabilitation program will also continued to be offered through partnerships with area subrecipients.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Owner Occupied Housing Activities
2	Public Services
3	Economic Development
4	Programmatic Compliance

Table 7 - Project Information

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

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Owner Occupied Housing Activities
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of Decent, Safe & Sanitary Housing
	Needs Addressed	Preservation of Existing Housing Stock
	Funding	CDBG: \$485,135
	Description	The City will utilize CDBG funds to maintain and/or increase the amount of decent, safe and sanitary housing. Efforts will include, but are not limited to owner-occupied rehab, as well as partnerships with non-profits to develop in-fill housing. In 2018, it's anticipated that we will assist 12 households through out housing programs and \$485,135 in funding is dedicated to these efforts.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that during the 2018 Action Plan period 12 low-to-moderate income households will be assisted through various housing-oriented activities.
	Location Description	Housing rehabilitation efforts are carried out on a city-wide basis in order of application and approval. As such the individual activity locations will be identified in the 2018 CAPER.
Planned Activities	The City intends to continue working with its partners to offer exterior and emergency home repairs, as well as comprehensive housing rehab. Funds will also be used for subrecipient housing rehab administration activities. Funds to homeowners are provided as zero percent loans that are due upon sale or transfer of the property, or when the owner-applicant no longer occupies the home.	
2	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of a Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$26,000

	Description	A variety of public services will be carried out to enhance the quality of life for low- to moderate-income persons. Such services include a senior snow removal program and grants to local no-profit agencies. Grants to these agencies include Good Neighbors to support their food pantry, and a grant to Vantage to assist seniors trying to live independently in their homes.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It's anticipated that approximately 100 low-to-moderate income persons will be assisted during the 2018 Action Plan.
	Location Description	Public service activities are carried out on a city-wide basis.
	Planned Activities	Activities include funding for a senior snow removal program, assistance to a local food pantry and programming to help eligible seniors remain in their homes.
3	Project Name	Economic Development
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	The Provision of Expanded Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$559,035
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to provide financial assistance to local businesses and/or to attract new businesses to Cuyahoga Falls for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs. The CDBG Loan and Grant Review committee will review applications and work with businesses to determine loan or grant terms and conditions. Funds may also be used for the acquisition of land to further business development and to offer facade improvement grants in the downtown.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It's estimated that approximately 14 jobs will be created as part of our economic development initiatives. These jobs will be made available to low-to-moderate income persons.
	Location Description	Economic development initiatives will be carried out on a city-wide basis where and when opportunities arise.

	Planned Activities	Activities include, but are not limited to, grants and/or loans to help attract and retain businesses, funds to aid in redevelopment of the theater, and monies to assist with acquisition of property for development purposes. The City will also continue to offer its facade improvement program. In addition to the CDBG-funds identified, \$206,260 in converted NSP funds will be used for economic development activities.
4	Project Name	Programmatic Compliance
	Target Area	CITY-WIDE
	Goals Supported	Programmatic Compliance
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration & Planning
	Funding	CDBG: \$186,780
	Description	Funds will be used to carry out CDBG administration, as well as planning activities associated with promoting healthy neighborhoods, enhancing the quality of life for low- to moderate-income persons and to expand economic development opportunities. Funds will also be used to further fair housing-oriented initiatives.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	CDBG administrative funds will be used for things such as staff salaries and benefits and fair housing initiatives. Administrative monies may also be used to fund a master plan for public arts, potentially provide local match for a downtown bicycle network plan and support the local Continuum of Care's HMIS.

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 2018 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 or not there is a benefit to targeting funds to a specific area. With so many diverse needs throughout the community, staff feel that making CDBG funds available for use throughout the community is the most prudent approach. This city-wide approach has been used successfully during the previous Action Plan periods of the current Consolidated Plan.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City strives to make housing decent, safe, sanitary and affordable. This program year funds will be allocated toward the rehabilitation of owner-occupied structures through the City's comprehensive housing rehabilitation program.

Additional activities will be completed in conjunction with other agencies and include a partnership with Habitat for Humanity's program "a Brush with Kindness" (ABWK) program. The ABWK program helps under-resourced home owners to address the sometimes daunting and costly need for exterior maintenance and repairs. Well maintained homes are crucial to vibrant neighborhoods. This program not only preserves homes, but also concentrates on revitalizing entire neighborhoods.

During the 2018 Action Plan period, the City will also work with Rebuilding Together Northeast Ohio to expand housing rehabilitation efforts.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	12
Special-Needs	0
Total	12

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	12
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	12

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

Discussion

Decent, safe and affordable housing continues to be an issue within Summit County as a whole and certainly the City of Cuyahoga Falls is no exception. Newer homes tend to exceed what is affordable for low-to-moderate income residents. As such, the City's housing rehabilitation program is vital to maintaining affordable housing stock that is decent, safe and sanitary. The City is proud to work with Sub-recipient agencies such as NDS, Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity to ensure that

affordable housing is a reality within our community.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

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

During the 2018 Action Plan period, the AMHA will continue repair initiatives on public housing located in Cuyahoga Falls. AMHA currently operates a project-based voucher (PBV) program and plans to continue working with community partners to identify specific target populations to be served through further project-basing of vouchers.

As units become vacant and are in need of comprehensive renovations, AMHA intends to request approval to renovate units utilizing Capital Funds, which will result in units being placed in "Approved Vacancy for Modernization" status.

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 2018, AMHA will continue to monitor and implement a strategic plan for service delivery to include emphasis on stability and quality of life, economic independence, health and education.

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

The local PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction

Eliminating homelessness is a daunting task, but the Continuum of Care is working throughout Summit County to address the underlying causes of this issue and to assist individuals in overcoming the hardships that are causing recurrent episodes of homelessness. The primary obstacles include the inherently complicated nature of homelessness, the coordination necessary between all parties in order to assure the proper delivery of individuals through the system and the gross lack of funds.

As the national dialogue moved from one of “managing” homelessness to truly ending it, COC priorities have shifted, adding in the components of rapid re-housing and prevention. The economic downturn and collapse of the housing market increased the number of at-risk homeless and newly homeless, putting a greater strain on an already overburdened system.

With the exception of providing funds for the HMIS, the City of Cuyahoga Falls does not work directly with homeless populations; however, during the 2018 Action Plan we will continue to support efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing. Through our housing rehab program the City will work to ensure that those who are currently housed are not at greater risk of becoming homeless because they reside in housing that is not decent, safe or sanitary.

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

Summit County actively seeks to address the needs of homeless persons through many collaborations between government, non-profit providers and the faith based community. As a result, programs exist that serve many different categories of homeless persons across varied populations. However, the need continues to outpace the housing and program stock available to homeless residents. Through the Summit County Continuum of Care (CoC), housing providers who receive Federal funding collaborate on policies and procedures to ensure that the housing funding supplied to the community are used in a proficient and cost-effective manner. These practices enable participating agencies to serve the homeless in a manner that reaches the largest number of persons with the appropriate assistance designed to propagate housing stability.

CoC providers manage and operate a variety of shelters designed to meet the short-term needs of homeless individuals and families in the County. The CoC is always looking for ways to improve the connection between providers and homeless persons through expansion of a Central Intake for housing

placement for persons who are homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless. Central Intake provides homeless persons one number to contact and be assessed for need. Housing referrals can then be made ranging from short-term assistance to avoid eviction or acquire new housing to permanent supportive housing to placement in an emergency shelter.

Central intake Central Intake is fully functional and serving as the entry point for about 85 to 90% of the housing beds in the Continuum of Care Housing inventory. Additionally, Central Intake performs placement in Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention programs funded outside of the CoC. Central Intake provides assessment of client needs and directs to the proper support within our service system. Summit County CoC agencies are trying to connect with the homeless population on many fronts, including:

Community Support Services (CSS) operates Street Outreach to homeless persons living in situations unfit for habitable conditions such as the street, parks, abandoned buildings and encampments in the community. Workers attempt to perform triage and provide referrals that connect people with supportive services for substance abuse and mental health issues. Additionally, Safe Landing Youth Shelter also performs street outreach to unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness. Safe Landing and CSS both operate drop-in centers where their target homeless populations can receive food, showers and access to other services related to homelessness. Annually, CoC agencies participate in the HUD mandated Point in Time Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons in our community. These counts are also used as street outreach to make people aware of the resources in the community and to provide accurate numbers of homeless across different populations in our community.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

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

mental health, families, youth aging out of foster care or pregnant teens.

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

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

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

The Summit CoC has at least 165 beds dedicated to the Chronic Homeless population including several programs that adopt a Housing First model designed to triage Chronic Homeless with housing as a first step towards stabilization. The Summit CoC and its Central Intake follow HUD policies regarding prioritization for those requiring housing assistance including placement of individuals with multiple barriers to otherwise secure housing. Once housed, residents can receive treatment for issues such as, substance abuse, mental illness or physical problems that often keep a person homeless. The CoC is adapted the policies set forth by HUD Release CPD-14-012, which sets a guideline for placement in CoC housing according to applicant need. Beds within the CoC housing stock should be prioritized for applicants that are Chronically Homeless and/or have multiple barriers to achieving housing stability. Moreover, the HUD release advises communities to rededicate Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds to those that fit the criteria for classification as Chronic Homeless. They have initiated this process and a number of their PSH beds which are not currently allocated to serve the Chronically Homeless and will make them available upon bed turnover and if the need is still there. Through the use of Central Intake, applicants will be assessed with a Vulnerability Index to determine those with the greatest need for PSH or Transitional Housing. Those with the highest needs will be prioritized for available PSH beds

and programs. Applicants with lower needs or barriers will be referred to programs such as Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention for short-term assistance designed to bridge the gap from a temporary crisis to housing stability. Currently, Summit County is operating both Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) for those individuals in shelter or facing eviction from existing housing. Additionally, RRHP programs for Veterans and Veteran families are being operated within the county. HPRP programs combine short-term assistance up to 9 months and Case Management and Life Skills programming designed to help residents stabilize from a housing crisis. Summit County currently has 27 CoC beds dedicated to homeless young adults and young adults emancipating from Children Services Custody. It is worth noting that the need for all these types of housing programs far exceeds the current supply.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction:

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

- **Smaller supply of affordable single-family housing units** that make it difficult for low-to-moderate income first time homebuyers to make the transition from renting to homeownership.
- **The current average sales price** for many of the homes on the market are below the national average, but still above the affordability level of many low-to-moderate income households.
- **Housing rehabilitation is often costly** making it difficult for low-to-moderate income households to afford necessary repairs. Bank financing to assist with such repairs is often more difficult for lower income individuals and families.
- **Minimum lot sizes** that increases the cost of land and decreases the feasibility of providing smaller, more affordable homes.
- **Cost prohibitive local ordinances, zoning ordinances and building codes** for storm water systems, sidewalks and landscaping that often add unnecessary costs to affordable housing development projects.
- **Environmental conditions** such as brownfields eliminate the possibility of building homes in some of the more affordable areas of the community. Ohio brownfield remediation grant funding has been cut in recent years with the change in the State legislature.
- **NIMBY** attitudes often dictate where affordable housing projects are located. NIMBYism has been the subject of fair housing laws for years.
- **Lack of Transportation** or lack of public transportation options has a negative effect on affordable housing location choice.

Policies to market available housing opportunities could be further expanded to include measures ensuring housing information reaches traditionally underserved populations, such as advertising in targeted media sources, distributing information at churches or community gatherings or conducting special outreach efforts to targeted groups. The City will strive to address negative effects and barriers to affordable housing during the 2018 plan period.

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

return on residential investment

The City is committed to removing or reducing barriers to affordable housing whenever possible. During 2018, the City: (1) will continue to assure the availability of adequate sites for the development of affordable housing and researched state and federal funding sources to support efforts to construct affordable housing; (2) continue to support the AMHA as a valued business in our community; (3) if funding is available the City and in conjunction with a housing provider, 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; and (6) the City will continue to offer CRA tax abatements to those homes located in an approved CRA District. The City will also continue to provide housing rehabilitaion assistance to preserve and improve the stock of affordable housing options.

Fair housing programming will also continue to play a critical role in addressing barriers to affordable housing. The City will continue to take appropriate actions to affirmatively further fair housing and reduce all negatives effects of public policies within the City. Additionally, during the 2018 Action Plan period, the City will work with other, local HUD-funding recipients to create an updated analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. This effort will look at Summit County as a whole, as well as taking community-specific issues into consideration.

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

Discussion:

N/A

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

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

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

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

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

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City plans to maintain and foster affordable housing units through the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program. The City will also continue to support LIHTC projects as they are presented.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

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

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

use and information regarding the conditions of the home prior to and after the construction.

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

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

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

Info Line, Inc. has historically been selected as the host agency of Summit County's HMIS; however, during the 2018 plan period, it's anticipated that hosting services will transfer to the United Way. In 2018, the City will provide \$5,000 toward HMIS support.

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

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

Affordable Housing Activities:

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

Economic Development:

During 2018, the City will continue to administer a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for economic development

activities. As a condition of receiving funds to create new jobs, businesses will be tasked with making the jobs available to low to moderate-income individuals. The availability of these jobs will hopefully result in the reduction of households living in poverty status.

Additional Assistance:

Although not directly funded with CDBG monies, the City will refer residents and collaborate with the following groups: Private Industry Council, Job Training Partnership Agency, Department of Human Services JOBS program, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, United Way, small and minority business programs, Cuyahoga Falls and Akron Chambers of Commerce.

Similarly, there are many social services agencies that directly assist families living in poverty. Such agencies include the AMHA, Neighborhood Development Services, Salvation Army, Good Neighbors, Children Services Board and Akron-Summit Community Action Agency, to name a few. The efforts of various public and private social service and housing organizations are supplemented by such groups as churches, organized labor, public health departments, hospitals and many others.

Although the above efforts are designed to combat poverty, it is difficult to address many of the other issues faced by the disadvantaged, including family dysfunction, limited financial and/or supportive resources and lack of education.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The Development Department is responsible for managing CDBG funds. The City has established goals under the Entitlement Program and works to integrate planning and projects with the related activities of other departments utilizing the Citizen Participation Plan, direct email requests, surveys and various other methods of communications to facilitate this goal. The City does not plan to duplicate services of other established and successful programs. Although in 2018 there will be a new CDBG Administrator for a portion of the year, 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 provide one-on-one training with the new Administrator. Staff will also seek out external training opportunities whenever possible.

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

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

collaborate to increase the quality of life for lower income residents.

Discussion:

N/A

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Program Income

Revolving loan program income (PI) is received through the repayment of loans issued for housing rehabilitation and economic development activities. Monthly payments from our loan portfolio will be routed to either the Housing Rehab Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) or the Economic Development RLF which is managed by the Finance Department. The City anticipates \$40,190 of RL-PI this program year.

In addition to these funds, during the 2018 Action Plan period, the City will also work to convert \$206,260 in NSP funds into CDBG program income. Based on guidance from the HUD Columbus Field Office, those funds are only identified in this Action Plan in narrative form.

Although the required percentage of CDBG funds that will be utilized for activities benefitting lower income persons is 70 percent, during the 2017 Action Plan period, the City will strive to reach 80 percent.

Monitoring

Development staff will monitor its Subrecipient activities at least once annually to ensure programmatic compliance. Staff will utilize both desk monitoring and internal/on-site monitoring techniques to assess the quality and compliance of program performance over the duration of the agreement or contract. Financial and regulatory performance will be reviewed during monitoring visits. These visits will include a review of performance reports, records, audits, allowed costs, project eligibility and a review of the number of beneficiaries served. Staff will also monitor projects to ensure compliance with federal regulations and City program requirements. Although the City will predominately rely on its project partners to ensure compliance with applicable housing codes, the CDBG Administrator will make regular on-site inspections to housing rehabilitation projects before releasing any final payments.

In addition to monitoring CDBG Subrecipients and partner agencies, City staff will regularly review activities to ensure compliance program requirements, including, but not limited to the timeliness of expenditures. For all loans and grants given, the CDBG Loan and Grant Review Committee will review project eligibility and measure the timeliness of each project in order to ensure that funds will be

expended in a reasonable amount of time and within budget.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(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.	100.00%

During the 2018 Plan Period, approximately \$15,000 in CDBG funds will be used for the following fair housing activities: investigation of discrimination and/or harassment complaints, conducting rental audits and monitoring the housing sector, providing tenant-landlord counseling, conducting fair housing seminars, distributing electronic and print media, attending public meetings, and conducting research/analysis, as well as providing TA. Additionally, during the 2018 Plan period, the City will work with other HUD-funded entities in Summit County to create a revised and regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) that will be included as part of the 2019 Action Plan and Five-Year Consolidated Plan. To-date this initiative includes Summit County, AMHA, and the Cities of Akron and Barberton. As part of this process, surveys will be developed and distributed, and area partners, fair housing agencies and other stake holders will be asked to provide input via a series of county-wide public meetings.

Although some of the activities identified in the Fair Housing Action Plan occur over multiple plan years, activities undertaken during the 2018 program year will be reported in the City's 2018 C.A.P.E.R.

Fair Housing and Actions to Address Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

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

ANALYSIS of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing to Choice (AI) is the first step in developing a Fair Housing Action Plan. In 2010, the City contracted Donald B. Eager & Associates, LLC to complete an AI. The AI encompassed a variety of questions that were used to assess the overall fair housing “health” of the community. It reviewed the practices and provisions of lending institutions, local housing related codes and regulations, advertising for housing, past and present fair housing activities, the real estate and rental industries and affordable housing programs and issues. It also reviewed the concerns of affordable housing and how housing policies can impact the low-to-moderate income community. While some of these issues may not directly constitute fair housing related concerns, they can impact the availability of equal choice in housing. The following impediments were identified: NIMBYism (Not in My Back Yard) Based on Stereotypes, Enforcement of Fair Housing Laws, Lack of Accessible Housing Stock, Lack of Lending to Minority Groups and Lack of Affordable Rental Housing.

