

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

This plan represents the fifth and final year of the City of Binghamton 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. Many of the elements in this plan will be similar if not the same as the previous year's plan. No new goals have been identified. The City continues to look at the City as a whole in allocating its entitlements however certain areas represent concentrations of poverty that necessitate focusing HUD entitlement funds in those areas.

This plan shall work in tandem where possible and able with the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2014 and available at <http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/blueprint-binghamton-comprehensive-plan> and draws from surveys done for that project as well as a residential market analysis available at <http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/residential-market-analysis>. An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Plan was created in 2015 that identified additional measures the City may need to take to ensure fairness and equality for all of its residents

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.

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.

This plan has seven goals based on the Consolidated Plan goals. These goals are to 1) increase home ownership rates, 2) reduce blight and beautify the city, 3) eliminate homelessness, 4) rebuild or modernize public infrastructure, 5) improve transportation and accessibility for all, 6) provide services for the underserved, and 7) revitalize the economy of Binghamton.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Funding cuts across all grants have decreased the ability for the City and its grant sub-recipients to maintain previous levels of service quality. The City has encouraged higher owner occupancy through several programs that target LMI or elderly homeowners. Dozens of blighted buildings in the community have been removed. However, there is still much work that needs to be done. The continuation of homelessness, often in tangent with the heroin crisis, has been met with ESG funds as well as certain targeted CDBG service programs, however, more could be accomplished with higher funding levels.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of eleven appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee typically meets once to twice a month and meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions. The CDAC provides recommendations on the Annual Action Plan and funding.

All Community Development announcements, including notifications for the public hearings, are emailed to a large mailing list of interested parties, non-profits, municipal agencies, and private citizens.

An initial public meeting was held on March 18, 2019 for opinions prior to creating the Annual Action Plan, however, only a handful of people attended and only two speakers voiced their opinion on funding needs and priorities for the community.

An second public meeting will be held on May 6, 2019 for comments regarding the publically available Draft Annual Action Plan for FY45.

In addition to these public comment periods, individuals could contact the City directly and relevant comments were passed onto the CDAC for their deliberations. All written public comments are included in the submitted Public Comments attachment.

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.

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

Call Summary

- More senior housing

March 18th Public Hearing Comment Summary

- Funding for senior insurance services
- Funding for developmentally disabled youth

May 6th Public Hearing Content Summary

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

Funding for service programs increased compared to previous year. CHDO funding can be used for seniors, and senior home improvement funding provides seniors with ability to remain in their homes.

7. Summary

The goals listed herein represent a comprehensive city-wide effort to reshape the City for the better.

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	Binghamton	Department of Housing and Comm Develop
HOME Administrator	Binghamton	Department of Housing and Comm Develop
ESG Administrator	Binghamton	Department of Housing and Comm Develop

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The Binghamton Department of Housing and Community Development is the agency responsible for preparing the HUD entitlement individual Annual Action Plans. This department was split off from the Planning and Zoning Department in order to focus on HUD based funding. This department is responsible for administering the CDBG, ESG, and HOME grants.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Stephen Carson, HUD Manager

(607) 772-7028

hudplan@cityofbinghamton.com

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

1. Introduction

An initial public meeting was held on March 18, 2019 to hear local needs and concerns for the Annual Action Plan. Over one hundred agencies, from local social groups to municipal agencies to religious organizations, were contacted via email or phone. Individuals within the community who had expressed interest in being notified about HUD funding were also contacted. Unfortunately, only a small number of individuals/agencies showed up and only one speaker voiced an opinion. The second meeting on May 6th ###.

The City also created a contact email specifically for which stakeholders and residents could voice their concerns, and this email was included in the press release submitted at the time the draft Annual Action Plan was released for public review in order to maximize public feedback.

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 directly with several housing providers: First Ward Action Council, Opportunities for Broome, Binghamton Housing Authority, Family Enrichment Network, and Metro Interfaith. First Ward Action Council, amongst other activities, provides senior housing rehab services which is reimbursed through the CDBG program. Opportunities for Broome is an agency that works to better and empower the low income residents of the area and has been a CHDO for past projects. The Binghamton Housing Authority provided HUD funded public housing and runs the Section 8 program. In addition, one of its divisions is a CHDO and is receiving funds for new housing. Family Enrichment Network is receiving CHDO funds it is combining with state homeless funds to build permanent supportive housing. Metro Interfaith runs the Homeownership Academy that provides free financial and home purchase counseling for prospective home owners and helps coordinate with the Housing division for its own home purchase and rehabilitation program. All of these agencies run their own housing services for lower income households in various locations throughout the region.

Each Fall, the City releases RFPs seeking applications for the expenditures of the CDBG public service activity funds as well as ESG funds. Potential stakeholders are notified along with public advertising to maximize agencies that wish to become sub-recipients. The Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) helps oversee and award the remaining service and ESG funds prior to the Council's and Mayor's final decision on sub-recipient's funding allocations.

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 HUD Manager is the ad-hoc City representative with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The HUD Manager acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA, CES, and HMIS subcommittees.

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 HUD Manager works closely with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The HUD Manager acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA, CES, and HMIS subcommittees. The Coordinator of the CoC presented to the CDAC in late winter to explain the area's homeless situation as well as to provide meaningful initial budget recommendations (the pre-sub-recipient funding levels). In the Fall, the CoC will also work hand in hand with the CDAC to prepare the RFPs for homeless agencies wishing to receive EGS funding as well as to make recommendations to the City as to which agencies should receive specific funding for their programs. This will run in tandem with the CoC's NOFA budget process.

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	Coalition for the Homeless of the Southern Tier, NY Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency is the local Continuum of Care. Provided information and data regarding homeless needs in the area

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

Any agency may contact the City Community Development Department at any time for help or to submit ideas or even ask questions regarding the HUD Entitlement programs.

No business or civic leaders were contacted regarding a homeless strategy specifically because of the advanced organizational state of the local Continuum of Care.

The city reaches out to local stakeholders through two methods: an email list to specific stakeholders and for those affecting homelessness, the City Grants Administrator acts as a voting member and attends regular CoC meetings (NY-511) in which occur discussions regarding the local impacts and needs for homeless individuals in the area.

Relevant stakeholders contacted every year during the community hearing and feedback process include, but are not limited to:

Binghamton Housing Authority

Binghamton City School District

Broome County Department of Health

Broome County Department of Social Services

Broome County Law Department

Broome County Office for Aging

Broome County Re-entry Taskforce

Broome County Transit

Broome County Youth Bureau

Lourdes Hospital

Metro Interfaith

Southern Tier AIDS Program

The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier

United Health Services

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	Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier	The City receives ESG funds it then distributes to agencies that provide homeless services. All belong to the Homeless Coalition. The Homeless Coalition also provides client tracking information that the City can then utilize for its own plan and strategies. In many ways, the Homeless Coalition and the City are partners in implementing homeless prevention and reduction policies.
Blueprint Binghamton	City of Binghamton	Several projects and goals listed in the Blueprint Binghamton comprehensive plan were scheduled to be met with CDBG funds. In the years since the development of that plan, several of those goals have been met.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee meets throughout the year to provide recommendations on the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

In addition, public meetings are held prior to adoption of the Annual Action Plan. One is held prior the release of the draft plan and another is held during the 30 day comment period to take in resident feedback.

In addition, the press release submitted during the 30 day comment period encouraged citizens to reply via email to a dedicated email address setup for all HUD based plans and actions in order to provide a better record of public feedback. This ad also included a web link for a digital copy of the draft plan to increase review.

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 Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Roughly four to five individuals attended each.	Services for seniors and developmentally disabled youth	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)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>The Community Development Advisory Council is made up of eleven appointed members that represent city residents. Meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions.</p>	<p>All meetings are recorded and available to anyone who asks for a copy. When resources permit, meeting minutes are transcribed from the recordings. CDAC comments are taken into account by the Council and Mayor and the HUD Manager acts as a liaison between the City and the members</p>	<p>Generally, all legitimate comments are reacted upon. In cases where official decisions must be made, a quorum vote plus one is required in order to give the CDAC a centralized voice on a course of action.</p>	<p>http://www.binghamton-nyc.gov/community-development-advisory-committee-cdac</p>

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	General Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	All residents are encouraged to send comments to the HUD Manager via phone or direct email. Alternately, they can email hudplan@cityofbinghamton.com. This email link is linked to the HUD Manager and is used as the default email for public comments via email.	Senior housing		

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Entitlement funding from HUD has decreased steadily over the past few years with the exception of recent HOME increases. Currently, the city receives over \$2.5 million in overall entitlement amongst the three programs : CDBG, HOME, and ESG. With decreasing funds comes decreasing capability of delivering improvements and programs to the city. In addition, regulatory oversight limits the usage of these funds as many resources must be spent to meet HUD and other federal requirements, New York State, and even Broome County and other local requirements.

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	1,894,684	24,018	0	1,918,702	0	Narrative Description Numbers, including PI, based on last year's numbers as newest entitlement amount has not been provided.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	511,176	32,260	0	543,436	0	Numbers, including PI, based on last year's numbers as newest entitlement amount has not been provided.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	154,562	0	0	154,562	0	Numbers based on last year's numbers as newest entitlement amount has not been provided.

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 is exempt from the 25% match from HOME funds, however, the City of Binghamton could utilize past and current State level grant funds to match the amount. The City works with the Homeless Coalition to discuss its member's capacity to meet the matching 50% for ESG funds and the City meets its own small portion of its match through general fund expenses to cover additional relevant salary expenses.

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

The only City owned property that would be influenced by the needs within this plan would be park improvements and the potential demolition of properties acquired by the City for removal of blight. The future usage of cleared properties will be based on what CDBG eligible activities will best be served by reuse of the plots. The City's Vacant Property Officer is in charge of coordinating and cataloging vacant properties. This catalogue can then be utilized to determine a best course of action for areas that were previously blighted and have since become areas with vacant scattered lots. The City has begun a process of allowing neighboring homeowners the opportunity to purchase these lots for their own usage, and returning these proceeds as program income to the City's HUD programs. The City is also looking at selling properties for a nominal fee to be utilized by either LMI qualified homeowners, or non-profit agencies that predominately serve LMI clients for capital usage.

Three additional categories are planned for future usage of cleared properties. Properties could be turned into public green-space or mini parks in LMI areas. Similarly, cleared properties adjacent to a park that serves an LMI service area could be incorporated into the park space. The City, working with a local nonprofit called VINES is working on expanding both an urban farm that provides fresh food to predominately lower income families in the city as well as giving additional lots for lower income neighborhoods to have their own community gardens. Finally, if several adjoining properties are cleared, the properties could be redeveloped as part of an economic incubator project that will have the goal of either serving an LMI area or by creating LMI jobs.

Finally, once the City has a good index of vacant but not demolished properties, we can explore non-demolition rehabilitation of residential properties for either residential or commercial uses in order to revitalize targeted neighborhoods.

Discussion

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	Increase Owner Occupied Housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	City of Binghamton	Homeownership	CDBG: \$428,000 HOME: \$349,436	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Added: 24 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 80 Household Housing Unit
2	Blight Reduction	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Blight Reduction	CDBG: \$419,237 HOME: \$195,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20000 Persons Assisted Rental units rehabilitated: 4 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 3 Buildings Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 1500 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness	2015	2019	Homeless	City of Binghamton	Eliminate Homelessness	CDBG: \$30,000 ESG: \$147,287	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 300 Persons Assisted Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 3 Beds Homelessness Prevention: 40 Persons Assisted
4	Improve Infrastructure	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development			CDBG: \$158,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20000 Persons Assisted
5	Improve Transportation & Accessibility	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Improve Transportation	CDBG: \$184,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2500 Persons Assisted
6	Provide Service Activities	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Services for the Underserved	CDBG: \$304,350	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3000 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 250 Households Assisted
7	Economic Development	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development		Economic Revitalization	CDBG: \$163,000	Jobs created/retained: 10 Jobs Businesses assisted: 30 Businesses Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by funding the Binghamton Homeownership Academy through Metro Interfaith. In addition funding is being set aside to provide City seniors with minor to moderate repairs on their homes. The First Time Homebuyer program administered by the Housing department will provide funds to assist income eligible households with new homes in the city and the related HOME rehabilitation program will help repair and rehabilitate owner occupied housing units.
2	Goal Name	Blight Reduction
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Code Enforcement Department to inspect and enforce building codes in lower income and blighted areas. Money will also be allocated through the HOME CHDO set aside for rental rehabilitation. Demolition activities will decrease the number of vacant and dangerous building in the City. Finally, money will go into crime prevention and security cameras to provide additional security in low income residential neighborhoods and parks.
3	Goal Name	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	Goal Description	ESG funds will go towards assisting the running and potential expansion of homeless shelters and services in the area. Funds will also be used to provide homeless prevention services for those at risk of homelessness and for providing funds to enable the homeless to transition from shelter to their own housing. Finally, a portion of funds will be used to provide HMIS services. Through HUD's emphasis on Housing First, this goal may go hand-in-hand with Goal 1 through putting people into new homes, or Goal 2 through the creation of new quality rental units. This year, the City is proposing to provide additional CDBG funds to be used for capital improvements of shelters.
4	Goal Name	Improve Infrastructure
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Department of Public Works and the Parks Department for the replacement or modernization of public utilities and facilities.
5	Goal Name	Improve Transportation & Accessibility
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds to reconstruct streets where needed, or to provide for milling and paving of eligible areas. This year, the City is proposing installing a variety of traffic devices in LMI neighborhoods to improve safety.

6	Goal Name	Provide Service Activities
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds for various non-profits to provide services that affect special needs populations, including, but not limited to, lower income youth, seniors, and the disabled. In addition, the City has identified that the national heroin epidemic has become a local problem and will utilize funds to address this matter. This City will also provide capital improvement funds for a nonprofit that provides needed services to assist in rehabilitations of a publicly available facility.
7	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Binghamton Local Development Corporation to provide low interest loans to small business with the requirement that they create jobs for low income people. The BLDC will also provide marketing and technical assistance for businesses within the community in accordance with HUD regulations.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City will release RFPs in the fall for both the public services goals and the homeless goals for the upcoming city fiscal year (January 1st to December 31st). This will allow agencies in the community to submit their plans on utilizing entitlement money. For ESG funds, the Homeless Coalition is utilized as a source for creation of the homeless specific RFP and the selection of awarded agencies. Although many of the agencies who submit ESG activities are part of the Homeless Coalition, the overall group's input is utilized to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. All submitted activities are evaluated by the Community Development Advisory Council, along with public feedback, and then recommendations are submitted to the Mayor's Office and the City Council prior to final approval.

Certain activities, due to unique capabilities and/or past working relationships such as with Metro Interfaith and First Ward Action Council, are directly assigned to agencies.

Projects

#	Project Name

Table 7 - Project Information

Please see project breakdown on attached Notice of Release.

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

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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 wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City of Binghamton	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City does not run a public housing or Section 8 program. Those are done through the Binghamton Housing Authority, an independent agency. The City also does not use HOME funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). HOME funds can provide assistance to agencies such as CHDOs to provide affordable decent rental units. The ESG program provides services to prevent those in danger of homelessness to remain in their units via rental assistance and to also provide funds for those who are homeless to lease a new rental unit.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	150
Non-Homeless	75
Special-Needs	0
Total	225

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	100
The Production of New Units	4
Rehab of Existing Units	100
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	204

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

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The overall goal of the PHA is to provide as much high-quality necessary public housing in excellent condition as it can.

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

The PHA plans on increasing the quality of its units, reduce vacancies, expand its voucher landlord base, find additional funding, and to improve the safety of its residents.

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

The PHA plans to promote employment amongst its residents when possible. It also plans on seeking services that will allow the elderly or disabled more independence. As sources of funding become available, the City will outreach to PHA staff and it's residents to invove them, along with other affected neighbors, to renovate the area in a way that meets the resident's needs and wishes.

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

The PHA is not designated as "troubled".

Discussion

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

Introduction

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD cap requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

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 will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

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

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 City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Discussion

The City is not a recipient of HOPWA funds.

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

Introduction:

Most public policies that have an effect on the affordability of housing have little to do with City policies. CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds are used and do directly affect people's affordability of housing by providing assistance for housing rehabilitation or through providing assistance to those at risk of homelessness by providing temporary rental assistance. Beyond essentially providing funds that residents would not be able to afford on their own that may affect affordability, much of the rest is in the hands of state and federal limitations and regulations that add extra overhead costs to private and public projects.

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

Tax policies that make it difficult to afford homes are somewhat reduced by using HUD and other grant funds to offset the required taxes to run the city where possible. For example, school taxes are outside the purview of the City as a municipality, and little can be done for those other than to funnel funds into youth programs that may offset school taxes.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will provide funds to "human service" programs run through local non-profits. The City will encourage non-profits to apply for funding and will judge applicants based on the program's impacts for the underserved.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to fund the administration of the First Time Homebuyer program and fully fund the owner occupied rehabilitation programs. The HOME CHDO set aside will address rental unit rehabilitation. The City will also continue to fund programs through area non-profits to provide the homeownership academy and senior housing rehabilitation programs. All of these will help to maintain and improve affordable housing in the area.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City will work with Broome County Health Department to help address lead issues through other HUD grants.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to fund economic development activities to decrease the unemployment rate.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

City representatives will monitor all agencies receiving CDBG, ESG, and HOME funding during the year to ensure that all activities meet HUD requirements on reporting and financial responsibility.

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

The City is working on a Language Assistance Plan (LAP) that will bring together non-profit service agencies and municipal agencies to develop a communication access plan for all City-run and City funded programs. Understanding that there is a close connection between fair housing issues and communication issues, the City is encouraging agencies that can bridge the gap between cultural and economic groups and provide outreach and education programs that are identified through the LAP and Fair Housing Study as needed to submit applications for CDBG funding. Programs such as fair housing

education courses for tenant and landlords, English classes, and translation and communication services, may all be potentially viable under the human service program funding as identified in the plan.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	24,018
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:	24,018

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.	82.38%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The City receives New York State Affordable Housing Corporation funds to help shore up its home rehab program.

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

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

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

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

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

CHDOs perform multi-family rental unit rehabilitation. Liens and restrictive covenants are placed on the properties to ensure that HUD regulations are followed in regard to rental costs and LMI requirements.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(l)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Please see attached Emergency Solutions Grants Program Written Standards. This will be updated this year in time with the local CoC's Written Standards update and activation of the Coordinated Entry System.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The Coordinated Entry System has been implemented and is in use. Individuals with questions about homelessness are directed to the 211 system which directs individuals to dedicated

Coordinated Entry agents. These agents ask pertinent questions and begin the individual entrance into the HMIS system. The CES group coordinates with the local agencies to determine the best fit for individuals experiencing or potentially experiencing homeless.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

RFPs will be released in the Fall. Eligible homeless agencies will be required to submit applications indicating the need for funding and their ability to meet the matching requirement. Awards will be based on project utilization, performance, and monitoring data as represented by recommendations received from the local Continuum of Care.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The City pays a license for and utilizes the HMIS system run by Fairview Recovery Services, the lead agency for ShelterNet. In addition, there is a City representative that acts as a voting party at monthly Continuum of Care meetings and sits on the CoC financial and information subcommittees.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The update to the Written Standards includes new performance measurements that will be implemented soon. The City strives for a 100% reduction in homelessness and was one of the first to respond to the national call for the elimination of homeless veterans.

