



City of Chicopee Annual Action Plan FY2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
ES-05 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)	2
THE PROCESS	4
PR-05 LEAD & RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES - 91.200(b)	4
AP-10 CONSULTATION - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)	5
AP-15 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)	18
EXPECTED RESOURCES	21
AP-15 EXPECTED RESOURCES - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)	21
ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	23
AP-20 ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)	23
AP-35 PROJECTS - 91.420, 91.220(d)	27
AP-38 PROJECT SUMMARY	30
AP-50 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION - 91.420, 91.220(f)	34
AFFORDABLE HOUSING.....	35
AP-55 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.220(g)	35
AP-60 PUBLIC HOUSING – 91.220(h)	36
AP-65 HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES – 91.220(i)	37
AP-75 BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.220(j)	39
AP-85 OTHER ACTIONS - 91.420, 91.220(k).....	40
AP-90 PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS - 91.420, 91.220(l)(1,2,4)	44
APPENDICES.....	46
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	46
GRANTEE UNIQUE APPENDICES.....	48
SF-424 AND CERTIFICATIONS.....	49

Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The City of Chicopee, as an Entitlement Community for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, has undertaken a community-wide dialogue to identify eligible investment opportunities that are consistent with the Consolidated Plan goals and objectives. While the Consolidated Plan is a five year strategic planning document, this Annual Action plan allocates the federal funds that the City anticipates to be available for the fiscal year -July 1 2016- June 30, 2017

Consistent with HUD's three priorities, the City of Chicopee has prioritized the goals of Decent Housing, Economic Opportunities, and Suitable Living Environment including provision of public services.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Responding to input received during the citizen participation process, existing community reports, and quantitative data, the City has established the following high-priority needs:

- Enhance economic opportunities by redevelopment of Brownfields, Industrial, and Commercial properties;
- Encourage small business creation and expansion within the Downtown;
- Maximize affordable housing opportunities by creating and preserving affordable rental and homeownership housing;
- Invest in public facilities to permit the more efficient delivery of services and expansion of opportunities to low and moderate income persons.
- Increase health outcomes by addressing lack of access to affordable, nutritious food as well as park and recreational opportunities;
- Invest in public services that provide new or improved access to programs that serve youth, seniors, and at-risk, vulnerable households; and,
- Coordinate efforts with regional homeless providers to assist in the stabilization of individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Chicopee is responsible for ensuring the compliance with all regulations associated with Community Development Block Grant program and HOME projects undertaken within the City.

The City's Annual Action Plans and associated Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPERs) provide the specifics of projects and programs undertaken by the City. During the program year 2016-2017, the City continues to successfully invest resources to address priority needs, ensuring compliant implementation of projects and programs, and achieving anticipated outcomes. Projects during this current year include testing and remediation of Brownfield sites, initiation of a Phase 1 of a Park improvement project, and provision of essential services to over 200 low-income households.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City through the Mayor's Office, the Planning Department, and the Community Development Department implemented a broad-based approach to maximizing citizen participation and stakeholder participation. Citizen Participation efforts included three neighborhood forums, a stakeholders session with downtown property owners, as well as Consortium meetings.

5. Summary of public comments

A summary of public comments is found within Section AP-15 Citizen Participation.

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

All comments were accepted.

7. Summary

The Annual Action Plan is the outcome of a thorough evaluation of the current opportunities to address the community needs identified within the City's five year Consolidated Plan effective 2015-2020. Consistent with the City's Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action plan allocates resources to support remediate environmental contaminants, produce affordable rental housing, improve parks and recreational opportunities, and assist our non-profit partners.

The Process

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

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

The following are the agencies/entities 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	City of Chicopee	Community Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The City of Chicopee is a direct Entitlement Community for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a member of the Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield HOME Consortium. As a member of the H-C-W Consortium, the City receives a proportional allocation of HOME funds annually.

The Community Development Department is the City Department charged with the administration of the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Home Investment Partnership (HOME). The Community Development Department prepares all plans and reports, provides financial oversight, and monitors program compliance.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Michael Vedovelli
Community Development Department
36 Center St
Chicopee, MA 01013

Phone: (413) 594-1490

Email: mvedovelli@chicopeema.gov

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

1. Introduction

The City of Chicopee through its Community Development Department undertook extensive consultations with relevant agencies, organizations, and community-based groups to identify program and projects that respond to identified community needs. The consultations were conducted through a variety of methods including one-on-one interviews, public hearings, and meetings with existing networks

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 Community Development Department, which is responsible for the development of the Consolidated Plan, also coordinates many of the housing, planning, and homelessness initiatives within the City. The Department coordinates with the City's Planning Department on neighborhood based planning efforts and redevelopment activities. The Department participates on the regional homeless Continuum of Care. Finally, Community Development maintains continued collaboration with the Human Services providers, the Council on Aging, and the Parks and Recreation Department, as the entities that develop services for the city's low and moderate income persons. During the program year, efforts will be made to increase participation of the Chicopee Police Department based upon data from the CoC that a newly emerging population of homeless persons is those persons with opiate addictions.

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 City of Chicopee, as a member of the Western MA Continuum of Care (CoC), has adopted the goals within the Massachusetts Plan to End Homelessness. The City of Chicopee shares the State's goals of 1. increasing the number of permanently supportive housing units; 2. improving job readiness and achieving employments; 3. providing homeless prevention and rapid re-housing assistance; and, 4. providing case management services to increase the likelihood of residential stability.

A City representative serves on the Board of Directors of the Western MA Continuum of Care and attends the regularly scheduled meetings. During those meetings, policy and program priorities are identified. During the Action Plan year, the Continuum is slated to launch two new initiatives to engage long-term street populations and to service homeless youth. The CoC has received funding for these initiatives from the Commonwealth of MA. The City of Chicopee through its provider community including the Valley Opportunity Council will be providing these new services.

Through the reuse of a surplus school building, the City has supported creation of homeless Veterans Housing. The City has been involved through HOME funding, support for VASH vouchers, and outreach through the City's Veterans Service Officer.

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

The City of Chicopee has been an active participant in the Western MA CoC. The City of Chicopee has consulted with the Western MA CoC and regularly consults with non-profits, housing authorities, state agencies, advocacy groups, and property developers.

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

Table 2– Agencies, Groups, Organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Hampden County Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Homeless Service - Fair Housing Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Continuum members were consulted during a regularly scheduled CoC Meeting. Members spoke of need to provide services to transition families from State-funded hotels, and the need for more dedicated affordable housing for households who had poor tenancy histories or problem CORIs. The anticipated outcome is additional focus on dedicated affordable housing options for hard to house persons and households.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Council on Aging
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted one on one. Issues identified include the lack of affordable independent living options for those elders who wished to sell their homes but had no real options, as well as additional issues of necessary services and aging in place services. The anticipated outcome is the exploration of various co-housing models for elders.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Boys and Girls Club
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Children Services - Health Services - Education Services - Employment Child Welfare Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted one on one. Issues included physical improvements needed at the Club, a need for expanded afterschool activities, and increased demand for basic necessities. Anticipated outcome include the creation of a public facilities investment program.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Children Services - Elderly Persons Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Homeless Services - Health Services - Education Services - Employment Health Agency Child Welfare Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted one on one. Issues discussed included a need to focus on health initiatives/healthy community outcomes, needed investment in downtown, and need for funding to improve agency owned properties. Anticipated outcome is a downtown business initiative and non-profit property investment program.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Health Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted within an existing network. Issues identified included need for adults to be offered programs that lead to economic security, increased demand for food, and lack of food security for many low and moderate income households. Anticipated outcomes include coordination on food security and opportunities to expand service/mission.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	WestMass ElderCare
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted within an existing network. The agency identified the increased demand for aging in place and supportive services for seniors.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Department of Public Works
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local Grantee Department

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Department was consulted within a Department Senior Management meeting. The Department identified the continued need for infrastructure improvements and the need to coordinate improvements with major water/sewer replacement projects. Anticipated outcome is utilization of CDGB to leverage other public funds.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Services - Housing Service - Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted in a one-on-one consultation. Issues identified include demand for affordable housing and employment programs for residents. Anticipated outcomes include exploration of opportunities for partnership using PHA resources within private developments.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Children Services - Elderly Persons Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - Health Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Department was consulted during a Department Managers Meeting. The Department identified ongoing park improvement programs including increased accessibility. Anticipated outcomes include continued investment in park improvements.

10	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Public Schools
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services -Children Services -Education Services – Homeless Local organization Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Antipoverty Strategy Market Analysis Homelessness Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The department as part of an education and employment forum. The department identified the opportunities to expand workforce development programs. Anticipated outcomes include providing job readiness skills and trades to students and adults seeking employment.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	The Care Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Homeless Services - Health Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted during a AP workshop. The agency identified the need for additional support and housing for homeless households, especially those with young mothers. Anticipated outcome will be the exploration of partnerships between affordable housing developers and providers to create dedicated units.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Womanshelter/Compañeras
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - Victims of Domestic Violence Services – Health Regional organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted during an AP workshop The agency identified the need for additional support and housing for homeless households, especially Victims of Domestic Violence. Anticipated outcome will be the exploration of partnerships between affordable housing developers and providers to create dedicated units.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Savings Bank
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis Major Employer
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The private lender and foundation was consulted in a one-on-one consultation. The Bank President identified the need to expand homeownership, improve the quality of older housing stock, and invest in projects that support the redevelopment of long abandoned sites like Uniroyal. The anticipated outcome will be to continue to seek public-private partnerships.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Chamber leadership was consulted in a stakeholder session. Members spoke of essential investments and improvements needed in Downtown to support the local businesses. Anticipated outcomes include evaluation of Downtown investments that increase economic viability and support additional downtown businesses.

17	Agency/Group/Organization	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Fair Housing Organization Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted in a regional planning meeting. Discussion included impact of Route 91 improvements and a casino development on area communities. Improved coordination on regional development projects is necessary to address any impacts that may be created due to the casino project. Discussion also included the PVPC Regional Fair Housing Analysis and Recommendations.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Elms College
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Education Services- Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The College was consulted regarding opportunities for pathways to education and expanding youth programing. Anticipated outcomes include partnering with Holyoke Community College and increasing access for educational opportunities.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Regional Employment Board of Hampden County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Education Services- Employment Regional Organization Planning Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The REB was consulted regarding gaps in existing training programs and opportunities to address those gaps. Anticipated outcomes include graduates of the precision machining training courses for adults and creating employment opportunities.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	WestMass Area Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Employment Regional Organization Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Assessment
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted in a regional forum on economic development and business expansion. Anticipated outcomes include the creation of industrial land and to increase the market for businesses to expand.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Career Point
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Education Services- Employment Services- Homeless Regional Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Assessment
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted in a regional forum on employment and training. Focus on training and job placement. Anticipated outcomes include working with local businesses to create job opportunities and improving the skills of job seekers.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	Hampden County Sheriff Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Education Services- Employment Regional Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Department was consulted in a regional forum on education and employment opportunities for ex-offenders. Anticipated outcomes include expanding career opportunities and placement of jobs.
23	Agency/Group/Organization	Westover Job Corp
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Homeless Service- Education Services- Employment Regional Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted regarding education and workforce training. Anticipated outcomes include expanding career opportunities and placement of jobs.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Executive Office of Housing and Eco. Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services- Homeless Services- Housing Services- Victims of Domestic Violence Services- Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	PHA Housing Needs Market Assessment
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted regarding housing and economic development priorities and resources. Anticipated outcomes include upgrading the public infrastructure in the Chicopee Center for a housing development project and increased economic activity.

25	Agency/Group/Organization	Economic Development Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services – Employment Regional Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Assessment Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The agency was consulted in a regional forum on economic development and business attraction. Anticipated outcomes include targeted industry groups that will expand job opportunities.
26	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Chicopee Planning
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other Government – Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Planning Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Brownfields Open Space
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This Department was consulted within a Department Senior Management meeting. The Department identified housing in the Chicopee Center and the cleanup of brownfields sites. Anticipated outcomes include the cleanup of contaminated sites.

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

All agency types were consulted

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 Springfield	The City of Chicopee will continue to support the development of affordable housing with special attention given to at-risk populations.
West End Brownfields Plan	City of Chicopee	The City will continue to allocate entitlement and general government funds and apply for EPA funds to continue remediation and redevelopment of Brownfields.

Table 3 – Other local/regional/federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

During the Annual Action Planning process, the City of Chicopee sought input and guidance from all of the major housing, health, mental health and service agencies. Many of the key stakeholders operate on a regional basis and therefore their input demonstrates the cooperation and coordination that exists. As members of the Western Mass Continuum of Care and of the regional Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield HOME Consortium, the City of Chicopee plans and implements key housing and homeless initiatives on a regional basis.

The continued commitment to meeting the goals of Consolidated Plan is evident in this Annual Action Plan. These efforts will be coordinated with regional efforts while responding to the identified needs of Chicopee's low and moderate income persons.

Surrounding communities are made aware of the Action Plan at the start of the public comment stage. The document is available on-line.

AP-12 Citizen Participation - 91.401, 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 of Chicopee reviewed its existing Citizen Participation Plan and compared its efforts to the best practices identified by HUD. Many of its past practices were consistent with the HUD recommendations. These successful efforts included broadly advertised hearings held at convenient locations during evening hours, utilization of relevant community-focused plans, and an ongoing dialogue with key stakeholder organizations.

The goal setting process includes the review for consistency with the goals established through the Chicopee Housing Authority's Planning process. The CHA is provided a copy of the draft Annual Action plan.

The Citizen Participation process enabled the City to establish Consolidated Planning goals that capitalized on existing networks, identified opportunities to leverage existing investments, and to focus the investment of public resources on the highest priority needs.

Table 4 - 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	On 1/26/2016, the City through its Community Development Department conducted a public hearing at the City's Main Library at 6:00. Three participants including an elected official attended.	Attendees spoke of need for continued investment in parks, funding for public facilities, remediation of Brownfields , and expanded social service programs, programs that address food insecurity.	All comments were accepted	

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	Action Plan Session	Stakeholder Session	On February 10th , 2016 the Community Development Department conducted an Action Planning session to identify investment opportunities within the Annual Action Plan allocation process	Attendees spoke of concerns about cost of basic necessities for low income households , Attendees spoke of services for near elders. Issue of availability of funding for non-profit owned facility repairs were also questioned.	All comments were accepted	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	On March 23, 2016, the City through its Community Development Department will host a public hearing to present draft Annual Action Plan.	No comments were received.		

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The City anticipates receipt of CDBG funds in the amount of approximately \$1,050,000 annually. To maximize the impact of the CDBG Entitlement funds, the City expends significant general government funds and encourages all partners and projects to strategically leverage additional funds.

As a member of the Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield Consortium, the City of Chicopee receives a proportional share of HOME Investment Partnership Funds to support direct assistance to moderate income homebuyers and to subsidize the development cost of affordable housing projects. The City anticipates receipt of \$235,553 in HOME funds.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 2				Expected Amount Available Reminder 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	1,038,162	5,000	300,000	1,343,162	3,114,486	Funds to invest in eligible projects including economic development, clearance and demo, public infrastructure, parks, and open spaces.
HOME	Public-federal	Affordable Housing	236,609.74	5,000	360,000	601,609.74	706,659	Fund to provide homebuyer assistance and to develop affordable housing both homeownership and rental.

Table 4 - 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 of Chicopee anticipates CDBG funds will leverage additional resources. Non-

Entitlement funds that will be used to further the goals of the Strategic Plan may include: private foundations, organizations, and individuals. The following leveraged resources are anticipated during the Consolidated Plan:

City General Funds: The annual City budget commits resources for the priority activities including Public Parks, Facilities, and Infrastructure.

Affordable Housing Resources: Affordable Housing Developments are likely to utilize a variety of State Housing Resources including Housing Bond funds, the Mass Rental Voucher program, and private mortgage financing.

Philanthropy: Private funding from national, state, and local funders including the United Way and private foundations, and private donors.

New Market Tax Credits: NMTCs were created in 2000 as part of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act to encourage revitalization efforts. The NMTC program provides tax credit incentives for equity investment.

Section 8 and MRVP funds: Section 8 is administered by the Chicopee Housing Authority and provides rental subsidies.

Continuum of Care fund: Project funds awarded to non-profit human service providers to assist in housing and services to homeless persons.

The HOME program matching requirements are met through State Housing Bond funds and the Mass Rental Voucher program. Matching funds requirements are monitored by the City of Holyoke as the HOME Consortium's Lead Agency.

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

City parks and public facilities will continue to be operated to provide recreation and services to low and moderate income persons.

Additionally, the City will seek to redevelop City-owned Commercial and Industrial Brownfield sites.

Discussion

The priorities identified within the Strategic Plan are the outcome of an extensive, comprehensive effort to identify community needs.

The Strategic Plan assesses the resources available to meet those needs. The City of Chicopee's investments will leverage public and private funds to address the economic development, affordable housing, community development, and special needs populations' needs.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Brown-fields	2016	2017	Non-housing community development	CDBG eligible areas	Economic Development	CDBG: \$120,000	3 Business
2	Economic Development	2016	2017	Economic Development		Economic Development	CDBG: \$109,287	1 businesses
3	Housing	2016	2017	Affordable Housing	City-wide	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$375,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 10 units
4	Housing	2016	2017	Affordable Housing	CDBG Target Areas	Affordable Housing	HOME \$81,609.74	Acquisition & Rehabilitation: 1 unit
5	HOME Buyer Assistance	2016	2017	Affordable Housing	CDBG Eligible Areas	Affordable Housing	CDBG: Program Delivery \$15,000 HOME: Direct Program \$110,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 23 Households Assisted
6	Public Facilities Infrastructure	2016	2017	Non-housing community development	CDBG eligible areas	Public Infrastructure, Parks, and Facilities	CDBG: Direct Program \$100,000 Program Delivery \$7,500	Public facility or infrastructure activity other than Low/Moderate income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Public Park and Open Space Improvements	2016	2017	Non-Housing Community Development	Low Moderate Areas	Public Infrastructure, Parks, and Facilities	CDBG: Direct Program \$265,000 Program Delivery: \$19,875	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted;
8	Public Service	2016	2017	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$141,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 300 Persons Assisted
9	Section 108	2016	2017	Non-housing community development	Chicopee Falls	Public Infrastructure, Parks, and Facilities	CDBG: \$365,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted
10	Planning and Administration	2016	2017				CDBG: \$200,000 HOME: \$35,000	

Table 5 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Brownfields
	Goal Description	Matching funds for the remediation of environmental conditions and other redevelopment activities on vacant and/or underutilized industrial parcels. (CDBG)
2	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Create business development and expansion opportunities at the Uniroyal site (CDBG)
3	Goal Name	Housing

	Goal Description	Improve the quality of housing, increase housing opportunities available to low and moderate income households, and fund developer-driven affordable homeownership. (HOME)
4	Goal Name	Housing
	Goal Description	Improve the availability and quality of affordable rental housing (HOME)
5	Goal Name	Buyer Assistance
	Goal Description	Provide eligible First Time Homebuyers with down payment assistance. (HOME)
6	Goal Name	Public Facilities
	Goal Description	Improvements to public facilities owned and utilized by non-profits serving low and moderate households. (CDBG)
7	Goal Name	Public Park and Open Space Improvements
	Goal Description	Improvement to parks and open space consistent with the City's Open Space Plan. (CDBG)
9	Goal Name	Public Service
	Goal Description	<p>The City seeks to provide a variety of public service programs and to continue to support nonprofit community development agencies to encourage the development of affordable housing. The City objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating social illnesses, public safety and substance abuse, which each weaken the stability of the City's households and neighborhoods; • Improving quality of life for Chicopee's school children, through the provision of after school child care programs; • Improving the resources available to the City's population at risk of homelessness, residents in crisis, local consumers, and the physically and emotionally disabled population; • Improving quality of life for Chicopee's elderly population, through the provision of day health and recreational programs and transportation to reduce isolation; • Encouraging the creation of affordable housing and assisting those with emergency and transitional housing needs. Programs include legal aid, food pantry and meals, and referral and counseling services; <p>(CDBG)</p>
9	Goal Name	Section 108

	Goal Description	Payment of the Section 108 loan used to support the development of a new Senior Center.
10	Goal Name	Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	Planning and Administration (CDBG ; HOME)

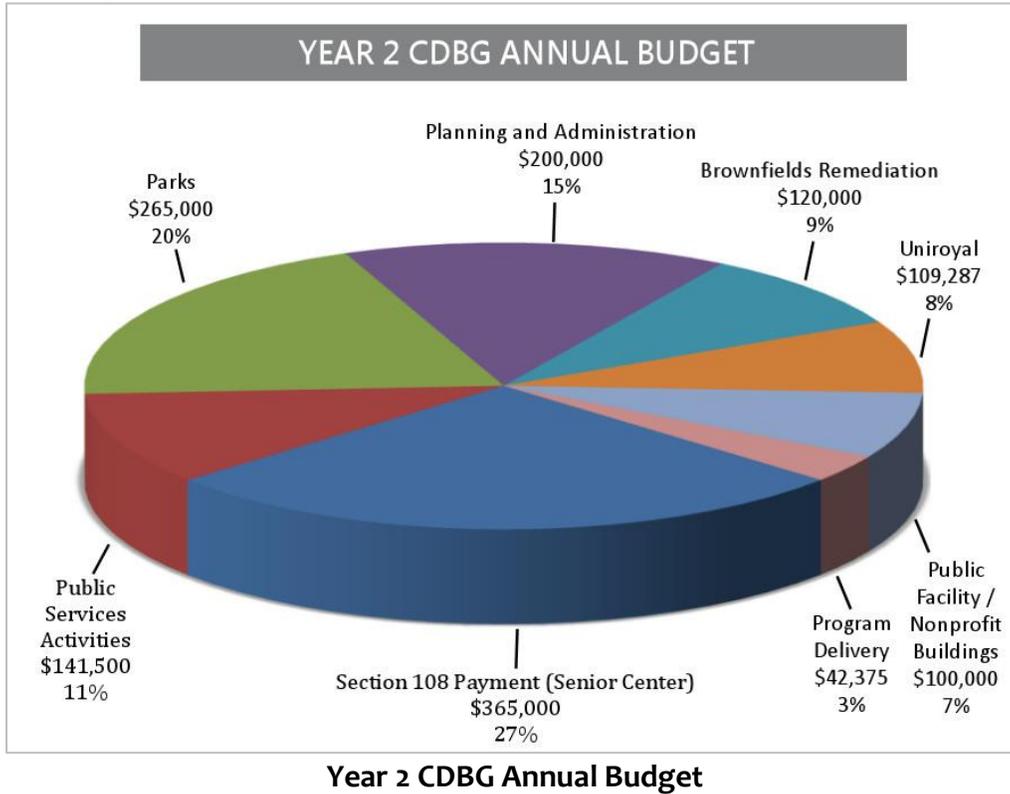
Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b)

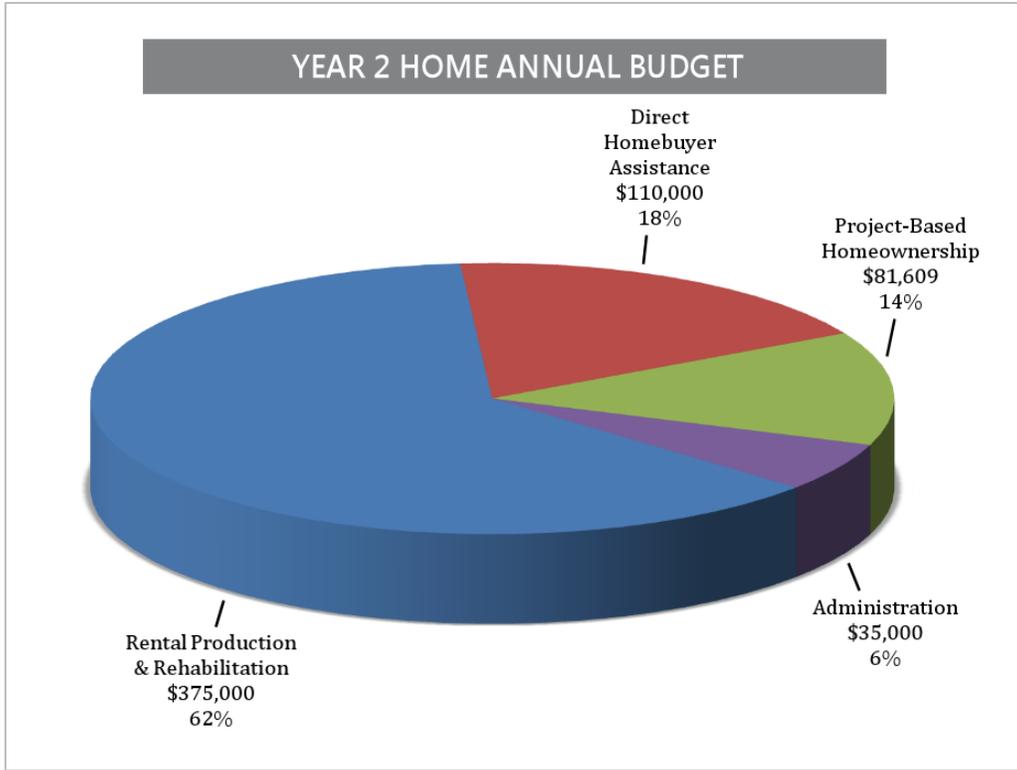
The City estimates that 35 households will be assisted. Six are anticipated to be extremely low-income; six are anticipated to be low-income; and 23 are anticipated to be moderate income.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

In Year 2 of the Consolidated Plan, the City allocated funding that addresses unmet priority needs while continuing commitments to successful multi-year initiatives. The projects funded within Public Infrastructure and Public Facilities are long-standing commitments that make physical improvements to City systems and public facilities. Public Service Activity programs are likewise long-standing successful programs operated by the City and non-profit partner agencies.





Year 2 HOME Annual Budget

Project Summary

#	Project Name
1	Brownfield Redevelopment
2	Economic Development
3	Affordable Housing- homeownership
4	Affordable Housing- Rental
5	HomeBuyer Assistance
6	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
7	Park and Open Spaces
8	Public Services
9	Section 108 Payment
10	Planning and Administration

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

The primary objective of CDBG is to benefit low and moderate income residents and as such, the City focuses community development investments in neighborhoods with a high concentration of low and moderate income households. Census- and HUD-derived data support the basis for identifying eligible neighborhoods. Citizen participation and input from service providers also play a considerable role.

The City allocated funding to address the priorities identified within the Consolidated Plan

process. The City is required to allocate funding towards the loan payment for the Senior Center. Funds were additionally allocated as matching funds for additional clean-up of Brownfields sites. These two activities account for nearly 36% of the CDBG Entitlement funding.

The second significant funding allocation, representing nearly 11% of CDBG funds, is to successful public service programs. As the need for services far exceeds the available resources, service providers are encouraged to maximize leveraged funds and to avoid duplication of services.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Brownfield Redevelopment
	Target Area	Chicopee Center
	Goals Supported	Brownfield Redevelopment Economic Development Affordable Housing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Public Parks and Open Space
	Needs Addressed	Brownfield Redevelopment
	Funding	CDBG: \$120,000
	Description	Matching funds for EPA grant applications that will allow for the testing, remediation, and clearance of Brownfield sites.
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3 businesses
	Location Description	Chicopee Center; West End
	Planned Activities	Testing, remediation, and demolition of brownfields site in preparation of re-use
	2	Project Name
Target Area		Uniroyal
Goals Supported		Economic Development
Needs Addressed		Economic Development
Funding		CDBG: \$109,287
Description		Funding to create business opportunities at the Uniroyal site
Target Date		6/30/2017
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities		1 businesses
Location Description		Chicopee Falls/ Uniroyal
Planned Activities		Assistance to small business to create jobs for low and moderate income persons
3	Project Name	Affordable Housing
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Safe Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME : \$ 81,609.74

	Description	Financial Assistance to create homeownership opportunities through the redevelopment of distressed properties.
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	One moderate income household.
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Expand homeownership
4	Project Name	Affordable Housing
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goal Supported	Expansion of affordable rental units
	Need Addressed	Affordable housing
	Funding	HOME: \$375,000
	Description	Preservation of and improvements to affordable rental projects.
	Target Date	6/30/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Eleven households- 6 very low income and 5 low income.
	Location Description	CDBG target areas
	Planned Activities	Financial Assistance to non-profit developer to preserve and improve affordable housing project.
5	Project Name	Housing – Buyer Assistance
	Target Area	CDBG target areas
	Goals Supported	Expansion of Homeownership
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: Program Delivery \$15,000;HOME: Direct Assistance \$110,000
	Description	Provision of first time homebuyer assistance
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	23 low and moderate income households
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	Provision of Affordable Housing
6	Project Name	Public Facilities
	Target Area	CDBG Target Areas; City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities
	Funding	\$100,000 direct assistance; \$7,500 project delivery

	Description	Funding to Non-profits to improve facilities
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	500
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	Funding to Non-profits to improve facilities that serve low-income and/or special needs persons
7	Project Name	Park and Open Spaces
	Target Area	CDBG target areas
	Goals Supported	Public Parks and Open Space
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: Direct project \$265,000; project delivery \$19,875.
	Description	Funding to improve Parks
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2000 low and moderate income households
	Location Description	CDBG target areas
	Planned Activities	Phase II upgrades at Wisniowski Park; Improvements to Nash and to Sarah Jane Parks.
8	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$141,000
	Description	Funding to non-profit social service providers
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	450 low and moderate income households
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	Provision of human services to low and moderate income persons
9	Project Name	Section 108 Payment
	Target Area	Chicopee Falls
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$365,000
	Description	Payment of 108 Loan for Senior Center
	Target Date	6/30/2017

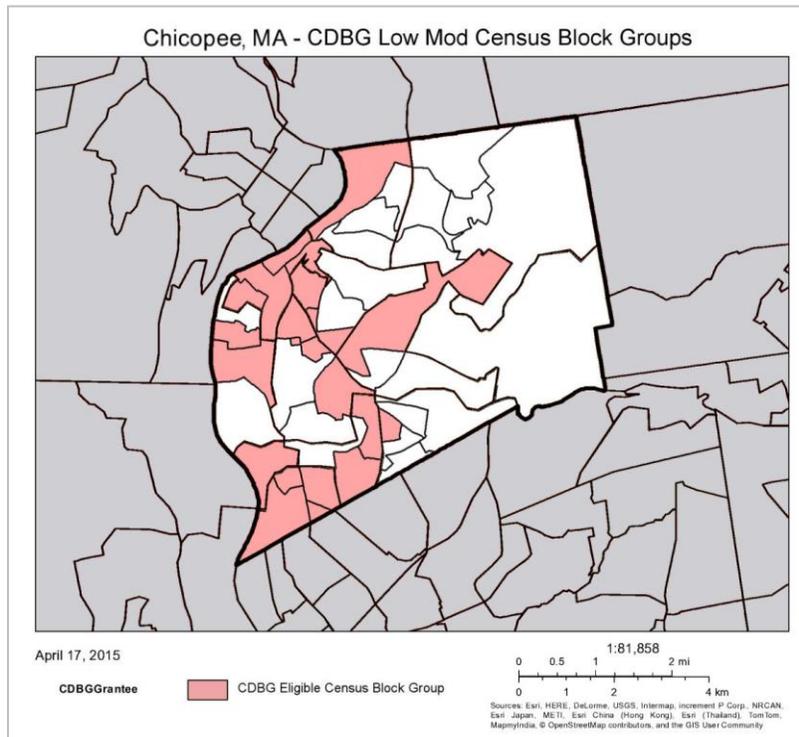
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	200 elderly households
	Location Description	Senior Center - Chicopee falls
	Planned Activities	Payment of Section 108 Loan Daily activities - recreational and health - provided at the Senior Center
10	Project Name	Planning and Administration
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Brownfields Eco Dev Affordable Housing Public Facilities Public Parks and Open Space Public Services Section 108 Loan
	Needs Addressed	Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000; HOME \$35,000
	Description	Staff and cost associated with the Planning and Administration of CDBG funds
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1500
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Planning and Administration of CDBG program funds

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 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 majority of CDBG funding in Year 2 is allocated to projects that are within CDBG eligible areas. 34% of the CDBG funding is expended to make payment on Section 108 borrowing for a new Senior Center located in a target neighborhood. Public service activities, which account for 15% of funding, are operated based upon the eligibility of the person/household, not through geographic targeting.

Geographic Distribution



Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Projects were priorities to address identified need rather than allocated to a particular neighborhood. In Year 2 of the Consolidated Plan, the CDBG funds are expended to improve low and moderate income areas in direct response to residents' identification of the need for Open Space, Parks, and Recreational Opportunities. The City will continue to invest in the redevelopment of Brownfields site within Chicopee Center and Falls.

Finally, the City will continue to operate a Homebuyer Assistance program to increase homeownership rates in the CDBG eligible neighborhoods. The proposed rental project is also located within a CDBG eligible neighborhood.

Discussion

With the exception of public service programs that provide direct benefit to low and moderate income persons, the City continues to prioritize the expenditure of federal Entitlement funds in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

As part of the Holyoke-Chicopee Westfield Consortium, the City of Chicopee receives an allocation of federal HOME funds on an annual basis. These funds are allocated to improve the availability and quality of affordable housing. During this program year, the City has allocated its funds towards two rental projects – the Kendall and MacArthur Terrace and to the redevelopment of a distressed homeownership site (1 unit) . Additionally, the City will continue to operate a Homebuyer Assistance Program that is slated to serve 30 households.

Introduction

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	30
Special-Needs	5
Total	35

Table 6 - 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	23
Total	35

Table 7 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

Table 11 provides the breakdown of households proposed to be served by housing projects funded during the program year. The City anticipates that 42 households will be supported.

- 29 units will be non-homeless. These units will be derived from 6 units at the Kendall, one project-based homeownership unit, and 23 units from the Homebuyer Assistance Program.
- 5 special needs units will be within the Kendall.

Table 12 provides the anticipated breakdown of units by activity type.

- The 23 acquisition units are derived from the Homebuyer Assistance Program
- The 12 Rehab units are 11 units at the Kendall and 1 unit of project-based homeownership.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Chicopee Housing Authority manages its public housing stock and administers federal and state housing vouchers. The CHA's stock includes both federal and state-financed public housing.

The City and the CHA share common goals. These shared goals included improving the condition of the public housing stock, encouraging resident involvement, and providing opportunities and support for resident self-sufficiency.

Additionally, the CHA is seeking to rehabilitate and modernize its current stock and to the maximum extent possible to achieve deconcentration of poverty within its projects.

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

The City supports the CHA efforts to increase economic diversity within its resident population and to operate Family Self-Sufficiency programs. The agency also seeks to deconcentrate poverty by mixing higher income families in lower income developments and lower income families into higher income developments whenever possible.

The CHA operates 383 units of conventional federal housing at three sites in Chicopee; the Cabot Manor Apartments located on Stonina Drive and Plante Circle, the Memorial Apartments located on Memorial Drive and Debra Drive and the Canterbury Arms Apartments located at 165 East Main Street

The CHA operates state-aided public housing programs under Chapter 200 (Veteran's Housing), Chapter 667 (Elder Housing) and Chapter 705 (low income housing) of the Massachusetts General Laws. Nine developments totaling 816 units are currently owned and managed in Chicopee.

The Chicopee Housing Authority will analyze the income levels of families residing in each of our developments, the income levels within census tracts in which the developments are located and the income levels of families on the waiting list annually. Based on this analysis the level of marketing strategies and any needed deconcentration incentives will be determined.

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

The CHA and the City will continue to support resident engagement through support for public service programs which operate at CHA sites as well as through the recognition of Resident Organizations in the development of future plans.

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

NA

Discussion

The CHA is a key agency in the provision of affordable housing and efforts to promote economic self-sufficiency. The City and CHA will seek to identify opportunities to leverage the CHA's capacity and mutual goals expand opportunities for Chicopee residents.

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

Introduction

The City of Chicopee as a member of the Western Mass Continuum of Care is committed to increasing long-term housing stability and economic self-sufficiency of homeless and at-risk individuals and families. The City will utilize HOME funds to produce additional affordable rental units and have dedicated CDBG funds to support self-sufficiency and economic development.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) uses a centralized intake system and outreach teams to address the needs of homeless persons, with a special emphasis on unsheltered persons. Outreach teams respond to any report of an unsheltered family with children and locate an immediate placement in alternative housing settings. The United Way 2-1-1 Program provides information and referral for families. Information about these services is disseminated through public information announcements, faith-based organizations, and other service providers.

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

The City of Chicopee is an active member of the Western Mass Continuum of Care and is committed to the CoC's goals of increasing long-term housing stability and economic self-sufficiency of homeless and at-risk individuals and families.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City is providing CDBG funds to Woman Shelter to support the emergency shelter. HOME funds are allocated each year to housing developers for the creation of affordable units of housing. The Kendall Housing Project targets households at 50% or less of Area Median Income.

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

Staff from the Community Development Department interacts with the public seeking assistance with housing needs on an ongoing basis by providing referrals to appropriate local agencies and service providers. As part of the CoC Planning Group, the City participates in the Continuum of Care Grant Program application process including the Ranking and Review of renewal applications which requires discussion of how the applications meet the needs and priorities of the CoC.

The CoC is working to create a Coordinated Entry System for individuals and the City will be an active participant in the creation of this system which will prioritize individuals with the greatest needs.

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 of Chicopee and the CoC work with state partners to ensure that people being discharged from publicly funded institutions are not discharged into homelessness. The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health has designated several managers as representatives to the CoC to work on discharge planning. These managers are responsible for working with and monitoring all CoC providers providing mental health services and they work on discharge planning for participants with severe and chronic mental health issues. Several of the providers are also active CoC members. DMH works with other state agencies and their providers around mental health issues, street outreach and discharge planning. DMH is the state agency responsible for ensuring persons being discharged from the public mental health (MH) system are not discharged into homelessness

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

Introduction

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 of Chicopee has adopted public policies and programs that encourage residential investment. These efforts include expedited permitting, government financing to reduce development cost, and high-density zoning regulations.

The public policies that constitute barriers are not unique to Chicopee. These policies include:

- Costs associated with Mass Building Code
- Hazards in the built environment such as lead paint.
- Cost of Site Assembly of non-conforming urban lots

The City proposes the following actions to lessen the impact of public policies:

- Participation on a regional level to encourage greater housing opportunities
- Utilization of Tax-title and/or Municipal Properties to expand housing and economic opportunities designed to increase resident income
- Provide Down Payment and Closing Cost assistance to enable low and moderate income buyers to achieve homeownership

Discussion

The City of Chicopee intends to address the availability of affordable housing on both the supply and demand side. By expanding economic opportunities for its residents, the demand for affordable housing will be reduced. By encouraging production throughout the region and providing government assistance that supports existing low income owners, the supply of affordable housing will be expanded.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

The Annual Action Plan activities and goals coincide with the priorities identified within the Consolidated Plan. The activities selected for Year 2 funding are those projects that are ready to proceed, and are able to make immediate impacts to low and moderate income persons. Eligible projects include matching funds for EPA grants, park improvements, affordable housing development, first-time homebuyer assistance, support to our non-profit partners, public service programs, as well a Section 108 payment for the Senior Center.

Eligible public service activities were selected through a formal solicitation process, which prioritizes programs to best addressed identified needs.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

One of the City's highest priorities is the lack of affordable housing. The City's membership within the Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield Consortium provides access to funding to address this goal. The City will seek to engage with private developers and property owners to create opportunities for low and moderate income persons. In the upcoming year, the City plans to fund the redevelopment of a failing affordable housing project in Chicopee Center and to continue its successful Homebuyer assistance program that supports low and moderate income households to achieve the dream of homeownership.

The City will ensure that selected public improvement projects are ready to proceed. In this program year, the City has committed funding to three park projects that will greatly enhance the safety of our public parks.

The city will also seek to assist our non-profit partners through the implementation of a facilities funding program that will provide necessary funding to complete ADA /accessibility improvement or energy efficiency in buildings owned by our partners and utilized for the delivery of services to eligible persons.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Per the discussion above, the City has identified Affordable Housing as a High Priority need. Towards the goal of preserving, producing, and improving affordable housing, the City employs a Housing Specialist to engage with developers to maximize production of affordable units.

In the upcoming year, the city will seek to undertake two projects with our non-profit partners. These partnerships are expected to create safe, affordable housing.

The City will also operate a First –time homebuyer program that provides forgivable loans to eligible households who purchase and occupy homes in CDBG target areas.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Hazards created by lead-based paint are addressed through enforcement of the Lead Paint Notification Laws, the promotion of the MassHousing “Get The Lead Out” Program, which provides Lead Remediation financing to eligible property owners, and the integration of lead

remediation in the housing rehabilitation programs and affordable housing development programs.

Public Awareness and Education is the keystone of an effective public health policy. The Commonwealth's Childhood Lead Paint Prevention Program (CLPPP) provides a wealth of information on the hazards, safe treatment, and legal responsibilities related to Lead-based Paint Hazards. The CLPPP additionally tracks childhood blood testing rates and incidence of poisoning. The commitment to raise public awareness led to the passage of Massachusetts' Lead Law that requires property owners to remove or cover all lead paint hazards in homes built before 1978 if a child under six (6) resides in the home.

In addition, a Rental Property Owner must provide these notifications and forms prior to execution of the rental agreement:

- Provide a copy of lead inspections reports
- Provide a copy of the letter of compliance
- Any information about lead in the home

A Seller of home built prior to 1978 must provide the Buyer the following:

- Property Transfer Notification
- A signed Property Transfer Lead Certification
- Any information about lead in the home
- A copy of any lead inspection report, Letter of Compliance, or Letter of Interim Control
- A 10 day period to have the home inspected for lead at the Buyer's expense

The Commonwealth operates the "Get the Lead Out" program through certified Local Rehabilitation Agencies and private lenders. The program provides secondary financing at desirable rates to remediate/remove lead hazards from residential units. The funds, while limited, are available throughout the Commonwealth. Additionally, the City of Chicopee and the North Suburban HOME Consortium provide rehabilitation financing to eligible households.

Chicopee and the Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield HOME Consortium have fully integrated Lead Hazard education and remediation into housing policies and programs. The City of Chicopee and the Consortium require compliance with Mass Lead Notification Laws to be documented within all project files. Affordable rental projects are required to be free of lead-based paint hazards prior to occupancy; first time homebuyers are required to sign the Commonwealth's Transfer of Property Notification in the case of purchasing of existing properties; and, any new construction or substantial rehabilitation will be fully lead compliant.

Additionally, CDBG and HOME Programs' Policies and Procedures require the following:

1. The Property Owner is required to provide the required notice to all occupants
2. The home to be inspected by a trained professional
3. Assessment if the project is low, moderate, or high-risk of requiring de-leading
4. Work is to be performed by appropriate party
5. The monitoring de-leading to ensure compliance with federal and state laws
6. The obtaining of project clearance

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Chicopee has three over-arching poverty reducing goals: economic growth, creation of middle income jobs, and self-sufficiency programs and support for households living in poverty. In the long term, this focus on economic development and creation of middle income jobs will mean that Chicopee residents will be better able to afford housing in Chicopee. In the short term, support and self-sufficiency programs that reduce the likelihood of housing instability, especially of elders and disabled populations. Performance measures for each Anti-poverty goal are as follows:

- **Economic Growth**
 - Increase General Fund non-residential tax revenue
 - Increase business activity within Central Business District and Neighborhood Commercial Corridors
- **Creation of Middle Income Jobs**
 - Decrease the unemployment rate
 - Increase the median Chicopee income
 - Reduce the number of persons living in poverty
- **Support and Self-Sufficiency Programs**
 - Increase Chicopee resident participation in Workforce Development programs
 - Decrease the housing cost burden for low income persons

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The Institutional structure within the City of Chicopee has been developed over years of successful operation. Chicopee is truly a full-service community. Chicopee has departments including the Board of Health, the Council on Aging, and Veterans Services. In addition to the essential services provided by these programs, the Chicopee Housing Authority plays a key role in the development and provision of affordable housing. Through clearly defined roles and responsibilities within a collaborative working environment, the City of Chicopee has a delivery system capable of undertaking projects, programs, and services to meet the priority needs of low and moderate income residents.

The City will continue to enhance its program coordination functions, specifically in the areas of prioritization of projects and performance monitoring. Through interdepartmental communication, the Community Development Department will be readily available to identify ready-to-proceed public works and facility projects. The City will evaluate its process for selection of public service projects to include a greater focus on outcome measures.

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

The City benefits from a strong network of regional housing and human services providers. The City directly operates quality programs for elders through its Council on Aging. The City will continue to participate as a member of the Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield HOME Consortium. Through this participation, the City is able to effectively coordinate its housing agenda with the surrounding communities.

Discussion

See above discussions

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

The City does anticipate a small amount of CDBG program income throughout the year but the funds are programmed upon receipt. While the City does not anticipate expending funds for Urgent Needs, the redevelopment of Brownfield site may result in the utilization of Slum and Blight national objective.

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	\$5,000
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	
Total Program Income	\$5,000

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. 2016	85%

Discussion

The City has allocated all Entitlement funds and annual Program Income towards the furtherance of activities to meet the needs of low and moderate income person.

The City will utilize at least 80 % of its 2016-2017, and(1 years) for activities that directly benefit low and moderate income persons.

Appendices

Citizen Participation

Grantee Unique Appendices

SF-424 and Certifications