

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Chicopee is a federal Entitlement Community for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and is part of a Consortium with the Cities of Holyoke and Westfield for the federal HOME Investment (HOME) funds. In accordance with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and despite the global pandemic, the City of Chicopee had undertaken a citizens participation process to identify priorities and allocate resources in a five-year planning document, the City's Consolidated Plan (2020-2025). This Annual Action is the second year of that five year cycle. This plan allocates the federal funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and given the ongoing impacts of the COVID 19 virus, the City has prioritized projects that safely expand public facilities, park and recreational opportunities, and essential public services.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development has provided the anticipated entitlement allocations. The City anticipates receiving \$1,228,026 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$294,868 in HOME Partnership funds.

EDIT: Due to an error in HUD's calculation, the City was notified on 5.17.2021 that it will now receive \$1,246,122 in CDBG, an increase of \$18,096. The additional funds will be added to Public Parks.

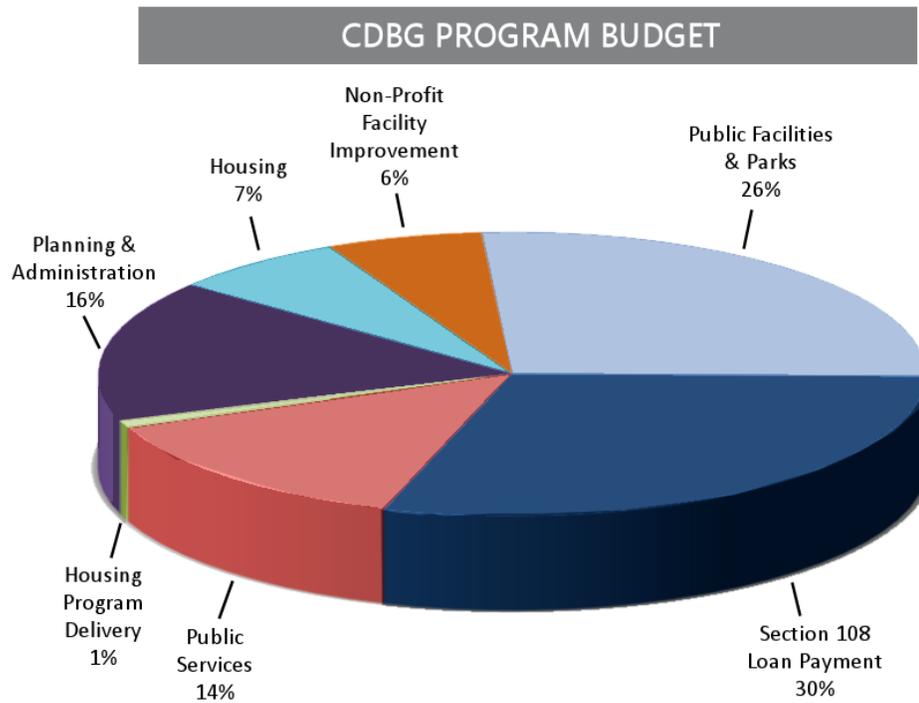
2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

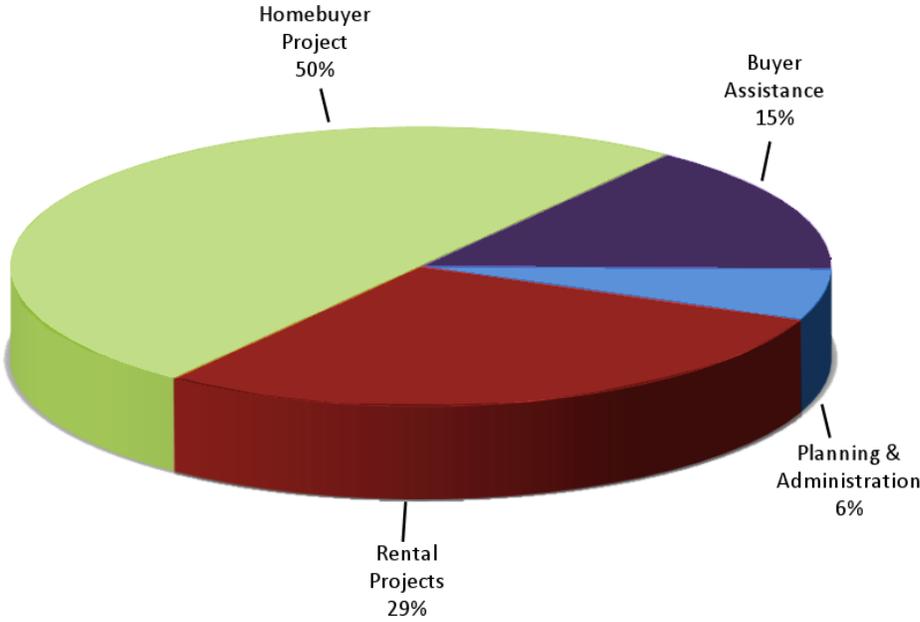
- Respond to the need for facility improvements owned and operated by our non-profit providers;
- Improve public parks and recreational facilities in Low Moderate income areas;
- Maximize affordable housing opportunities by producing additional affordable rental and homeownership housing and supporting existing homeowners;
- Invest in public services that provide new or improved access to programs that address food insecurity, employment and economic opportunities and support 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.

The allocation of resources by major program area is as follows:



HOME PROGRAM BUDGET



3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Chicopee through the Community Development Department 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 2020-2021, the City proposes to continue its investments to address priority needs, ensuring compliant implementation of projects and programs, and achieving anticipated outcomes.

The City had proposed to continue to effective and well-received programs- the Non-profit Facility Improvement and the Business Assistance Programs. These programs were revised to address COVID 19 related needs. Utilizing funds from the CARES Act (CDBG-CV) the City provided operating assistance to 33 businesses to retain low-moderate jobs and to 4 non-profits to implement COVID-19 related building improvements. The City additionally

launched a short-term rental assistance program that provided assistance to 32 low income renter households. CDBG funds were utilized to undertake Spray Park improvement at Lincoln Grove Park and expansion of an outdoor fitness trail for elders.

The City will continue to operate the CDBG –CV funded programs and has allocated funding to the Non-profit Capital Improvement program and Park Improvements in the current year’s budget.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City manages its consultation process through inter-departmental coordination, engagement with Business community and Non-profit organizations. Inter-departmental coordination enables the Community Development Department to have knowledge of proposed capital projects and to commit CDBG resources as matching funds towards those efforts. Participating City departments include Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works.

The City also engaged with the Chicopee Housing Authority and Wayfinders, Inc as operators of public housing and administrators for rental assistance programs. Additionally, the City collaborates with our consortium partners – Holyoke and Westfield- as well as the City of Springfield. Smaller communities are consulted through staff participation in the Regional Housing Task Force and COVID Workforce.

The City was able to utilize information from the Valley Opportunity Council’s Community Needs Assessment survey to which 85 low income Chicopee residents had responded. Overwhelmingly, the needs identified were:

- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✓ Heat/utilities assistance
- ✓ Affordable Child Care
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Nutrition/Access to Food

To maximize community input despite the ongoing public health restrictions, the Community Development Department implemented a broad-based approach to utilizing social media and virtual hearings. The City broadly advertised the availability of the draft

plan, posted a power point summary on the Community Development's Department page and the City's Facebook page, and conducted two virtual hearings via zoom. The draft Action Plan was released as well as published on the City's website on April 1. Comments will be accepted until April 30, 2021.

5. Summary of public comments

Comments were accepted until April 30, 2021.

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

One Zoom participant inquired as to the availability of housing rehabilitation funding; one resident commented after watching the FB ppt video that she supported expanded outdoor recreational opportunities, especially the bike way/walk way at Senior Center.

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 preserve and produce affordable housing, to improve parks and expand recreational opportunities, to improve safety and capacity of non-profit facilities, and to provide essential human services.

The Process

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

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

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
Lead Agency	City of Chicopee	Community Development Department
CDBG Administrator	City of Chicopee	Community Development Department
HOME Administrator	Holyoke-Chicopee- Westfield Consortium	Lead- City of Holyoke 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

For information about the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan or the Community Development Planning process, please contact
 Kathleen Lingenberg, CD Administrator
 413-594-1490
 Klingenberg@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 City departments, local businesses, regional planning and economic development agencies, and non-profit organizations serving city residents. The goal of the consultations is to identify program and projects that respond to identified community needs. The consultations were conducted through a variety of methods including interdepartmental coordination, active participation in regional councils and planning entities, one-on-one interviews, and public hearings. Given the public health restrictions, individual consultations were conducted with community partners and hearings were held virtually.

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 and subsequent Annual Action Plans, coordinates many of the housing, planning, and homelessness initiatives within the city. Through a network of providers funded with CDBG public service dollars, the City intends to respond to emerging needs and shifts in funding and or eligibility.

The City also engaged with the Chicopee Housing Authority and Wayfinders, Inc. as operators of public housing and administrators for rental assistance programs. Additionally, the City collaborates with our consortium partners – Holyoke and Westfield- as well as the City of Springfield. Smaller communities are consulted through staff participation in the Regional Housing Task Force and Pioneer Valley Planning Working groups.

Human Services providers such the Council on Aging, the Boys and Girls Club, Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, and the Valley Opportunity Council as the Community Action Agency serving Chicopee, are in regular communication with the Department regarding the needs and services for the city's low and moderate income persons.

In addition the City engaged with the Woman Shelter and Mental Health Association as agencies that are part of the Western Mass Continuum of Care.

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.

Department staff participates on the regional homeless Continuum of Care (CoC). The active participation within the leadership of the CoC provides continued opportunities to coordinate efforts with relevant agencies serving persons experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The City continues to support the development of affordable housing, especially those with meet identified needs. The Department will continue to seek opportunities to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

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 Community Development Administrator serves on the Board of the regional Continuum of Care. Although the City of Chicopee does not receive ESG directly, the City does participate in setting goals and funding allocations within the Western Mass Continuum of Care.

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Care Center , Inc
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services – Children Services- Homeless Families Services - Education Services - Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of the challenges of providing services that lead to self-sufficiency to single parent households. Employment opportunities and childcare limitations are especially challenging. Virtual learning due to public health restrictions has increased length of time in programs.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Valley Opportunity Council, Inc
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Children Services - Elderly Persons Services - Education Services - Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Provision of Community Needs assessment. Discussion of emerging needs to address crisis of housing stability, childcare, and food insecurity. Continued focus on meeting those immediate needs. Adjustments necessary to safely resume services.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Boys And Girls Club
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Children Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of the Capital needs and the impact on expansion of programming. Delays in launching music program but commitment to offer when appropriate. Discussion of expanding program opportunities to include robotics

4	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 elder needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of the growing number of elders with multiple needs. Effective participation with other agencies to insure maximum benefit to elders. Focus on health, exercise and movement programs to meet the needs of a more active elder population. Agency is evaluating continuation of a meals program, post pandemic. Anticipated outcome is funding for expansion of elder fitness trail and ongoing support of healthy meal program.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Womanshelter Companeras, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Children Services - Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of on-going need for emergency shelter for DV families. Anticipated outcome is likely to be continued support for shelter funding.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Service- Youth Services - Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy Food Insecurity

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion on growing number of households experiencing food insecurity. Agency is actively engaged with VOC on coordinated mobile pantry distribution. Anticipated Outcome is an operational mobile pantry.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Mental Health Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - homeless Services - Education Services - Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of existing supported housing properties that are in need of rehabilitation as well. As a result of consultation, the agency is likely to seek facilities funding from CDBG resources. Identify opportunities to enhance the lives of MHA program participants.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Food Bank of Western Ma.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Services-Youth Services – Health Regional Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy Food Insecurity
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of the Food Banks relocation to Chicopee. Opportunities to support existing organizations and to expand services. Anticipated outcome is city support for relocation efforts.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Revitalize CDC

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services – Housing Regional Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of the opportunity to address housing conditions and partner with HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes. Anticipated outcome is continuation of funding for critical repairs
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Department Of Public Works
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Internet/ wi fi/ infrastructure Other- Public Infrastructure
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion with the Department regarding opportunities to coordinate with infrastructure improvements, which lead to further extension of Elder Fitness Trail.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion the Parks Department regarding the opportunities to support inclusive recreational opportunities. The anticipated outcome is redevelopment of at Lincoln Grove Park to include inclusive equipment and expansion of circuit style fitness trail at Senior Center.

12	Agency/Group/Organization	Polish National Credit Union
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Foundation Major Employer Private Sector Banking / Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion regarding housing market and escalating values that make HOME program prices limits a detriment to providing Buyer assistance in current market. Seek opportunities to create affordable homeownership.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Springfield- Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Focus remains on safely serving persons experiencing homelessness during the pandemic
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Western MA COVID Task Force

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Housing Services - Housing Services - homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ongoing meetings around delivery of services during the pandemic. Issues of isolation, delivery of vaccinations and of addressing housing insecurity. Anticipated outcome is the continued involvement and coordination.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Foundation Major Employers
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion of the challenges for businesses throughout the pandemic – need to have service to support business to access funds. Also launch of the Downtown market to address healthy food access.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Economic Development Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Major Employers Private Sector Banking / Financing

What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development
Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Assistance available to support business development and growth that leads to living wage employment. Anticipated outcome is the continued partnership to evaluate and assist potential business expansions.

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

All agencies 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 allocates funding to creation of employment, job training and economic opportunities, affordable housing, and emergency services.

Table 3 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

In accordance with HUD’s guidance, the City undertook an extensive effort to obtain input into existing community needs and opportunities to improve the lives of low and moderate income persons.

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 full implementation of the intended Citizens Participation was not possible due to the social distancing practices required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City was able to utilize community access presentations, the City's web page, and social media including Facebook to conduct "public hearings"

Despite the required revisions, 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.

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 Annual Action Plan 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.

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	Social media / Virtual Posting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Comment period is open until April 30, 2021	Power point summary of Action Plan posted on department page on March 30 and on City FB page on April 7 th .	One comment received supporting expanded outdoor recreational options.	
2	Notice of Public posting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Comment period is open until April 30, 2021	The City posted the draft plan on webpage on April 1	No comments were received.	
3	Virtual/ Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Comment period is open until April 30, 2021	Two Zoom Public hearing on the CDBG FY 2021-2022 were conducted on April 8 th and 14 th	One Zoom participant inquired about the availability of housing rehab funding.	

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Based upon the federal allocations were released by HUD, the City anticipates \$1,22,026 in CDBG and \$294,868 in HOME funds. Given the ongoing demand of funding to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the City does not anticipate program income or prior year resources to be available for CDBG and only \$5,000 in HOME program income.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				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	1,228,026 REVISED \$1,246,122 (revised due to HUD calculation error)	\$0	\$0	\$1,228,026 REVISED on 5.17.2021 \$ 1,246, 122	\$3,684,078	Annual Entitlement funds

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	Public-federal	Affordable Housing	\$294,868	\$5000	\$0	\$299,868	\$884,604	Entitlement funds

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

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 this Annual Action Plan period:

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 are leveraged by funded Public Service providers.

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

The City intends to dispose of surplus municipal property to further housing and economic development opportunities. While the redevelopment may not be achieved in the 2021-2022 program year, the redevelopment of the Southwick Street School, formerly known as Belcher School is underway

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 population 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	Planning and Administration	2021	2022	Planning and Admin	NA	Economic Development Safe Affordable Housing Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure Public Services	CDBG: \$198,026 HOME : \$17,868	Other: o Other
2	Section 108 Loan Payment	2021	2022	Non-Homeless Special Needs	West End	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$365,000	Other: o Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Affordable Housing	2021	2022	Affordable Housing Homeless	City wide	Safe Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$95,000 HOME: \$282,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit Energy Efficiency improvements to 50 households Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 4 Households Rental units produced 8 units Homeownership units produced 1
4	Public Facilities / Non profit	2021	2022	Non-Homeless Special Needs	City wide	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$75,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1 facilities/ 50 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Public Parks and Open Space	2021	2022	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Chicopee Falls	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$325,000 REVISED TO \$343,096 due to change in HUD allocation	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted
6	Public Services	2021	2022	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	City wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$170,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted

Table 2 - Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	The funding necessary to properly administer Community Development Block grant funds.
2	Goal Name	Section 108 Loan Payment
	Goal Description	Funding for the anticipated payment of the Section 108 loan. Loan proceeds were used in the development of Senior Center
3	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	CDBG Funding to address emergency repairs, to provide energy improvements and to oversee the Buyer Assistance program. HOME funds to produce rental and homeownership units
4	Goal Name	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Funds to support capital improvements of property owned /utilized by Nonprofit organizations

5	Goal Name	Public Parks and Open Space
	Goal Description	Funding to create an inclusive Park at Lincoln Grove.
6	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Funds to a variety of non-profit community based human service providers

Table 3 – Goal Descriptions

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 anticipates that in new housing units the city will serve 8 low income households and 5 moderate income households.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

The final allocation of entitlement resources is reflective of the Community development needs and investment opportunities.

#	Project Name	Description
1	Planning and Administration	Oversight of program and planning for investments
2	Section 108 Loan Payment	Payment of loan from Senior Center Development
3	Public Park	Installation of inclusive play equipment at Lincoln Grove
4	Non-Profit Capital Improvement Program	Improve Non-profit owned facilities
5	Housing	Existing Homeowner Assistance programs
6	Housing	Affordable Housing Production
7	Housing	Homebuyer Program
8	Public Services	Range of human services
9	Public Service	Community Service- COVID 19 response

Table 4 – Project Information

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

The City’s priorities regardless of funding amount remain the payment of the Section 108 loan for the Senior Center. Absent a CDBG commitment, the debt would need to be from a general government source. The Section 108 payment requires 30 % of the Entitlement funds.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Planning and Administration
	Target Area	NA
	Goals Supported	Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning and Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$198,026 HOME:\$17,868
	Description	Funds necessary to properly administer the CDBG and HOME programs.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The CDBG program is anticipated to assist over 1,000 low income households
	Location Description	NA
	Planned Activities	Planning and Administration of the programs
2	Project Name	Section 108 Loan Payment
	Target Area	West End
	Goals Supported	Section 108 Loan Payment
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$365,000
	Description	Funds to pay the debt service on the 108 loan used to develop the Senior Center
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Senior Center services hundreds of elderly households annually.
	Location Description	5 West Main St., Chicopee
	Planned Activities	Pay debt
3	Project Name	Public Parks
	Target Area	Chicopee Falls
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure

	Needs Addressed	Public Parks and Open Space
	Funding	CDBG: \$325,000 REVISED TO \$343,096
	Description	Funding to improve to create an inclusive play area at Lincoln Grove
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	400
	Location Description	Lincoln Grove, Chicopee
	Planned Activities	Installation of play scape and equipment to make an inclusive play scape at Lincoln Grove.
4	Project Name	Non-Profit Capital Improvement Program
	Target Area	TBD
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure
	Funding	\$75,000
	Description	Funds to support capital improvements at properties utilized by Non-profits to provide services to low and moderate income persons
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimated that funds will assist 1 Non-profits that provide services to over 50 households
5	Project Name	Housing/ Existing Homeowner Assistance
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Safe Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$85,000

	Description	CDBG funds to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency improvements (VOC) – 50 households • Emergency Repairs- (Revitalize CDC) 5 household
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50 low income (heating system program); low income (5 emergency repairs)
	Location Description	TBD
	Planned Activities	Funding to improve housing conditions for low income homeowners
6	Project Name	Housing / Affordable Housing Production
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Production
	Funding	HOME: \$237,000
	Description	Financing for the production of affordable housing
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	9
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	HOME funds to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental Production of 8 units • Homeownership of 1 unit Provision of financing to produce 8 units of rental and 1 unit of Homeownership housing
7	Project Name	Housing/Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Target Area	CDBG Target Areas
	Goals Supported	Housing
	Needs Addressed	Expand homeownership
	Funding	HOME: \$ 45,000 CDBG: \$10,000

	Description	Operation of first time homebuyer program and provision of direct assistance to eligible households
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4
	Location Description	TBD within target areas
	Planned Activities	Provision of homebuyer assistance to eligible households
8	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$155,000
	Description	Range of human services
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	500
	Location Description	City wide

	Planned Activities	<p>Food Insecurity- Delivery of meals, operation of brown bag distribution, and food pantry services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorraine’s Food Pantry/ Food Distribution \$15,000 • West Mass Elder Care/Meal Program \$40,000 • Council on Aging/ Lunch Program \$7,000 <p>Education and Employment – provision of GED and Adult education services, programming for education and employment readiness for teen parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Center/ GED workforce Prep \$20,000 • Valley Opp Council / Adult Education \$20,000 <p>Homeless Services- funding to support homeless shelter for Domestic Violence survivors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woman Shelter \$16,000 <p>Youth Services- programming at Boys and Girls Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys and Girls Club/ Robotics \$15,000 <p>Elder Services- programming at Senior Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Center / Exercise Program \$18,000
9	Project Name	Community Services
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,000
	Description	TBD
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	100
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	Set aside of funding to address emerging needs resulting from COVID 19.

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 1 is allocated to projects that are within CDBG eligible areas. 30% of the CDBG funding is expended to make payment on Section 108 borrowing for the Senior Center located in a target neighborhood. 26% is allocated to park improvements in Chicopee Falls, a CDBG eligible area.

Public service activities, which account for 14% of funding, are operated based upon the eligibility of the person/household, not through geographic targeting.

HOME Affordable Housing Production will be based upon developer submission. HOME Homebuyer Assistance funds will be targeted to the three lower-income neighborhoods - Chicopee Center, Chicopee Falls, and Willimansett.

Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The targeting of CDBG funds is a result of the need to support the existing Section 108 loan for the Senior Center

The rationale for HOME program homeownership geographic targeting is the goal to increase homeownership in the neighborhoods with the lowest homeownership rates.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing -91.420, 91.220(j)

Introduction

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 most significant opportunity is the creation of Housing Development zones that permit not only high-density zoning but also government assistance in the form of tax incentives to produce safe, affordable housing. In the past two years, the City has adopted one Housing Development Incentive Zone (HDIP) and has a second HDIP zone has been submitted to the State for consideration.

Additional factors that impact the production of Affordable Housing include:

- Costs associated with Mass Building Code;
- Hazards in the built environment such as lead paint;
- Cost of redevelopment of mills and brownfield sites.

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 proposes the following actions to lessen the impact of public policies that represent barriers to affordable housing development:

- Participation on a regional level to encourage greater housing opportunities. In the prior year, the City had expended fund complete a Regional Assessment of Fair Housing. The Plan calls for expanding affordable housing options and support increased capacity for small rental properties.
- Utilization of Tax-title and/or Municipal Properties to expand housing and economic opportunities designed to increase resident income. The City continues its efforts to redevelop Brownfields and surplus City property.
- Utilize HOME funds to insure affordable housing units are not lost.
- Provide Down Payment and Closing Cost assistance to enable low and moderate income buyers to achieve homeownership.
- Support the redevelopment of Housing Development Incentive Zones that encourage high density land use.

Discussion

The City takes an active, on-going role in the expansion of affordable housing. These efforts seek to preserve the existing inventory of affordable housing; produce additional affordable housing units through zoning, tax incentives, and HOME financing; and improve access through community education to both rental property owners and residents.

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

Introduction

The activities selected for funding in this program year 2021-2022 (Year 2 of the approved Consolidated Plan) are those projects that meet a priority need, are ready to proceed, and are likely to provide immediate benefits to low and moderate income persons. Eligible projects include payment on the Section 108 loan specific to the Senior Center development, the successful Non-Profit Capital Improvement, improvement to Public parks and recreational areas, affordable housing development, funding to improve owner-occupied housing, first-time homebuyer assistance, and support to non-profit for the provision of services to low and moderate income persons.

After the allocation of funds necessary to administrate the programs (Planning and Administration) and loan payments under the Senior Center 108 loan, priorities were identified through a two methodologies. Eligible activities were selected internally through inter-departmental requests sought to identify opportunities for coordination and externally by extending currently funded public service programs. Given the evolving program operational changes under COVID 19 health restrictions, the City replaced its formal RFP process and permitted each funded public service provider to submit an Extension Plan. The existing network of providers had continued to meet need in a safe, public health compliant method; therefore extending those operations was deemed more appropriate than soliciting for new programs. New initiatives will have opportunity to seek funds as the City recovers from the pandemic.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Many of the agencies providing direct care report that the demand far exceeds available resources. This has been especially acute as the City continues to adhere to public health restrictions of the global pandemic. Given the great challenges in the current year, public service providers were given the opportunity to extend their currently operating programs into the 21-22 program year.

The City additionally seeks to expand the availability of affordable housing, which is a well-documented community need. Through the provision of HOME financing and tax incentives and the reuse of city surplus property for the production of affordable housing, the City has added to its Affordable Housing Inventory. In the current year, the City has allocated funds to two projects- one rental and one homeownership- and to the first-time homebuyers.

The City has supported and will continue to support the Continuum of Care efforts and programs. The City's Community Development Administrator serves on the Board of Directors of the CoC.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

One of the City's highest priorities is the preservation and production of affordable housing. The City's membership within the Holyoke-Chicopee-Westfield Consortium provides access to HOME funding to address this goal. To date, the City has successfully maintained its inventory of affordable housing, despite some projects reaching the end of their period of affordability. By monitoring the Affordable Housing Inventory, the CD staff is aware of and able to be pro-active on any units at risk.

In response to the goal of affordable housing development, the City additionally has established high density zones and tax incentives that we hope will yield results.

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. The program is currently under-utilized as the market values exceed HOME allowable purchase price limits. The City has also established a general government funded program providing financial assistance to purchasers of three family properties.

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 public funding for lead abatement Program, 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.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The Action Plan includes funding of public service programs that support self-sufficiency.

The City will continue to actively ensure that anti-poverty programs operated by the Valley Opportunity Council, the recognized community action agency, will continue to be provided to Chicopee residents.

The City is an active member of the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County and will continue to support job training and employment readiness programs.

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 the current year, the City intends to launch a heating system repair program with referrals from those three municipal departments. The program will complement the federal Heating system replacement program operated by the Valley Opportunity Council. In addition to the essential services provided by these programs, the Chicopee Housing Authority plays a key role in the 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

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$0,000
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	0
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. 2019, 2020, 2021	90.00%

Appendices

Citizen Participation

SF-424 and Certifications