

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, the City of Chicopee had undertaken a citizen's participation process to identify community needs and investment opportunities. Federal resources- CDBG and HOME – are allocated to respond to those identified needs. This Annual Action is the third year of the five year Consolidated Plan cycle. This Annual Action plan allocates the federal funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

At time of original publication (April 1, 2022) the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has not yet provided the final budget numbers, the City had anticipated level funding of \$1,246,122 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$294,868 in HOME Partnership funds. On May 16, 2022, the final numbers were published; the city adjusted to the final allocations of \$1,164,485 in CDBG and \$310,565.25 in HOME.

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:

- Expand recreational options through investment in public parks and recreational facilities;
- Continue to supporting businesses through the provision of technical assistance and access to capital;
- Address the housing crisis through programs that reducing housing cost burdens, improve housing conditions, and increase the availability of affordable housing;
- Support human service agencies to address the needs of vulnerable populations; 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 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 past few years, the City has utilized CDBG, HOME, and CDBG-Covid funds to respond to the pandemic. Prior to the release of CDBG-CV funds the City shifted resources to respond to small businesses in desperate need of operating assistance. With those reallocated funds, the City assisted 21 businesses. When CDBG-CV funds were granted, the City went on to assist an additional 39 businesses. CDBG and CDBG-CV were also used to directly respond the non-profit organizations need to improve their facilities- air quality, contactless services- and to individuals in dire need to housing stabilization and food security. While CDBG-CV funds are nearly exhausted, the City continues to focus its resources- within this plan and in the ARPA allocation- on recovery and resiliency.

During the program year 2022-2023, the City proposes to focus its investments on priority needs and provide oversight to ensure compliant implementation of projects and programs. In addition to the annual allocation of CDBG and HOME funds, the City will implement a HOME APR program in the 2022-2023 program year.

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, participation in regional planning taskforces, and with Chicopee residents. Efforts were greatly expanded through the American Recovery Plan Act community-engagement process that was led by the Community Development Department. That ARPA engagement effort received direct response from nearly 200 Chicopee residents, who overwhelming sought investment in public infrastructure, public spaces, and economic recovery.

Within Section AP10, the City details the agencies and organizations consulted prior to the allocation of resources. In addition, the Community Development Department expanded our efforts to engage residents through the use of social media and virtual hearings as part of our community needs assessment. Hearings on community need were held in person on December 8, virtually on December 14, and during a technical assistance workshop on January 11, 2022.

The City broadly advertised the availability of the draft plan, posted a power point summary on the Community Development's Department page, and conducted an in-person hearing on April 6, 2022 and virtual hearing on April 12, 2022. Notice of the hearings were advertised in area newspapers, emailed notices to over 30 community-based organizations, and posting of flyers at City Hall and Central Library.

The draft Action Plan was released as well as published on the City's website on April 1. Comments were accepted until May 3, 2022.

5. Summary of public comments

Comments were accepted until May 3, 2022. While no comments were specific to the Action Plan, participants in the community engagement efforts supported the focus on improving infrastructure and public spaces, producing additional housing, and support for vulnerable populations.

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 2020-2025. Consistent with the City's Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action plan allocates resources to invest in public spaces, improve energy conservation and resiliency of our housing stock, to provide essential human services, and with the addition of HOME ARP funds to expand our response to person experiencing homelessness.

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 these federal funds CDBG. In this program year, the Community Development Department will continue implementation and oversight of the CARES Act-CDBG-CV funds and initiate activities with the HOME APR funds.

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 public engagement process for American Recovery Plan Act funds (ARPA) which was coordinated by the Community Development Department provided additional input on community needs and priorities.

The goal of the agency consultations is to identify program and projects that respond to identified community needs, especially projects that are ready to proceed. The consultations were conducted through a variety of methods including interdepartmental meetings, active participation in regional councils and taskforces, one-on-one interviews, and public hearings.

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

The City's traditional coordination with the affordable housing providers, services providers, and government entities had been augmented with regional taskforces and working groups that had come together to respond to the pandemic. The Community Development Department has been an active participant over the past few years in these virtual meetings where over 60 agencies and organizations work to coordinate COVID 19 response. The groups remain engaged on quantifying community need and developing appropriate coordinated responses. The development of this Annual Action Plan benefited from those consistent, coordinated efforts.

Additionally, the City has led efforts for organizations to partner in efforts to address critical issues such as food insecurity, health services, and housing. The City has hosted inter-agency meetings to encourage increased coordination. The City has also joined with advocacy efforts at the state level addressing the allocation of State, CDBG-CV, and ARPA funds. These efforts are already yielding results- a mobile food pantry and an anticipated street outreach program. Efforts continue to incentivize affordable housing providers to create designated units for hard to house populations.

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 receipt of HOME-ARP funds provide an opportunity to address barriers to CoC Coordinated entry and to produce dedicated units for HOME-ARP qualified populations. The City will utilize HOME-ARP funds to these identified needs.

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 Western MA Continuum of Care. In that role, the Administrator is able to advocate for programs and activities to meet the needs of Chicopee residents experiencing homelessness. The City of Chicopee does not receive ESG directly; this active participation is the opportunity to assist in the allocation of ESG and the operation and administration of regional HMIS.

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

	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty</p>
	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Discussion of the challenges of providing services that lead to self-sufficiency to single parent households. Employment opportunities and childcare limitations are especially challenging. Post pandemic need to reengage and provide meaningful opportunity. Anticipated outcome is continued City support.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>Valley Opportunity Council, Inc</p>
	<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Housing Services - Housing Services - Children Services - Elderly Persons Services - Education Services – Employment Services- Narrowing the Digital Divide</p>
	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs- Chronically Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy</p>
	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Agency was consulted one on one with Executive Director and Senior staff. Provision of Community Needs assessment. Discussion of post pandemic needs to increase and improve housing opportunities including provision of fast, affordable internet within its housing portfolio, address folks living unhoused, and create pathways to self-sufficiency and equity. Anticipated outcome is HOME ARP and ARPA funding to achieve goals.</p>

3	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Boys And Girls Club
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services – Children Service- Education 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?	Agency was consulted one on one with Executive Director. Discussion of the Capital needs and the impact potential of expanded space/ programming as a result of CDBG-CV funding and ARPA funds for Infrastructure and Resiliency. Anticipated Outcomes is the release of ARPA funds to support resiliency improvements and continued support for programming.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Council On Aging
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Services - Persons with Disabilities Services- Narrowing the Digital Divide 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?	Agency was consulted one on one with Executive Director and Senior staff. Discussion of the growing number of elders with multiple needs. . Focus on health, exercise and movement programs, and addressing the “gray divide” through technology trainings. Anticipated outcome is funding for expansion of elder fitness trail and ongoing support of healthy meal program.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Alianza
	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 permanent affordable housing options of DV survivors. Anticipated outcomes are service funding through CDBG and HOME ARP and support for DV unit creation within the Continuum of Care process.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Services- Persons with Disabilities 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 that need experienced during the height of pandemic as not abated. The Mobile pantry has been well received and has connected persons living unhoused with providers. Also, facility improvements are still needed. Anticipated Outcome is facility improvements.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Mental Health Association, Inc
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Persons with Disabilities Services – homeless Services- Health 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 and need to expand supportive housing given the number of persons who are experiencing housing instability. Anticipated Outcome is continuation of focus on improving existing properties and identification of options for expanded supportive housing opportunities.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Food Bank of Western MA.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Elderly Persons Services-Children 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 Bank status of relocation and opportunities to support existing organizations to expand services. Discussion of success of mobile pantry operations and continued need. 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 Lead-based Paint Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Other: Resiliency

	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 complexity of implementation of housing rehabilitation efforts/ HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes and potential use of ARPA funds to assist in energy conservation and resiliency of housing stock. Anticipated outcome is implementation of an ARPA funded program that is focused on housing resiliency.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Department Of Public Works
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Narrowing Digital Divide Agency- management of Flood Prone Areas Agency- Emergency Management Agency- Management of public Land/Water Resources Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Internet/ wi fi/ infrastructure Other- Public Infrastructure Other: Resiliency
	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 with the ARPA funded resiliency homeowner program. Additional coordination for neighborhood focused improvements and clean-up.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Youth Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty

	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Discussion of Park’s Capital plan and desire to create a “template” for inclusive play. Post pandemic focus on creating outdoor spaces and expanded recreational options. The anticipated outcome is continued investment in the redevelopment of at Lincoln Grove Park to include inclusive equipment and expansion of circuit style fitness trail at Senior Center.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>Department of Planning and Development</p>
	<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Other: Local Government Services- Broadband Internet Service Providers Services- Narrowing the Digital Divide Services – Management of Public Land/water Resources</p>
	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Other- Public Infrastructure Other : Resiliency Other: Internet/ wi fi/ infrastructure</p>
	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Discussion of resiliency efforts and opportunities – resiliency of housing stock, public buildings, and places. New initiatives at federal and state level and opportunities to use CDBG funds to leverage these new resources. Anticipated outcome is targeting of resources to decrease energy cost, increase energy efficiency, and improve resiliency.</p>

13	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Springfield- Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services - Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services- Domestic Violence Services – homeless Regional Organization
	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?	Critical need to expand housing opportunities as the current market conditions have increasingly limited housing for extremely low income households. Post pandemic foreclosures continue, resulting in increased housing instability. Anticipated outcome is to the allocation of HOME-ARP to address housing production goals and to provide housing stabilization services.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Western MA Network to End Homelessness
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services – homeless Regional Organization Planning Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Needs Assessment 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?	Network members are focused on the unique opportunities presented by the new resources. Identify sites and providers to develop range of housing options as well as delivery of resources and programs to assist households to remain securely housed. Anticipated outcome is continued participation and support for the Network’s advocacy efforts.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Chicopee Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Foundation Major Employers
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-Poverty
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussion with Executive Director and Board Members as well as participation in public hearings. Focus on addressing labor shortage and need for business efficiency improvements. Impact of lack of housing on recruitment and retention of employees. Anticipated Outcome is support and funding for technical assistance and business support.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services- Education Service- Employment Regional Organization Planning Organization Business and Civic Leaders Private Sector Banking / Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis 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?	Discussion with Senior Staff on need to provide assistance to micro-business in order for those entities to access the pandemic recovery resources. Anticipated Outcome is support and funding for technical assistance.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional Organization Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Needs 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?	Participation in regional housing taskforce that analyzed data on housing need and production as well as establishment of housing goals. Identification of housing crisis at all price points. Anticipated outcome is continued repurposing of City surplus properties for housing.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Polish National Credit Union
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing 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 with Senior Staff on ARPA Advisory committee regarding programs to make impactful loans/grants to small businesses. Anticipated outcome is utilization of CDBG and ARPA to support Chicopee businesses.

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.
Phase 2: Housing Access Study	PVPC	The Phase 2 study expands on the housing and economic baseline data towards a discussion of housing gaps, production, and Covid-19 impacts.

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 invest CDBG and HOME funds in a coordinated manner 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 City implemented its full Citizen Participation plan and sought to broaden participation by providing virtual hearings at each step in the process. Through a consultations and two Community Needs hearings, the City was able to establish Action Plan priorities and identified opportunities to leverage investments. The publication of notice for citizen's input on social media and the opportunity to participate virtually were efforts to broaden citizen's participation.

While the establishment of priorities was essential to goal setting, the City's goals and resulting investments required knowledge and coordination with the significant federal and state resources dedicated to pandemic recovery. The Community Development Department's active role in the ARPA funds community engagement and allocation process strengthened the goal setting process.

Efforts were made to coordinate with the Chicopee Housing Authority plan, which primarily focused on improving their existing portfolio. Where possible, improvement of public spaces and parks would benefit neighborhoods in which the CHA has housing units. The

The extensive, coordinated citizen participation process enabled the City to establish Annual Action Plan goals that capitalized on existing networks, leveraged new resources, and focused 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/ newspaper ad/ flyers	Non-targeted/ broad community	In-person hearing on 12.8. 2021 attended by 2 participants; Virtual hearing on 12.14.2021 attended by 5 participants	Hearings were designed to gain input on community need and opportunities to coordinate responses. Participants identified affordable housing crisis, shortage of childcare, need for technical assistance for businesses to access federal and state funds.	All comments were accepted.	
2	Notice / Public posting/ flyers	Non-targeted/ broad community	Power point presentation and draft plan posted on web on 4.1.2022	Positive response to focus on expanding recreational options.	All comments were accepted.	
3	Newspaper ad/ flyers/ Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	In person presentation /hearing on for 4.6.2022; Virtual presentation /hearing held on 4.12 2022	Questions regarding detailed use of HOME ARP funds; support for business assistance programs	All comments were accepted.	

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

At time of publication, HUD had not yet released the final allocations but provided guidance that Entitlement Communities should anticipate level funding. The City therefore initially released the Action Plan allocating \$1,246,122 in CDBG and \$294,868 in HOME funds. The final allocations were released by HUD on May 16, 2022. The funding levels which the City is projected to receive are \$1,164,485 in CDBG and \$310,565.25 in HOME.

The City additionally anticipated \$525,000 in prior-year funds for the CDBG program and \$1,300,000 in HOME. Additionally, the City anticipates \$5,000 in HOME program income.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				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	1,164,485	\$0	\$525,000	\$1,689,485	\$2,450,000	Annual Entitlement funds And unexpended prior year funds in the amount of \$525,000

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	Public-federal	Affordable Housing	\$310,565.	\$5,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,615,565.	\$589,736	Entitlement funds, unexpended prior year money, and program income received from affordable housing loan payments.

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.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA): The City has received \$38,000,000 in ARPA funds to invest in eligible project and programs. The City initial investments of \$9,000,000 have been in infrastructure, resiliency, and equity-focused projects.

Affordable Housing Resources: Affordable Housing Developments are likely to utilize a variety of State Housing Resources including MA 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: Federal (Section 8) and State (MRVP) rental assistance programs are available in Chicopee. Each program had both project-based and mobile certificates. Programs are administered by the Chicopee Housing Authority and by Wayfinders, a regional housing administrator formerly known as HAP.

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 of the Southwick St School may not be achieved in the 2022-2023 program year, the project is underway. The City has also granted preferred developer status and a conditional commitment of HOME funds to a housing developer who is proposing a multi-use redevelopment of the Baskin property. The proposed reuse will include 101 housing units.

Discussion

The priorities identified within the Five year Consolidated Plan are the outcome of an extensive, comprehensive effort. This Action Plan represents the third year of public investment in the furtherance of the City's goal to invest in public spaces, the production of affordable housing, and programs that support low-income persons.

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	2022	2023	Planning and Admin	NA	Economic Development Safe Affordable Housing Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure Public Services	CDBG: \$203,000 HOME: \$19,349.	Other: o Other
2	Section 108 Loan Payment	2022	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	West End	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$365,000	Other: o Other
3	Affordable Housing	2022	2023	Affordable Housing Homeless	City wide	Safe Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$50,000 HOME: \$1,576,865	Energy Efficiency improvements to 100 households Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 2 Households Rental units produced 21 units Homeownership units produced 1

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Public Facilities / Non profit	2022	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs	City wide	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$385,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3 facilities/75 Persons Assisted
5	Public Parks and Open Space	2022	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Chicopee Falls	Public Facilities, Parks and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$173,485	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted
6	Public Services	2022	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	City wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$163,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted
7	Economic Development	2022	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	City Wide	Economic Development/ job creation	CDBG \$350,000	Technical Assistance to 10 businesses; 3 jobs created

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 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 the City and/or Nonprofit organizations
5	Goal Name	Public Parks and Open Space
	Goal Description	Funding to continue improvements at Fitness Trail.
6	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Funds to a variety of non-profit community based human service providers
7	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Funds to provide technical assistance to small businesses; Funds to support operations and improvements to create or retain jobs.

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 has a portfolio of HOME-funded projects that continue to provide safe affordable housing to eligible households. The City estimates that 45 households are provided affordable housing annually. The extremely low income are estimated at 20 units; appx. 25 units are restricted to low-income households.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

Projects selected for inclusion within the 2022-2023 Action Plan represent those that are required – Grant Administration (#1) and Senior Center 108 Loan (#2); projects that represent funds necessary to honor commitments- Inclusive Playground (#3) and Affordable Housing Production (#6); projects that provide funding for on-going impactful programs- Non Profit Capital Improvement (#4), Homeowner Heating System program (#5), and Economic Development activities (# 9)

#	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	Expansion of Fitness Trail
4	Non-Profit Capital Improvement Program	Improve Publically or 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	Economic Development	Technical and operating assistance to create/retain jobs

Table 4 – Project Information

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

The City’s priority 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. Although the Senior Center Section 108 loan payment requires 30 % of the Annual Entitlement funds, this public facility continues to provide and indeed has expanded essential services to elderly persons.

Ensuring existing programs continue to operate is the second priority for funding allocations, and honoring the prior year commitments, necessary in larger affordable

housing is another reason for the proposed allocations.

Lack of resources is less of an issue – due to State and Federal Recovery funds- but coordinate of these resources to be non-duplicative and impactful is challenging. Increasing cost and the capacity also impact the ability to tackle parks, facility, and infrastructure projects.

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: \$203,000 HOME:\$19,349.
	Description	Funds necessary to properly administer the CDBG and HOME programs.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	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	6/30/2023
	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: \$173,485
	Description	Funding to extend Fitness Trail
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	200
	Location Description	Lincoln Grove, Chicopee
	Planned Activities	Installation of play scape and equipment to complete 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	\$385,000
	Description	Funds to support capital improvements at properties utilized by Non-profits to provide services to low and moderate income persons
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Estimated that funds will assist 3 Non-profits that provide services to over 75 households
5	Project Name	Housing/ Existing Homeowner Assistance
	Target Area	City Wide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Safe Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	CDBG funds to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency improvements (VOC) – 100 households • Program Delivery for Housing programs (City)

	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	100 low income (heating system program);
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	Funding to improve energy efficiency /housing affordability 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: \$1,560,365.
	Description	Financing for the production of affordable housing
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	22
	Location Description	Southwick St School- 10 Southwick St Singing Bridge/ Baskin Property- 0 West Main St Homeownership- TBD
	Planned Activities	HOME funds to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental Production of 21 units Homeownership of 1 unit Provision of financing to produce 21 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: \$ 16,500
	Description	Operation of first time homebuyer program and provision of direct assistance to eligible households

	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2
	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: \$163,000
	Description	Range of human services
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	500
	Location Description	City wide
	Planned Activities	<p>Food Insecurity- Provision of meals and food pantry services provided by Lorraines (\$15,000) WestMass Elder Care (\$30,000), Center Fresh Market (\$15,000) and Council on Aging (\$14,000)</p> <p>Education and Employment – provision of GED, and Adult education services, and employment readiness provided by Care Center (\$20,000) and VOC (\$20,000)</p> <p>Homeless Services- funding for Domestic Violence survivors shelter and Services provided by Alianza (\$16,000)</p> <p>Youth Services- After School programs provided by Boys and Girls Club (\$15,000)</p> <p>Elder Services- health and wellness programming at Senior Center (\$18,000).</p>
9	Project Name	Economic Development
	Target Area	City-wide

Goals Supported	Economic Development
Needs Addressed	Economic Development
Funding	CDBG: \$350,000
Description	TBD
Target Date	6/30/2023
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	10 business/ 3 jobs available to low income persons
Location Description	City wide
Planned Activities	Provision of technical and financial support to small business to support the creation/retention of jobs

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

Until the Senior Center 108 loan is repaid (FY 2031), nearly 30% of the annual Entitlement ward of CDBG funding is dedicated to the project, located in Chicopee Falls. The “Falls” is also the neighborhood in which the Inclusive Park and both Housing Production projects are located.

Other CDBG-eligible activities are based upon beneficiaries versus geographic targeting. The Capital Improvement program, Business Assistance program, Home Heating System Improvement program are City-wide but must directly benefit CDBG eligible households.

Likewise, Public service activities, which account for appx 15% of funding, are operated based upon the eligibility of the person/household, not through geographic targeting.

The HOME-Funded Buyer assistance program not only targets eligible households but is restricted to purchases of property in the CDBG target areas.

Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Chicopee has three neighborhoods that are eligible target areas- Chicopee Falls, Chicopee Center, and Willimansett. In this program year, the site specific projects are predominately in Chicopee Falls. This is more a function of the housing projects proposed by private developers.

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

While the City of Chicopee has adopted public policies and programs that encourage residential investment, the regional housing demand has outpaced production. A recent report from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Donahue Institute at UMASS speaks to the need to increase the production of housing at every price point. The report illustrates the provision of housing as key to opportunity.

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 approval.

Raw land and escalating cost are certainly barriers to affordable housing production. Like many older, developed communities, Chicopee's development opportunities are the repurposing of existing structures. The City has strategy has been to prioritize the redevelopment of vacant mills and city-owned surplus 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. The City has engaged in both a Regional Assessment of Fair Housing and in a study of regional housing needs. These Plan calls for expanding housing options at all price points for all incomes.
- 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, and ARPA financing.

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

Introduction

The activities selected for funding in this program year 2022-2023 (Year 3 of the HUD 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, affordable housing development, completion of an inclusive playground, the successful Non-Profit Capital Improvement, and support to non-profit agencies 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 make the required Senior Center 108 loan, the priorities were identified through the Citizen Participation process. Successful programs such as the Non-profit Capital Improvement program, Heating System Repair Program, and the Small business assistance program were provided funds in order to ensure their continuation. Public Service programs were selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City has continued its funding for programs that provide direct need to low income and vulnerable populations while increasing the focus on programs that provide opportunity – education, job training- and that alleviate hardships- affordable housing production, food security, and living wage job creation. Consistent funding for programs with documented impact is one of the primary ways to meet underserved needs.

Transportation and Access to Services are an ongoing obstacles to meeting need. The City has attempted to address this through encouragement of multiple points of service. The Mobile Food Pantry is an example of a collaborative effort to serve people in every neighborhood.

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. Homeless Programs with low barrier entry are a priority for the CoC and the City.

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. Annually, the City commits a large portion of it's of

HOME funds (appx \$250,000) towards the development of new affordable housing units. Currently, the City has two significant production projects awaiting the resource allocations from the State. These two projects- the Southwick St School and the Singing Bridge Project- will produce a 126 new units.

In addition to the housing production projects funded by HOME funds, the City seeks to expand housing opportunity and equity access through the operation of 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.

Two additional resources have been utilized by the City to maintain affordable housing. CDBG funds continue to be dedicated to the Heating System program, which provides fuel assistance eligible households with heating system repairs and replacements. Annually 110 housing units occupied by low-income families are improved through this program. In 2022, the City will launch a Housing Resiliency program utilizing ARPA funds. The program will provide deferred loans to low-income elderly homeowners for roofing and weatherization improvements. The City has committed \$500,000 in ARPA funds towards this resiliency program.

The City additionally has established high density zones and tax incentives that we hope will yield results. The Singing Bridge project (101 units) and the Cabotville Mill project (appx 280 housing units) are possible due to the high density zoning.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Traditionally, the City has sought to reduce lead-based paint hazards through Hazards through the 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.

The City is fortunate to have a federally funded Healthy Homes provider, Revitalize CDC, operating within the City. The City has successfully partnered with Revitalize CDC in prior years and will seek opportunities to support their efforts throughout the year.

With the lifting of public health restrictions on in-person events, the City will also seek to coordinate and sponsor training for General Contractors to become Lead Safe Renovators. The City provided these training in Dec 2019 with 25 contractors participating.

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 City's actions towards reducing the number of families living in poverty focus on both preparing persons for living wage jobs as well as expanding the availability of living wage jobs.

Within the Action Plan, the City funds programs that create a pathway to self-sufficiency. Youth programming, GED prep, and Adult Education programs are included in this plan, the City also uses Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to support the creation of living wage jobs. TIFs require participating agencies to provide Chicopee residents with jobs in order to reap the benefits of tax forgiveness.

In the past year, the City has executed two TIFs that will create 55 living wage jobs.

The City is also 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 but as been augmented by the formation of a COVID Response Team and the ARPA Advisory Committee. Through these community engagement process, the City obtained extensive input on investment strategies- many of which spanned multiple City Departments and community –based organizations. Within this Action Plan, there are two activities that were developed as a result this enhance institutional structure.

In addition to the Community Development Department, Chicopee has departments including the Health Department, the Planning Department, the Council on Aging, and Veterans Services, that deliver direct services. In addition to the essential services provided by these City Departments, the Chicopee Housing Authority and the Valley Opportunity Council play 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.

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. This network has been strengthened through the coordination of the pandemic response and recovery efforts. The City is an engaged participant in the Western MA Covid Task Force and the Task Force to End Homelessness. These groups convene at least monthly to evaluate need data, discuss community response, and assess available resources and capacity. These groups as well as the Western MA CoC have greatly enhanced the coordination of municipalities with community-based organizations including public and private affordable housing providers.

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:	\$0,000

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. 2020, 2021, 2022	90.00%

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Appendices

Citizen Participation

SF-424 and Certifications