

City of Hot Springs, Arkansas

HUD Community Development Block Grant
Entitlement Program



Building Better Neighborhoods



FY 2022 CDBG Annual Action Plan

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

133 Convention Boulevard
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. Introduction

The City of Hot Springs is a recipient of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an entitlement grantee of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG Entitlement program provides annual grants on a formula basis to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

On May 13th, 2022, HUD announced an allocation of \$460,152 in CDBG funding to the City for fiscal year 2022 beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

This Annual Action Plan describes the activities that will be undertaken and how funds will be distributed. As a grantee, HUD requires that the City prepare and submit an Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan is a one-year implementation strategy for each year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan, identifying how the City will meet community development and housing needs. This is the fourth Annual Action Plan of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

The City of Hot Springs Annual Action Plan is designed to be a collaborative process allowing residents to establish a unified vision for community development actions. It offers residents the opportunity to shape various community development initiatives into an effective, coordinated set of strategies that addresses needs and priorities without duplication.

The 2022 Annual Action Plan was duly advertised and made available to all residents for review and comment before consideration by the City Board of Directors and submission to HUD. Questions and comments can be directed to: City of Hot Springs, CDBG - Planning and Development Department, 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, AR 71901 or (501) 321-6855.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Six (6) goals were identified in the amended 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan as amended:

- Create suitable living environments
- Promote decent, affordable housing initiatives
- Encourage economic development and job growth through targeted infrastructure improvements
- Support strategies to stabilize and grow the Gateway and Langston Garden communities
- Provide assistance, support and resources to further fair housing opportunity, expand neighborhood revitalization and strengthen Continuum of Care service efforts
- Prevent and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis

Activities identified in the 2022 Annual Action Plan will implement objectives of the Consolidated Plan. Needs and expected outcomes are described in detail in the AP-35 Projects section of this Annual Action Plan.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The overall strategy of the City of Hot Springs CDBG program has been neighborhood revitalization by reducing unsightly properties and structures and developing vacant lots into public use spaces. Along with this approach, the CDBG program has invested heavily in infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of low-to-moderate income residents including several sidewalk installations, pedestrian safety improvement, and drainage projects. These two approaches are meant to provide a catalyst for further public-private investment in targeted CDBG-eligible areas, and increase pedestrian and bicycle safety and access to community resources including city offices, parks, and other civic centers, commercial districts of Hot Springs, and the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail System.

In FY21, the City of Hot Springs assigned \$369,840.96 towards a quarantine/shelter facility for area homeless and those unable to afford accommodations away from their household. This is paired with \$317,926.00 in FY20 CV-3 funds. These funds will provide for acquisition, design, and construction costs to build the shelter facility. In FY21, the City has made significant logistical progress on this project but has not yet allocated any funds from the FY21 or FY20 CV-3 funds committed to this project. A site has been selected for the shelter facility and City staff continue to work with local nonprofits on an operations plan for the facility. The selected site is located at 109 Oklahoma Street, in a CDBG-eligible area of the City.

Project progress on the shelter activity has been stifled by difficulty in finding a suitable site that is cost-feasible, in an accessible location to LMI residents and the homeless and is suitable for the programmatic goals of the City. Now that the site has been selected and approved the City expects to make significant progress on the activity and to expend the CDBG-budgeted funds towards this goal.

At the time of this report, the only expenditures for the FY21 allocation have been \$31,546.75 in the 2021 Planning and Administration budget. From FY20, the CDBG program has made significant progress on several infrastructure and neighborhood revitalization projects drawing \$130,202.45 to complete FY20 projects in FY21.

4. Summary of Citizen participation Process and consultation process

The City is committed to providing ample opportunities for the public to participate in and comment on action taken by the CDBG program and encourages community-wide input on both the general direction of the program and specific actions. The CDBG program solicits citizen participation through: newspaper legal notices, direct phone and email contact with interested parties on a CDBG Mailing List, monthly public meetings and hearings through the Community Development Advisory Committee, CDBG representative attendance at neighborhood association meetings and community events, Southwest Arkansas Partnership (the local homeless coalition) meetings,

and through the City of Hot Springs Public Information office with press releases to newspapers/magazines, radio stations, online news outlets, and local television access stations. The City website and social media accounts have also been a valuable tool for disseminating community information about the CDBG program. The cityhs.net website has 312 News Flash subscribers and the City has 20,000 followers on the ‘City of Hot Springs, Arkansas Government’ Facebook page.

Along with these traditional methods of citizen participation, the CDBG Administrator has conducted one-on-one input sessions for the creation of this Annual Action Plan. The main goal of this outreach has been to solicit direct input on the direction of the CDBG program, the value in the FY22 projects, and provide a listening space for external evaluations of the CDBG programs effectiveness. These listening sessions were conducted with past CDBG grantees, community and nonprofit leaders working in the same space as CDBG programming, and current CDBG grantees.

These input sessions have provided substantial guidance and information to the CDBG program, created a better understanding of community needs, identified corrective actions needed for more efficient operation of the program, and have created a space for future collaborations beyond current programming.

5. Summary of public comments

This section will display a summary of all public comments received prior to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting on June 16th 2022, and all public comments received prior to the City of Hot Springs Board of Directors meeting on July 5, 2022.

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

This section will display a summary of all public comments received prior to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting on June 16th 2022, and all public comments received prior to the City of Hot Springs Board of Directors meeting on July 5, 2022.

7. Summary

The City is constantly looking for and seeking input from the community on continuing needs so that City programming and CDBG activities can better address and serve these needs. The City is committed to meeting the needs of the community in keeping with the goals of the Consolidated Plan. The CDBG program has focused on infrastructure improvements, housing programs, and quality of life improvements in low-to-moderate income neighborhood revitalization since 2014 to provide a basis for neighborhood stabilization and future growth.

In the formation of this plan, informal public input sessions and meetings with local nonprofits confirmed the positive impacts that this focus has had on targeted neighborhoods. This proposed plan continues this track record of success by providing funding to several

pedestrian safety improvement projects in CDBG-eligible areas of the City, quality of life improvements, and direct support to local nonprofits addressing the needs of low-to-moderate income individuals.

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

**1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan
(Narrative)**

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	HOT SPRINGS	
CDBG Administrator	HOT SPRINGS	Planning & Development Department
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department acts as the lead agency responsible for preparing and implementing the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.

As an entitlement grantee of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the City of Hot Springs is responsible for adhering to all grant requirements and applicable federal regulations. As lead agency, the Planning and Development Department ensures compliance with administrative, advertising, monitoring, reporting and public participation requirements, and coordinates efforts among many partners including residents, neighborhood associations, businesses, public agencies, non-profits, developers, lenders and the Continuum of Care in order to meet plan goals and objectives.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Questions and comments regarding the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans should be directed to (501) 321-6855 or:

City of Hot Springs
CDBG-Planning and Development
133 Convention Boulevard
Hot Springs, AR 71901

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

1. Introduction

CDBG staff take a proactive, year-long consultation and public input approach with interested parties. Participants in this consultation include: City departments and leadership, housing and homeless service providers, social service agencies, civic groups, mental/health providers, elderly and disabled advocacy groups, land-lords, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations, Chamber of Commerce, small businesses, other government entities, regional planning agencies, anti-poverty and at-risk youth engagement organizations, and residents. Many of these conversations take place through participation in the local homeless coalition, the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) and the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC).

For the FY22 Annual Action Plan, CDBG staff conducted informal one-on-one input sessions with past and current grantees, nonprofits, and other interested parties to determine the continuing needs of the community, ways the CDBG program can assist their organization's efforts to address issues of low-to-moderate income individuals, and ways the CDBG program can better function through an informal evaluation of the CDBG program processes. These conversations were meant to provide an open space to the interested parties for full evaluation of the efforts of the CDBG program and provide for more collaboration between the CDBG program and the organization working on the ground.

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

The City of Hot Springs is in contact with various agencies to ensure funding priorities are in line with current community and housing goals. The City Planning & Development Department maintains communication with the Hot Springs Housing Authority, Garland County Habitat for Humanity, the Hot Springs Landlord Association and developers to understand relevant trends and needs in providing affordable housing.

CDBG staff participate in Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) meetings, the local homeless coalition in order to better understand the needs of individuals experience or at risk of homelessness, provide additional support to the nonprofit organizations directly assisting homeless and low-

to-moderate income individuals, and enhance coordination between the City of Hot Springs, the Hot Springs Housing Authority, and local nonprofits.

b. Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care efforts to address the needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Hot Springs is an active member of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) local homeless coalition and a City staff member serves as the SWAP representative on the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. SWAP meets monthly and is comprised of a number of agencies addressing health and mental health, unaccompanied youth, street outreach, victims of domestic violence, veterans, workforce training, human services, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, public and affordable housing, elderly and disability advocacy, poverty/at-risk of homelessness, the exit from incarceration or institutionalization, and other non-profits and faith-based organizations serving the immediate needs of the homeless on the street such as showers, food and connection to available community resources. SWAP members are also active in a range of issue-specific task forces such as drug and mental health Courts, eviction proceedings, Bridges Out of Poverty and PATH case management programs, Project HOPE, suicide prevention and domestic trauma.

While previously SWAP primarily focused on the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless count, SWAP has become more proactive in organizing and implementing local delivery of housing and service initiatives intended to help end homelessness by bringing providers and stakeholders together to collaboratively address homelessness and plan for housing and services. As a result, SWAP has become more involved in recruiting members, performing needs assessment and communicating with the Arkansas Balance of State and partner coalitions, as well as continuing to conduct the Point-in-Time count. SWAP has also recently implemented formal by laws for the organization which will make it the first local homeless coalition in the State to take this formal incorporation step.

More details regarding existing resources and planned efforts to address the needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness are outlined in the AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities section of this Annual Action Plan.

c. Describe consultation with the CoC 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.

A City staff member represents the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) local homeless coalition on the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care, though the City of Hot Springs does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

The Arkansas Balance of State is the group organized to carry out the responsibilities prescribed in the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule for ten (10) local homeless coalitions across Arkansas including SWAP. Responsibilities include operating the CoC, designing and operating a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), planning for the CoC including coordinating the implementation of a housing and service system that meets the needs of individuals and families who experience homelessness, and designing and implementing the process associated with applying for CoC Program funds including the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

The Arkansas Balance of State Board reviews, rates and ranks ESG and NOFA applications from local non-profits and homeless coalitions prior to submission to the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) who receives funding directly from HUD. The City of Hot Springs reviews all local ESG and NOFA applications prior to submission to the Arkansas Balance of State, DHS and/or HUD to ensure alignment with the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and area needs. Arkansas Balance of State requires a letter of support from the City and membership in the local homeless coalition as part of the ESG and NOFA applications.

Locally, Ouachita Children, Youth and Family Services receives ESG and NOFA funding as a DHS subrecipient for a domestic violence shelter and a homeless youth day drop-in center. OCYFS plans to submit for FY22 ESG funding for the continuation of this project.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF HOT SPRINGS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Emergency Management Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	As the lead agency, the City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department is in contact with various City Departments to ensure funding priorities are aligned with current citywide community development goals. Specifically, Planning staff meets regularly with the City Manager's office, Finance, Procurement, Public Works, Stormwater, Streets, Utilities, Engineering, Parks and Trails, Neighborhood Services, elected officials and the Community Development Advisory Committee. Finance meetings are held regularly and a Complete Streets multi-departmental team meets to discuss needs, planned projects and local, state and federal funding opportunities. The City has also formed a Malvern Avenue Improvement project grant committee to coordinate the deployment of Federal Transit Authority funds and CDBG funds. CDBG staff regularly take part in these meetings along with Public Works, Engineering, Neighborhood Services, Finance, and Procurement staff.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Hot Springs Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Needs - Veterans
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussions are routinely held with the Hot Springs Housing Authority Executive Director to discuss Housing Authority needs, short and long term plans to address needs, and ways in which the City and Housing Authority can leverage resources and limited funds to achieve mutually beneficial housing goals. The City will continue to work with the Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator to promote home buyer education classes, and support the Executive Director with planning and development.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Garland County Habitat for Humanity
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City works closely with Garland County Habitat for Humanity on a variety of new affordable housing initiatives including awareness of buildable vacant lots, waiving permit fees and/or City liens for non-profit home building activities, planning, building codes, and CDBG assistance for lot acquisition and infrastructure to support new affordable home building. Garland County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Cindy Wagstaff participated in a one-on-one input session to help CDBG staff better understand community needs in advance of this plan and provided an evaluation of the direction and effectiveness of CDBG projects.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of the Ouachitas
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	In addition to hosting monthly meetings of the local homeless coalition, the United Way of the Ouachitas (UWO) provides resources and a database enabling organizations to collaborate in meeting the needs of households who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, provides financial classes and services, convenes anti-poverty committees, coordinates the use of non-emergency 211 calls, and funds organizations addressing homelessness and poverty in the community. The City will continue to engage the United Way in discussions regarding homelessness and preventing homelessness. UWO Executive Director Sarah Fowler participated in a one-on-one input session to help CDBG staff better understand community needs in advance of this plan and provided an evaluation of the direction and effectiveness of CDBG projects.

5	Agency/Group/Organization	Ouachita Children, Youth, and Family Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City works with Ouachita Children, Youth, and Family Services (OCYFS) staff to manage several past CDBG projects and subawards, discuss the needs of unaccompanied and at-risk youth, homeless young adults under the age of 24, the challenges young adults face when aging out of foster care, victims fleeing domestic violence, preventing homelessness among all households and overall homeless needs. Sue Legal from OCYFS participated in a one-on-one input session to help CDBG staff better understand community needs in advance of this plan and provided an evaluation of the direction and effectiveness of CDBG projects.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Ouachita Behavioral Health & Wellness
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Employment Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans 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?	City staff communicate with Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness (OBHAW) on the met and unmet needs of the homeless, particularly the chronically homeless with mental health conditions that either are or are not ready to re-enter permanent housing. OBHAW have also managed two payment subsistence programs for utility payments and rental assistance using CDBG funds. Discussions with this program centered on how to best meet the needs of individuals at risk of homelessness from outstanding utility or rent bills. OBHAW participates in SWAP, the local homeless coalition.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	SPA AREA INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE, INC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Spa Area Independent Living Services (SAILS) provides support and advocacy for those with disabilities and individuals at risk of institutionalization. CDBG staff discuss ADA compliant accessibility improvements and the needs of the disabled individuals in Hot Springs. SAILS staff will provide design input on CDBG projects involving infrastructure improvements and how those improvements will affect or benefit disabled individuals.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Arkansas Workforce Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City staff discuss veteran housing, homelessness and other needs with the Veteran's Service staff at Arkansas Workforce. Conversations also include preventing homelessness through SWAP, the local homeless coalition.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs 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?	CCMC provides healthcare to the uninsured, and services and case management for households breaking the cycle of generational poverty. Conversations include planning for a quarantine shelter and preventing homelessness through the SWAP local homeless coalition.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Eleanor Klugh Jackson House for Crisis Intervention
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Jackson House provides daily lunch Monday through Friday, assists clients in navigating community resources, and provides some direct assistance when possible. Ongoing discussions include funding needs for food programs and the delivery of homeless assistance services through SWAP local homeless coalition.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	The Salvation Army of Hot Springs
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Discussions with the Salvation Army include affordable housing needs, rent and utility assistance available to prevent homelessness, and their meals and food bank programs.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	Gateway Community Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City staff and association leadership discuss area needs and priorities, grass-roots strategies to encourage rental or sale of vacant homes, re-use of vacant lots, and other community development opportunities. Close coordination with the association will continue.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Park Avenue Community Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Park Avenue Community Association members are in communication with City Departments regarding infrastructure needs and vacant housing issues, CDBG investments in the area and future priorities. Coordination with the association will continue.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association president regularly attends public meetings and communicates with City Departments regarding the needs and priorities of area residents. Coordination with the neighborhood will continue.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Oaklawn Park Neighborhood Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City staff attended neighborhood association meetings prior to the pandemic and communicated with residents to assess needs. Coordination with the neighborhood will continue.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	P.H.O.E.B.E. (People Helping Others Excel by Example)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy

<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>The City of Hot Springs coordinates with the Executive Director of PHOEBE regarding the John Lee Webb House contributing structure to the Pleasant Street Historic District. PHOEBE will utilize the restored John Lee Webb House to provide youth and seniors educational and leadership training, as well as provide community cultural resources such as interpretive programming, archival collections and inter-generational oral history films to create an understanding of the past and preserve the history of the African Americans in Hot Springs. CDBG funds have been used over the past several years to make targeted improvements to the house and rehabilitate it for future community uses. PHOEBE Executive Director Cheryl Batts participated in a one-on-one input session to help CDBG staff better understand community needs in advance of this plan and provided an evaluation of the direction and effectiveness of CDBG projects. Close coordination with PHOEBE will continue.</p>
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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	Arkansas Balance of State	Through a technical assistance grant, the Arkansas Balance of State recently implemented a governance charter that supports the goals of the City in regards to the activities the local homelessness coalition should be pursuing to end homelessness.
Local Homeless Coalition	Southwest Arkansas Partnership	The Southwest Arkansas Partnership does not currently have a strategic plan however, through continued coordination with members of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership, Annual Action Plan efforts to provide decent, affordable housing and business/job growth will expand self-sufficiency and independent living opportunities. Businesses and contractors with CDBG-assisted municipal infrastructure improvement projects are encouraged to include outreach to organizations working with those exiting homelessness and foster care in their recruitment strategy
Comprehensive Plan	City of Hot Springs	The Comprehensive Plan is in agreement with the Consolidated Plan goal to revitalize neighborhoods surrounding downtown including the Gateway and Greater Hobson targeted areas.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Downtown Economic Development and Redevelopment	City of Hot Springs	<p>The Downtown Economic Development and Redevelopment Plan was created in partnership with regional planning organizations, the City of Hot Springs, Chamber of Commerce and neighborhood associations surrounding downtown.</p> <p>Neighborhood revitalization and economic development activities described in the plan were considered in the development of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and this 2022 Annual Action Plan.</p>
Regional Resiliency Plan	West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District	<p>The Regional Resiliency Plan created by West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, the regional planning organization, identifies Affordable Housing for low-to-moderate income individuals as the number two priority for improving regional economic resiliency.</p>

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Committee met on March 3, 2022 and established a priority list of 13 projects. Public comment was heard at the meeting and no comments were made. One written comment (attached) was received	1 written response was received and advocated for the Public Restroom on the Greenway Trail project from an organization named Friends of the Parks. No other comments were made at the meeting.	The comment was accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Legal notices announcing the availability of the 2022 Annual Action Plan for public review and opportunities for public comment were placed in the local Sentinel Record Newspaper on June 8 th and June 12 th .	No comments have been received.	No comments have been received.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Email	Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	<p>An email announcing the 2022 allocation and Annual Action Plan for public review was sent to 50+ individuals on the CDBG mailing list.</p> <p>Announcements on CDAC meetings, including the 6-16-22 meeting where the 2022 Annual Action Plan was reviewed are regularly sent to this mailing list.</p> <p>The Annual Action Plan was available on cityhs.net (the city's website) for a one-month period prior to submission to HUD.</p>	No comments have been received.	No comments have been received.	

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)
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) will hold a public hearing on June 16, 2022 to review the Annual Action Plan and hear public comment.			

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)
5	Press Release	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>A press release was sent to 21 media outlets announcing availability of the 2022 Annual Action Plan on June 4, 2022 for public review and comment.</p> <p>The Annual Action Plan was available on cityhs.net (the city's website) for a 30 day period prior to approval at the City of Hot Springs Board of Directors meeting on July 5th, 2022.</p>			

Table 3 – Citizen Participation Outreach

EXPECTED RESOURCES

AP-15 EXPECTED RESOURCES – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The City of Hot Springs has been allocated \$460,152.00 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in fiscal year 2022 to carry out FY22 CDBG projects and through these projects meet community needs and improve the lives of low-to-moderate income individuals in Hot Springs.

Program income is realized when liens are repair on properties that benefited from CDBG funding either through the 2004-2013 housing rehabilitation program after a home is sold or refinanced before the end of the 10-year forgivable soft loan period, or when a spot blight nuisance abatement property is cleared and removed, and the resulting lien is repaid by the property owner or new owner. \$3,587.90 in demolition liens have been repaid and will be applied to a future spot blight nuisance abatement project.

At the time of this report, the City of Hot Springs has \$674,247.10 in prior year funds and \$327,555.88 in CARES Act CV funding that is available and committed to eligible projects that are either underway or planned in 2022. \$43,139.83 is currently uncommitted due to recent under budget projects and will be reallocated in a substantial amendment. This uncommitted number does not include the leftover balance from the 2021 Planning and Administration budget as that number will not be finalized until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2022. This final uncommitted

number will be included in the report prior to submission to the City of Hot Springs Board of Directors for final approval.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	460,512.00	3,587.90	0	464,099.90	400,000	The exact amount of Prior Year Resources may change if in-progress projects are completed under budget or if unexpected program income is received. This is the fourth Annual Action Plan under the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

Anticipated Resources

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

The City of Hot Springs CDBG program relies heavily on leveraged resources to make an impact. The proposed quarantine/shelter facility acquisition and rehabilitation or construction will include CARES Act CDBG-CV-3 funding and American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds. Ineligible CDBG expenses such as furnishings, start-up and ongoing operational costs necessary for the quarantine/shelter facility will be the responsibility of the selected managing non-profit(s) to obtain through donations, grants, foundations and in-kind staff time. These costs will be estimated and agreed upon once a suitable operator has been secured.

Public facility and infrastructure improvement projects managed by City Departments are planned, designed, estimated, bid, procured and supervised using in-kind staff expertise, and where possible, installed and maintained by City Departments. City staff meets regularly to coordinate CDBG and non-CDBG grants and Complete Streets improvements for maximum impact wherever possible. Prior year CDBG municipal projects planned for 2022 completion with staff support include sidewalk improvements on Chelsea Street, Park Avenue, Creek Street, and Whittington Avenue.

The Malvern Avenue Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements project is a multi-year phased endeavor, which includes City funds for power line burial, \$331,874 in Department of Transportation FTA funding, as well as over \$180,000 in prior year CDBG funding. In partnership with the Intra-City Transit Department, this plan is using CDBG funds as an approved match to an existing Intra-City Transit Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) grant in which CDBG funds would be matched 4:1 by FTA funds for transportation related improvements such as sidewalk, crosswalk, bus shelter, and ADA accessibility improvements. Private investments are also being sought for Malvern Avenue Revitalization elements. The FY22 CDBG Malvern Avenue Improvement Projects listed below will provide an additional \$63,800.00 in funding for streetscape and infrastructure improvements.

City of Hot Springs CDBG policy requires a minimum 2:1 match for new affordable home building projects and a minimum 1:1 match for non-profit facility improvements and public service programs.

Opportunity Zones and Historic Tax Credit opportunities are useful in attracting private investment in several targeted areas to expand upon small CDBG investments in infrastructure, affordable housing and job growth. The Governor of Arkansas designated three (3) Opportunity Zones in Hot Springs, which are designed to attract funds to housing and economic development through capital gains investments. The three (3) Census Tract based Opportunity Zones include the CDBG targeted areas of Downtown, Whittington, Park Avenue, and a portion of Gateway.

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

No additional publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction will be needed to address the needs identified or projects carried out through this 2022 Annual Action Plan. Pedestrian safety improvements will take place on existing public lands, easements, or right of ways. The Linden Park Playground improvements and the Public Restroom near the Greenway Trail projects will take place at an existing park and on land owned by the City purchased through completion of the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail respectively.

Infill sites will be identified within Hot Springs for purchase through the Garland County Habitat for Humanity property acquisition project. CDBG staff will work closely with GCH4H staff to identify suitable and feasible lots for single-family housing development.

Discussion

At this time, the City does not have plans to apply for Emergency Solution Grant (ESG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) funding.

ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Neighborhood Revitalization	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Forest Hills Neighborhood Non-Targeted Area	Public improvements and infrastructure	CDBG: \$268,295.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4,540 persons assisted
2	Planning and Administration	2019	2023		City Wide Project	Public Services	CDBG: \$89,000.00	Other: 1 Other
3	Gateway and Greater Hobson Stabilization	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-homeless special needs Non-Housing Community Development	Greater Gateway Neighborhood and Greater Hobson Area	Public improvements and infrastructure	CDBG: \$87,857.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1,100 persons assisted Limited Clientele Benefit: 40 Persons

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Affordable Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Homeless	City Wide Project	Housing Services for the Homeless and At-Risk	CDBG: \$15,000	Habitat for Humanity: 2 lots purchased and 2 Homes Constructed, 10 Persons Assisted

PROJECTS

AP-35 Projects - 91.220(d)

Introduction

FY22 Projects

1.	CDBG Planning and Administration
2.	Habitat Lot Acquisition 2022
3.	Park Avenue at Holly Street Traffic Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Improvements
4.	Malvern Avenue Improvement Project Electric Conduit and Street Light Foundation
5.	Malvern Avenue Improvement Project Flashing Crosswalks and Striping.
6.	Linden Park Playground Phase III
7.	Morrison Avenue Sidewalks
8.	Chelsea Street Sidewalks Phase II
9.	Public Restroom near the Greenway Trail and Velocity Park
10.	OCYFS Classroom
11.	OCYFS Playground
12.	Community-Based Arts C4K

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

FY22 allocation priorities were determined in an open and fair process. Applications were sourced from the community for a one-month period. 14 applications were received for FY22 CDBG funding. The City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department applied for a fair housing planning process but voluntarily pulled the application out of contention after submission. The FY22 applications were heard in a public Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting held on March 3, 2022. Public notice was provided through two legal notices ran in the local paper of circulation, the Sentinel Record in English and Spanish. An email mailing list with 60+ individuals were notified of the public meeting, as well as social media posts through the City of Hot Springs Facebook account.

CDAC is comprised of City Board appointed representatives of the three CDBG-eligible Districts of Hot Springs and two at-large members. CDAC held a public hearing on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers of City Hall, 133 Convention Blvd. Applicants presented their proposals, answered questions and public comment was heard. CDAC made the following priority list out of the presented projects. The City Board of Hot Springs approved the priority list as recommended by CDAC at the April 5, 2022 board meeting through City of Hot Springs Resolution R9992. One public comment was received in writing and can be found attached to this document. The comment was submitted by the Friends of the Parks nonprofit group and was submitted with the project information to the City of Hot Springs Board of Directors prior to their approval of the priority list. No other public comments were made at the CDAC meeting on March 3rd, the City Board meeting on April 5th, or in any other medium prior to the board approval of the priority list.

After the CDBG allocation announcement was made by HUD, it was determined that the lowest ranking project on the priority list, the application from the organization Miss Ida's House of Care and Love, would not be funded as a FY22 project. This project will not be funded due to a lack of funds available through the CDBG program. The funding gap to fully fund this project would have required an additional \$26,672.00 in the FY22 CDBG annual allocation. Along with this funding gap, it was determined that the second lowest ranking project on the priority list, the application from the organization Cutwell4Kids, would be funded at a reduced amount. The original application received requested \$13,200.00. The funding amount for this project will be \$7,848.76. All other projects will receive full funding as requested in the original applications.

The main obstacle for addressing underserved needs is routine lack of funds associated with the CDBG program. Typically, applicants to the CDBG program have few to no other avenues for funding. If formula CDBG funds received by the City are not available or not sufficient to meet the financial needs of the project, the project often will not take place. With more funding and higher allocations through the formula grant, the City of Hot Springs CDBG program would be able to better address community needs and provide more impact through expanded programs and projects to the benefit of low-to-moderate income individuals in the City.

The other main obstacle for addressing underserved needs is making the community and targeted populations aware of program opportunities and other CDBG-funded programs that could address individuals' needs. A priority of the City of Hot Springs CDBG program moving into FY22 will be better publicizing and marketing available programs, opportunities, and funds that are available to the community so that individuals needing support are able to receive support and have their needs addressed. These marketing opportunities will include closer coordination with community nonprofits that regularly interact with targeted populations, a larger social media presence, greater outreach and communication with

neighborhood associations, increased outreach efforts to the Hispanic community of Hot Springs, and continuous publication of legal notices in both English and Spanish, for all CDBG program activities and updates.

AP-38 Project Summary

1	Project Name	CDBG Planning and Administration
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Provide assistance or resources to: further fair housing, strengthen neighborhoods, strengthen subrecipients, improve Continuum of Care (CoC) service efforts
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$89,000
	Description	Administration and management of the Community Development Block Grant program for the City of Hot Springs. Ensures federal compliance is met and coordinates with HUD in project management and reporting.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	Planning and administration efforts impact all households that benefit from CDBG-funded activities.
	Location Description	City of Hot Springs, Planning and Development Department 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, AR 71901
	Planned Activities	Planning and administration of the CDBG program in FY22.

2	Project Name	Habitat Lot Acquisition 2022
	Target Area	Lots to be identified
	Goals Supported	Promote decent, affordable housing initiatives
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,000
	Description	Purchasing land to construct three homes in targeted areas of Hot Springs.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	A minimum of 3 LMI families will be benefitted by the proposed activities.
	Location Description	City Wide Project

	Planned Activities	Habitat for Humanity will purchase land to construct three homes in targeted areas of Hot Springs.
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3	Project Name	Park Avenue at Holly Street Traffic, Pedestrian, and Cyclist Safety Improvements
	Target Area	Park Avenue Area
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$32,400
	Description	Traffic slowing measures for pedestrian and cyclist safety and ADA accessibility improvements at the intersection of Park Avenue and Holly Street.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	Approximately 530 low to moderate income households will benefit from the improvements specifically those individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly will benefit directly from the ADA accessibility improvements and traffic slowing measures taken.
	Location Description	Park Avenue and Holly Street Intersection, Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Installation of improvements will be completed as possible by City of Hot Springs Department staff and contracted out as needed.

4	Project Name	Malvern Avenue Improvement Project Electric Conduit and Street Light Foundation
	Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments/Support strategies to stabilize and grow the Gateway Community.
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$33,000
	Description	Lighting improvements along Malvern Avenue for pedestrian safety including installation of electric conduit and street light foundations. Location covered is from Gulpha Street to Church Street on the east side of Malvern Avenue.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	Approximately 1165 LMI households will benefit from the proposed improvement. Individuals with disabilities, the elderly, pedestrians, and children will benefit from the increased pedestrian safety and improved lighting along Malvern Avenue.
	Location Description	Gulpha Street to Church Street on the east side of Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas

	Planned Activities	Installation of electric conduits and street light foundations will be contracted out and installed in cooperation with the City of Hot Springs Engineering Department which has overseen the Malvern Avenue Improvement Project.
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5	Project Name	Malvern Avenue Improvement Project Flashing Crosswalks and Striping
	Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments/Support strategies to stabilize and grow the Gateway Community.
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,800
	Description	LED flashing crosswalk installations at intersection of Malvern Avenue and Gulpha Street and intersection of Malvern Avenue and Jefferson Street. Thermal striping for pedestrian safety at Jefferson Street and Creek Street intersections with Malvern Avenue. .
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	Approximately 1165 LMI households will benefit from the proposed improvement. Individuals with disabilities, the elderly, pedestrians, and children will benefit from the increased pedestrian safety and slowed vehicle traffic along Malvern Avenue.
	Location Description	Malvern Avenue intersection with Gulpha Street, Malvern Avenue intersection with Jefferson Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Installation of the proposed improvements will be contracted out and installed in cooperation with the City of Hot Springs Engineering Department which has overseen the improvements made through the greater Malvern Avenue Improvement Project.

6	Project Name	Linden Park Playground Phase III
	Target Area	Whittington Valley Area
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,800.48
	Description	Improvements to the Linden Park Playground including installation of a new ADA compliant playground and materials for a safety base.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will	635 LMI households will benefit from the improvements and children and LMI families with children will benefit from the improvements to the playground.

	benefit from the proposed activities.	
	Location Description	Linden Park, 309 Linden Park Lane, Hot Springs, AR 71901
	Planned Activities	Installation of a new ADA compliant playground and materials for a safety base.

7	Project Name	Morrison Avenue Sidewalks
	Target Area	Non-targeted
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$43,998.00
	Description	Installing sidewalks along the south side of Morrison Avenue from Carson Street to Cherokee Street to improve pedestrian safety.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	1,110 low to moderate income households will benefit from the proposed improvements including elderly persons, children, and individuals with disabilities as the improvements will improve pedestrian safety.
	Location Description	Morrison Avenue (from Carson St to Cherokee St) Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Installation of sidewalks will be contracted out through the City of Hot Springs Engineering Department.

8	Project Name	Chelsea Street Sidewalks (Phase II)
	Target Area	Forrest Hills Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,250.00
	Description	Installation of sidewalks on the northside of Chelsea Street (from Bayard St to Adams St).
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	1165 LMI households will benefit from the proposed improvements including elderly persons, children, and individuals with disabilities as the improvements will improve pedestrian safety.
	Location Description	Chelsea Street (from Bayard St to Adams St), Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Installation of sidewalks will be contracted out through the City of Hot Springs Engineering Department.

9	Project Name	Public Restroom near the Greenway Trail and Velocity Park
	Target Area	Non-targeted
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$72,997.76
	Description	Installation of a public restroom facility near the Greenway Trail and Velocity Park.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	1,110 LMI households will benefit from the improvements including elderly persons and children who will frequent the Velocity Park and Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail.
	Location Description	325 Valley St Hot Springs, AR 71901
	Planned Activities	Installation of a public restroom facility near the Greenway Trail and Velocity Park.

10	Project Name	OCYFS Classroom
	Target Area	Greater Hobson Area
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments/Provide assistance or resources to Continuum of Care service efforts
	Needs Addressed	Education, outreach, and services
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,557.00
	Description	Renovation of room to serve as expanded classroom space at Ouachita Children, Youth and Family Services. New classroom equipment including chairs, computers, desks will be provided for students.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	20 beneficiaries (Limited Clientele: Abused children, homeless persons)
	Location Description	339 Charteroak, Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Renovation of room to serve as expanded classroom space at Ouachita Children, Youth and Family Services.

11	Project Name	OCYFS Playground
	Target Area	Greater Hobson Area
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments/Provide assistance or resources to Continuum of Care service efforts
	Needs Addressed	Education, outreach, and services
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,500.00

	Description	Installation of a playground area at Ouachita Children, Youth, and Family services including equipment, installation and ground cover for fall area and resurfacing of existing basketball court.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	20 beneficiaries (Limited Clientele: Abused children, homeless persons)
	Location Description	339 Charteroak Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Installation of a playground area at Ouachita Children, Youth, and Family services including equipment, installation and ground cover for fall area and resurfacing of existing basketball court.

12	Project Name	Community-Based Arts C4K
	Target Area	Greater Gateway Community
	Goals Supported	Create suitable living environments
	Needs Addressed	Education, outreach, and services
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,848.76
	Description	Community-based arts for elderly and disabled residents of the Hot Springs Housing Authority Mountainview Tower. Includes cost of instruction and supplies for residents.
	Target Date	6/30/23
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities.	20 Limited Clientele including severely disabled adults and elderly persons.
	Location Description	100 Highrise Circle Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Community-based arts for elderly and disabled residents of the Hot Springs Housing Authority Mountainview Tower. Includes cost of instruction and supplies for residents.

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Park Avenue Area	7%
Whittington Valley Area	15%
Downtown	0%
Greater Gateway Neighborhood	16%
Forest Hills Neighborhood	9%
Greater Hobson Area	5%
East Albert Pike Area	0%
City Wide Project	23%
Non-Targeted Area	25%
Oaklawn Park Neighborhood	0%
Langston Gardens	0%

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed.

An estimated eighty percent (80%) of FY22 CDBG funding will directly benefit low- to moderate-income persons with the remaining twenty percent (20%) allocated to program administration and planning costs which directly and indirectly benefit LMI persons.

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The funds will be directed towards low-to-moderate income areas in the City and targeted low-to-moderate income neighborhoods including substantial portions to the Whittington Valley neighborhood and the Greater Gateway neighborhood. These communities are both primarily residential with mixed commercial zoning neighborhoods of low-to-moderate income individuals. Both communities flank the Historic Downtown Hot Springs area and have been prioritized for investment through the CDBG program and other City programming.

A substantial amount of funds will be directed to improvements in non-targeted areas through this funding cycle. These improvements will be made in CDBG eligible geographic areas and are meant to provide benefit to low-to-moderate income individuals in accessing other City of Hot Springs amenities and resources, specifically the Morrison Avenue sidewalks project and the Public Restroom near the Greenway Trail projects. These projects take place outside of the traditional CDBG targeted neighborhoods but will provide quality of life improvements to low-to-moderate income individuals and increase pedestrian access to the Majestic Park, the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, and other parks located along this trail.

City wide benefit is gained from the CDBG Planning and Administration budget as well as the Garland County Habitat for Humanity project. As no site has been identified for the GCH4H acquisition project at this time, there is an equitable geographic distribution of benefit displayed in this plan. Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports will report the final locations and targeted areas benefitted from the GCH4H project.

The geographic distribution table does not include projects that will be completed in 2022 that were funded in prior fiscal years.

Discussion

Many of the City's low-to-moderate income areas surround the Historic Hot Springs Downtown area. CDBG and city efforts have focused on revitalizing the targeted area residential and mixed-use corridors surrounding downtown by improving pedestrian safety, multi-modal transportation, providing enjoyable shared recreational and green spaces, and supporting home building efforts. These improvements have made a substantial impact on the targeted areas, bringing private investment, providing a more pedestrian and cyclist friendly streetscape, and improving transportation and housing options for low-to-moderate income individuals. These improvements have also greatly improved low-to-moderate income individuals' ability to access community resources, commercial districts, and nonprofits safely and efficiently in the low-to-moderate income areas. The City continues to work with targeted areas to identify areas for improvement and develop solutions to address needs.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

CDBG funded home buyer education classes and credit counseling have helped make home ownership more attainable for low- to moderate-income persons and families by partnering with HUD-certified class providers who provide certification for Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) down payment and closing cost assistance worth up to \$10,000. While no FY22 funds will be allocated to Home Buyer Education Courses, four classes have taken place in calendar year 2022. It is anticipated that at least 50 residents will attend the four classes in 2022. It is estimated that six (6) low- to moderate-income first-time homebuyers will purchase an affordable home using ADFA assistance and others will purchase homes using other loan programs as a result of this program.

The City has supported non-profit Garland County Habitat for Humanity affordable home building initiatives with CDBG funding since 2004. In fiscal year 2022, \$15,000.00 has been allocated to support the acquisition of at least four (4) vacant lots for the purpose of new affordable home building. \$30,000.00 in prior year funds is also available for lot acquisition. CDBG staff will continue to coordinate with GCH4H staff to select appropriate and feasible sites for single-family housing development.

The City waives permit fees and coordinates with non-profit home builders to encourage new affordable home building throughout the city.

Discussion

The City's approach to addressing affordable housing needs is two-fold: support new construction and ameliorate financial barriers preventing homeownership. CDBG funds currently assist Habitat for Humanity land acquisition, surveying, clearance and infrastructure, and provide home buyer education classes with Federal Home Loan and Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) American Dream Development Initiative (ADDI) down-payment and closing cost certification. No FY22 funds have been allocated for the continuation of these courses at this time.

As a proactive action, the City will engage with an experienced planning or consulting firm in FY22 using Planning and Administration funds to develop a Housing Strategy Plan. This plan will provide the City a path forward for addressing housing affordability and availability in Hot Springs. Coordination with existing housing nonprofits, public input and citizen participation from those experiencing severe housing cost burdens will feature heavily in this strategy plan. City staff and elected officials understand the pressing needs of the community and are working to address the affordable housing problem in Hot Springs.

The City reduces or waives non-profit affordable home building permit fees. The City also coordinates vacant lot acquisition, waiving or reducing City property lien costs as possible, and is represented on area bank Community Reinvestment Act committees to improve lending outreach to

LMI residents.

Rental cost burdens (paying over 30% of income on rent) and rental housing conditions were noted as barriers in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study. Four (4) home buyer education classes were conducted in 2022. By utilizing HUD-certified, Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) and Federal Home Loan certified non-profit educators to conduct the training, low- to moderate-income graduates become eligible for ADFA American Dream Development Initiative (ADDI) down payment and closing cost assistance, ADFA low interest loans, or up to \$6,000 in Federal Home Loan forgivable 5-year mortgages.

Many homes affordable to extremely low and low-income households are older and may have minor or major issues preventing satisfactory completion of home inspections. Some of these homes are being purchased and rehabilitated for use as short-term vacation rentals removing them from the available renter and owner-occupied available housing stock. The City of Hot Springs has adopted a short-term rental and regulation policy to mitigate this negative impact through Ordinance No. 06410 – Amendment relating to condominiums. With a set supply of homes on the market it may present challenges for low-income home buyers to find a decent home that meets inspection standards.

Additional obstacles lie with a limited number of local lenders participating in programs available to assist low- and moderate-income buyers including the ADFA and Federal Home Loan fund grants, which reduces lender and mortgage options available to low- to moderate-income home buyers.

The 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study discovered homeownership disparities. About 60% of White households own their homes compared to 31% of Black households and 39% of Latino households. Black and Latino households are 1.6 times as likely as White households to be denied for a home mortgage loan. The City of Hot Springs participates in discussions with lenders regarding Community Reinvestment Act plans and actions.

Potential interest rate increases and changes to the Arkansas Development Finance down payment and closing cost assistance programs may negatively impact low-income home buyers. Home buyer educators engaged by CDBG remain informed of market changes and actively seek out lender program alternatives for Hot Springs buyers.

The City of Hot Springs has benefited greatly from its long-term partnership with non-profit affordable home builder, Habitat for Humanity. Small, targeted CDBG investments in land acquisition, clearance, infrastructure improvements, lien and permitting fee waivers are leveraged by Habitat with in-kind and greater than 2:1 matching funds to typically build 6-10 homes per year.

The City will continue coordination with Continuum of Care, Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, United Way and special-needs service providers to increase homeownership and improve neighborhood-integration of special-needs individuals and their families through the home

buyer education program.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs transitioned from public housing (PHA) units to housing choice project-based voucher (PBV) units rented at fair market rates (FMR) through the HUD Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. Units include Eastwood Gardens and Eastwood Heights consisting of duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes of one (1) to four (4) bedroom units housing 140 households, and Mountainview Towers, a 120-unit complex for elderly and disabled residents.

Additionally, the Housing Authority administers approximately 921 Housing Choice (HCV) vouchers for privately owned homes and apartments across Hot Springs and Garland County and maintains an Affordable Housing List of Section 8/HCV Homes.

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

No CDBG funds are directly allocated to public housing needs in FY22. Continued coordination with the Hot Springs Housing Authority staff will allow the CDBG program to remain responsive to public housing needs in the future.

Preliminary planning for the 2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing will begin in FY22 in consultation with the Hot Springs Housing Authority.

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

Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs residents are encouraged to enroll in the voluntary Family Self Sufficiency program, which through coaching, goal setting and budgeting is designed to assist families in achieving self-sufficiency through employment and/or higher education. The program includes participation in an escrow savings plan that matches the difference in rent as adjusted gross income rises during employment. This escrow can then be used for college, home buying or other goals.

The City of Hot Springs promotes the CDBG-funded home buyer education program from past year allocations with the Housing Authority. Family Self Sufficiency program participants who complete the home buyer education class are eligible for up to \$10,000 in down payment and

closing cost assistance toward the purchase of a home, further assisting FSS families in achieving the goal of home ownership and self-sufficiency.

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

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

The City and Housing Authority work closely to discuss plans and opportunities for collaboration to leverage resources and meet the housing needs of residents. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study completed in 2019 is an example of collaborative efforts to address fair housing and housing needs in Hot Springs.

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

Introduction

The City of Hot Springs is a member of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) Continuum of Care (CoC) communicating and coordinating with agencies focused on addressing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, veteran, unaccompanied youth, domestic and sexual violence victim, human trafficking, human services, substance abuse, health, mental health, job training, shelter, affordable housing and other underserved community needs.

SWAP works closely with the Arkansas Balance of State (ArBOS) statewide homeless coalition who shares information and provides guidance amongst Arkansas Continuums of Care. The City of Hot Springs reduces or waives permitting fees for shelter projects to reduce regulatory barriers, offers providers project planning expertise and CDBG proposal preparation assistance, and promotes home buyer education classes with ADFA financial assistance.

The City expects significant progress to be made on the quarantine shelter facility project that will provide shelter to low-to-moderate income individuals and the homeless population of Hot Springs. FY21 funds and 2020 CV-3 funds have been set aside for the construction of this facility. It is expected that the CDBG funds will be leveraged with the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received by the City in 2021 to construct the shelter. The City of Hot Springs will not provide funds for operational costs for the facility. City staff have been in consultation with area nonprofits on an operations plan for the facility.

A site has been selected for this facility at 109 Oklahoma Street and City staff have selected an engineering firm to provide plans and

specifications for the facility.

Community-wide services for the homeless and at-risk include meals and food banks/pantries; GED education; independent living and job skills training; government identification assistance; Medicare and Medicaid sign-up and no cost interim medical, dental and vision care; pre-natal specific care; non-mental healthcare prescription assistance; mental health assessments and support; emergency out-patient and limited in-patient mental healthcare; substance abuse and peer counseling; housing advocacy; job placement; school supplies and meals; emergency utility financial assistance; crisis intervention and prevention; showers and laundry access; and case management services.

The SWAP Continuum of Care continues to grow and expand outreach efforts.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

PIT Count

On January 27, 2022, a HUD annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count was conducted by SWAP. The PIT is a survey used to count the number of homeless individuals living in Hot Springs on the streets, in shelters, and areas not meant for human habitation. The survey was limited by the surge in the COVID-19 pandemic related to the Omnicron variant, leading organizers to conduct a PIT count of only sheltered individuals (those living in transitional housing or staying at temporary emergency shelters). Unsheltered individuals were not counted in this PIT count. This decision was made to reduce the likelihood of spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable communities, protect the targeted populations being surveyed, and protect volunteers conducting the survey.

A total of 15 adults and 16 children were reported in the PIT count as temporarily sheltered homeless, totaling 31 individuals counted. The majority of these numbers came from emergency warming shelters during the winter months. This is compared to 31 unsheltered counted in 2021, 22 counted in 2020, 35 counted in 2019, and 88 counted in 2018.

Under McKinney Vento, Garland County schools reported a total of 538 children as homeless in the first quarter of 2022, compared to 498 reported in 2021, 386 reported in 2020, and 422 reported in 2019. This is an increase since 2019 and displays worrying trends in the number of homeless students in Garland County and Hot Springs.

While some of these numbers are increasing year-to-year, it is understood that as more homeless assistance services become more widely available, surveyors are getting a more accurate picture and count of the homeless population of Hot Springs rather than undercounting or missing individuals in past years. SWAP will conduct the next PIT count in January 2023 and that count will include a survey of unsheltered individuals.

Ouachita Children Youth and Family Services (OCYFS) launched their street outreach program for homeless youth in January 2018 and opened a day shelter later that year. Staff regularly locate, create relationships with, and offer survival kits and services to homeless youth in Garland County including shelter, case management, counseling, education, and employment assistance with the ultimate goal of helping youth get off the streets and into permanent and safe environments. OCYFS will continue this program and are actively applying for ESG funds for FY22 operation of this facility. This 2022 Annual Action Plan includes two projects in partnership with OCYFS. Both projects aim to provide improvements at the OCYFS facility. These projects include a playground for the clients to use as well as a classroom that will allow OCYFS to better serve their client base of homeless families and children.

Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness was awarded a HUD PATH grant to support individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Through community outreach they are providing diagnostic screening and therapeutic treatment for serious mental illness, case management services and referrals to other available programs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Hot Springs aims to get the quarantine shelter facility fully operational by the end of FY22. This shelter facility will provide expanded capacities for temporarily sheltering homeless individuals and providing emergency shelter. It is expected that this shelter facility will benefit dozens of homeless individuals in Hot Springs and will be open to all individuals experiencing homelessness. This shelter will also house area nonprofits that can provide additional services or resources on top of the shelter function as a “one-stop-shop” for getting assistance in Hot Springs. A centralized location paired with the existing extensive referral network among SWAP members and ArBOS members will more efficiently serve the area homeless.

Along with this City-led effort, local nonprofits currently provide emergency and transitional shelter in specific cases.

OCYFS operates case-specific shelter opportunities including transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and a domestic violence shelter. In 2021, the transitional housing shelter assisted 11 women and 8 children, the rapid re-housing program assisted 29 women and 37 children, and the domestic violence shelter assisted 51 women and 56 children.

There are twenty-eight (28) emergency and transitional shelter beds for men only at Samaritan Ministries, nineteen (19) beds for victims of domestic violence, eight (8) residential and eighteen (18) temporary beds for unaccompanied, neglected and abused youth at Ouachita Children Youth and Family Services. Additional emergency and transitional shelter beds are dedicated to recovering substance abusers such as Quapaw House, and supportive housing for the developmentally disabled at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.

St. Lukes Episcopal Church and Lakeview Assembly of God Church coordinate resources to serve the homeless and at risk across the community in times of severe winter weather and extraordinary hot days and throughout the week with showers, laundry and meals. SWAP and the City are

encouraging additional collaboration among faith-based organizations to meet underserved needs in a coordinated effort for the greatest good.

Further collaboration between the City and its partner nonprofits will be necessary for addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of the community. It is expected that the new facility, completed by the end of fiscal year 2022, will provide additional capacity to address these needs with a dedicated 24/7 shelter available to all low-to-moderate income individuals in Hot Springs.

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

In December 2019, the City of Hot Springs announced a Hope Works pilot program with non-profit Eleanor Klugh Jackson House which connects individuals to resources including daily meals, clothing, transportation, and identification services, . The Hope Works program is available to Hot Springs homeless and at-risk populations who are offered minimum wage to remove litter from roadways, creating a relationship between the city and Jackson House that has the potential to develop more profound connections and long-term solutions for homeless individuals. Hope Works has operated since September 2020 and will continue to operate in the remainder of 2022. 17 individuals participating in the program have found full or part time employment and 3 were able to begin or return to college. 12.08 tons of litter have been picked up by participants in the program.

Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs offers a job skills training wood shop for men housed in their transitional shelter who have graduated their 10-month resident program. The resident program helps restore a structured lifestyle, provides life skills, finance and budgeting training, employment skills and relapse prevention through a 12-step program, while finding affordable housing.

OCYFS homeless youth street outreach and drop-in day center connects unaccompanied youth ages 14-24 with education and employment opportunities to move toward independent living, and shortened time periods of experienced homelessness. In 2021, 33 different youth utilized the drop-in shelter, 44 were served through street outreach and 298 survival kits were distributed.

In 2021, 146 individuals entered the PATH program; 49 identified as disabled, 112 suffered from mental illness, 20 drug abuse, 23 a physical disability. 88 had been living in non-housing circumstances (street, car, etc.), 0 were referred by an emergency shelter program, 29 had been living with friends or relatives, 28 were in rental housing and 1 had recently exited incarceration. 10 were

placed in non-subsidized rental housing, 0 in subsidized housing, 0 emergency shelter, 0 with family/friends, and 41 individuals were reported as staying in places not meant for human habitation (e.g. street).

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

The City of Hot Springs, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and through allotments of CDBG-CV funds successfully operated a rental and utility emergency subsistence payment program managed by Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness. This program successfully deployed \$127,000 in payments to 80 individuals for back payment of rent and utilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. These payments kept these individuals in their homes and away from homelessness. In 2022, a key aspect of the Housing Strategy Plan (paid for using available CDBG Planning and Administration funds) scope of work requested by City staff in an RFP for qualified consulting firms will be a feasibility study of a permanent public-private partnership for rental and utility emergency subsistence payments in order to keep individuals in their homes year-round and helping individuals avoid homelessness.

The United Way of the Ouachitas (UWO) uses Charity Tracker and provides access to area nonprofits. Charity Tracker allows nonprofits to better coordinate and communicate for non-duplicative service delivery and collaborative responses to critical needs. This allows for several nonprofits from around the community to better understand and respond to the needs of their clients, many of whom frequent several different nonprofits for different services. UWO has also been leading the effort to use 211 as a non-emergency call service meant to connect local residents in need with the local services available to them. Calls to 211 connecting individuals with local resources have steadily increase in the Garland County area over the past years.

Spa Area Independent Living Services (SAILS), a local disability advocacy organization, advocates for individuals exiting nursing homes and other institutions. SAILS works to identify potential housing for disabled individuals, works with homeowners and landlords on needed home modification projects, and provides Housing Choice Vouchers for individuals transition to permanent housing. SAILS has also recently acquired a larger dedicated facility and will provide drop-in resources including laundry, computer and internet access, and other valuable resources and services for the disabled community of Hot Springs.

Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic (CCMC) work with a wide variety of clientele from across the community in finding access to and developing their own resources related to healthcare, mental health, law enforcement, food, shelter, transportation and education. Case managers work with clients to obtain resources and create individuals plan towards self-sufficiency.

Discussion

Service providers and nonprofits in Hot Springs provide countless amounts of support across all sectors, addressing a wide variety of issues and problem areas in the community. City leadership finds that existing services are sufficient to provide support and assistance to Hot Springs residents and finds that the City playing a support and communication role best fits with the current landscape of nonprofit support systems in the community. The City plans to continue its close relationship with area nonprofits and be available for the times extra support or resources can be leveraged to meet Consolidated Plan goals.

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

Introduction:

In the 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study eight (8) impediments were identified:

1. Poor rental housing conditions limit mobility and choice
2. Continued need for neighborhood reinvestment and expanded access to opportunity
3. Additional fair housing enforcement and education
4. Eviction regulations contribute to housing instability
5. An ambiguity in the City zoning codes may limit housing options for people with disabilities
6. Publicly supported housing choices are limited
7. Racial disparities exist in access to homeownership
8. Seasonal and vacation rentals may constrain affordable housing supply

Further, the Consolidated Plan Housing and Market analysis identified rental cost burdens as the single biggest housing issue in Hot Springs, which has been addressed in past funding years through CDBG-assisted home buyer education and credit counseling services. In consultation with housing nonprofits and agencies, rental cost burden continues to be a major factor in the lives of low-to-moderate income individuals.

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.

In the 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, the City of Hot Springs was made aware of and later amended the zoning ordinance and table of permitted uses that resolved the ambiguity that housing for persons with disabilities may be sited as specifically permitted under state law and equally with other single-family housing for unrelated persons.

No other public policies were identified as barriers to affordable housing in the 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study.

The City annually re-adopts permit fee and charge waivers for non-profit affordable housing providers. The City will continue to offer expedited permitting for manufactured homes via its Manufactured Home Overlay regulations with no difference in approvals whether stick/site-built or manufactured. The City of Hot Springs does not have an ad valorem (millage) property tax on residential properties. The City encourages lien waiver requests from affordable housing providers seeking to redevelop vacant lots created through the demolition and removal of vacant, condemned, nuisance structures.

Discussion

The City of Hot Springs consistently reviews public policy and policies of other agencies to identify, remove and amend those that may make developing, maintaining or improving housing more difficult.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Hot Springs is committed to meeting the goals set in the Consolidated Plan 2019-2023 and in this Annual Action Plan. The City will continue to make measurable, beneficial, and equitable impacts through the CDBG program in FY22 and align existing programming to leverage more resources for greater impacts.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Hot Springs plans to maintain its position as a collaborative and communicative entity within the nonprofit and service providers ecosystem of Hot Springs. The City will continue providing resources, leading initiatives, developing new programming, and working with existing partners to meet the needs of the underserved individuals of the community.

Meeting underserved needs in the City through the CDBG program is consistently hampered by a routine lack of funds that cancels projects placed lower on the annual priority lists. While these projects may rank lower, many of them are valuable projects that will meet the needs of low-to-moderate income individuals in Hot Springs. An increase in formula grant funding amounts will greatly increase the City of Hot Springs' ability to meet the underserved needs of the community.

The CDBG program and the Planning and Development Department will continue to explore new funding opportunities, leverage additional community resources, identify new programs and initiatives, evaluate, and improve existing programs, and work to better serve the low-to-moderate income individuals in the community.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The consistent strategy for the City of Hot Springs CDBG program to maintain and promote affordable housing options has come from a two-pronged approach: providing funds to Garland County Habitat for Humanity to purchase lots for the construction of affordable housing and providing education courses for low-to-moderate income individuals to learn more about home ownership, credit counseling, foreclosure avoidance counseling.

2022 actions include further support for the Habitat for Humanity lot acquisition activity and the development of a Housing Strategy Plan which will provide a roadmap for the City of Hot Springs to take to foster further affordable housing development and address several housing-related issues including lack of suitable sites for infill development, high rental cost burden, fair housing, accessibility of housing, and high rates of substandard housing conditions. City staff and elected officials are committed to addressing the housing affordability problems so many in the community are facing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

As many existing residential structures in Hot Springs were built before the federal ban on lead-based paint in 1978, especially prominent in CDBG-eligible, low-to-moderate income areas, it is understood that lead-based paint hazards are present in the community. The City of Hot Springs has existing strategies and policies in place to mitigate the hazards of lead-based paint use including testing and abatement in all of its HUD funded housing activities.

The City of Hot Springs ensures that all lead-based paint hazard mitigation regulations are followed and that any projects using federal funds are compliant with federal lead-based paint standards. The City uses EPA-certified, licensed lead-based paint consulting firms for inspection, risk assessment, and eventual lab testing and clearance reports for HUD-funded housing projects if lead-based paint is suspected or known to be present. After evaluation, mitigation strategies are employed including repairing any disturbed surfaces and controlling or abating hazards as needed.

The City maintains a proactive stance on lead-based paint hazard mitigation in supplying information on lead-based paint hazard and regulations to staff, public agencies, community-based organizations, non-profits, contractors, and homeowners. If a case of lead poisoning or elevated levels of lead in blood is suspected, referrals are made to the Garland County Public Health Department.

The development of new affordable housing options without lead-based paint and rehabilitation of existing housing with the risk of lead-based paint will further reduce the lead-based paint hazard in the community.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Economic development and expanding opportunity throughout the community are clear priorities of the City of Hot Springs. The City utilized an Economic Development and Downtown Redevelopment plan as its main planning guide for future growth and action. This plan includes strategies that build on the City's existing economic infrastructure and promote job growth and vitality throughout the community. As many of the CDBG-eligible areas of the City flank the Historic Downtown district, this plan includes strategies for stabilization and economic growth of these corridors expanding out from downtown Hot Springs including the Whittington Valley neighborhood, the Park Avenue neighborhood, the Pleasant Street neighborhood, the Malvern Avenue/Gateway Community, and the Morrison Avenue and Forrest Hills neighborhoods. Targeted infrastructure improvements, improving low-to-moderate income affordable housing options, encouraging small business development, coordination in bringing high-quality jobs to and retaining existing jobs in Hot Springs in partnership with the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, and encouraging businesses to participate in the City's Section 3 Economic and Employment Opportunities program that encourages contractors to hire low-to-moderate income individuals, are all strategies that the City is proactively taking to reduce the number of poverty-level families.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City's internal and institutional structure is well-suited to address the ever-changing needs of the community. Close coordination within departments and within the City's overall structure is tantamount to the success of City programming and this structure has been evaluated and modified as needed over the years. Continued evolution and modification of this system will take place as needs arise.

The City has developed an incredibly close working relationship with area nonprofits through the CDBG program and other relevant City programming. This relationship is the basis for the effectiveness of the CDBG program and the proper utilization and deployment of CDBG funds in the community. Area nonprofits assist the City in identifying and documenting the changing needs of the community. The City then tries to provide resources to addressing issues on the City-wide scale. The CDBG program is constantly working with nonprofits and seeking input from them on how to better address developing issues and how the CDBG program can better function to serve these needs.

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

The City of Hot Springs stays in constant communication with public and private entities addressing housing issues and working with these entities including the Hot Springs Housing Authority, Garland County Habitat for Humanity and private landlords and housing developers. The City is committed to providing a coordination and funding role between these entities to support their efforts. Past homebuyer education courses have provided an outlet for further collaboration with mutual benefit across all parties.

A key aspect of the 2022 Housing Strategy Plan will be the identification of members for a housing affordability ad-hoc committee to work on implementing strategies that come out of that report. This plan will provide a roadmap for future housing affordability and future coordination and collaboration across the housing sector.

Discussion:

Neighborhood revitalization, addressing affordable housing issues, and effective coordination of City, State and Federal resources are the main priorities of the City of Hot Springs CDBG program. While the City has non-funding resources available, the main, consistent issue for the CDBG program remains limited funding to carry out projects that address community needs. Further strategic leveraging of federal funds across multiple funding agencies will help to address this in the short term.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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

Introduction:

CDBG program income in the City of Hot Springs is realized when liens are satisfied either through the sale or refinancing of a home that benefitted from the 2004-2013 housing rehabilitation program prior to the end of the 10-year forgiveness period, or repayment of a lien placed against the nuisance abatement, demolition, and clearance of a condemned structure. Currently there is \$3,587.90 in program income from nuisance abatement lien repayment that will be applied toward future demolition and clearance of condemned structures.

The City of Hot Springs does not receive Section 108 funding or resulting proceeds from loan guarantees; does not have surplus funds from urban renewal settlements; does not have awareness of any monies returned to the line of credit for which planned use has not been included in a prior Action Plan; and does not receive income from float-funded activities.

No fiscal year 2021 CDBG activities have been designated as urgent needs whose existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and in which other financial resources are unavailable.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed | 0 |
| 2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan. | 0 |
| 3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements | 0 |
| 4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan | 0 |
| 5. The amount of income from float-funded activities | 0 |
| Total Program Income: | 0 |

OTHER CDBG REQUIREMENTS

1. The amount of urgent need activities – **0**
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income.
Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. - **80%**