
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

FY 2023 Annual Action Plan

*For Submission to HUD for the
Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment
Partnerships Grant, and Emergency Solutions Grants*



County Executive: Rich Fitzgerald

Draft for Public Display and Comment

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Allegheny County receives annual allocations of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds to address the housing, economic development and community development needs of County municipalities. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires federal grantees to prepare an Annual Action Plan to guide federal CDBG, HOME and ESG funding allocations for housing, economic development and community development activities.

Note: Allegheny County's Annual Plan does not include the City of Pittsburgh, City of McKeesport, and the Municipality of Penn Hills. Although these municipalities are located within Allegheny County, they are separate federal entitlement communities that submit their own Plans. To access HOME funds, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills have partnered with Allegheny County to form the Allegheny County Housing Consortium.

The purpose of the Annual Plan is to guide federal funding investments over the next year. The Plan is guided by three overarching goals that are applied according to a community's needs. The goals are:

2. To provide decent housing by preserving the affordable housing stock, increasing the availability of affordable housing, reducing discriminatory barriers, increasing the supply of supportive housing for those with special needs, and transitioning people experiencing homelessness into housing.
3. To provide a suitable living environment through safer, more livable neighborhoods, greater integration of low- and moderate- income residents throughout the Consortium, increased housing opportunities, and reinvestment in deteriorating neighborhoods.
4. To expand economic opportunities through more jobs paying self-sufficient wages, homeownership opportunities, development activities that promote long-term community viability, and the empowerment of low- and moderate- income persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The Annual Plan provides a framework to address the needs of Allegheny County using CDBG, HOME and ESG program funds. The three overarching objectives guiding the County's proposed activities are:

- Provide Decent Affordable Housing
- Create Suitable Living Environments
- Create Economic Opportunities

Outcomes show how programs and activities benefit a community or the people served. The three outcomes that illustrate the benefits of each activity funded by the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs are:

- Improve Availability/Accessibility
- Improve Affordability
- Improve Sustainability

All planned activities will support at least one of the above objectives and at least one of the above outcomes.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The following is a summary of Allegheny County's 2021 accomplishments, lifted from the most recently completed 2021 CAPER.

Allegheny County utilized its CDBG dollars for a number of priorities, including public improvement projects, sewer and water improvements, the removal of architectural barriers and parks and recreation improvement projects. Allegheny County also placed a high priority on public and human service activities. These include supporting local food banks, providing resources for youth programming, employment and workforce development services. Funds were utilized to support the following priorities:

Improve Public Infrastructures and Facilities

The County, through its Councils of Government, undertook a variety of public infrastructure projects including sidewalk installation, street reconstruction, and water and sewer improvements. Nearly 40,000 people benefitted from these activities. Collectively, the County achieved 86.6% of its goal to assist 45,637 individuals with public improvement projects.

Provide Public Services

The County continued to provide critical public services, including those related to food insecurity, housing services, and job training services. 42,151 individuals benefitted from public service activities in 2021, including 4,679 that received assistance through food pantries funded with CDBG-CV funds.

Provide Homeless Housing and Services

The County utilized ESG funds to provide shelter, rapid rehousing and prevention services to households experiencing and at-risk of homelessness. Beneficiaries are reported in SAGE HMIS, the report is attached to this document. While the County did not meet its targeted goal for shelter or homeless prevention, the County far exceeded its goal in the number of households receiving rapid rehousing assistance. As the coronavirus pandemic continued in 2021, shelters were underutilized in an effort to keep individuals in non-congregate settings. Eviction moratoria delayed the County's ability to spend homeless prevention funds.

Economic Development

The County undertook a variety of activities designed to meet its economic development goals in 2021. Specifically, streetscape and commercial revitalization improvements in Sharpsburg and Stowe Township that benefitted business districts. In addition, the County assisted brownfield remediation activities at the Carrie Furnace redevelopment site.

Eliminate Slum/Blighting Influences

The County demolished 77 blighted properties in residential neighborhoods as part of its overall Safe Neighborhood blight remediation effort, far exceeding its annual goal to demolish 27 properties.

Increase Access to/Quality of Affordable Housing

In its effort to improve the quality of affordable housing stock throughout the County, 71 rental units were either created or rehabilitated. Due to ongoing housing market challenges, no homeowners were assisted in 2021.

CDBG-CV

Allegheny County was allocated CDBG-CV funding in the amount of \$14,349,171.00. The County has committed \$5,183,164 to 14 activities and has expended \$2,769,274.12 (18.48%) of those funds. These activities address various barriers, outcomes and consequences occurring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, four of those activities have been successfully completed resulting in 4,878 people and their households receiving assistance to address food insecurity and 3,106 people and their households receiving assistance paying delinquent utility bills. Allegheny County is continuing to explore program options with the remaining funding that will aid County residents in the prevention of further hardships due to the pandemic.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of the plan.

The purpose of the Consultation and Public Outreach Process is to outline the procedures that will be used to ensure opportunities for public participation in the preparation of the Allegheny County 2023 Annual Action Plan. In concert with the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) Citizen Participation Plan, the Consultation and Public Outreach Process is intended to involve governmental organizations, stakeholders, and citizens within Allegheny County in the decision-making process of investing federal grant program funds in the communities of the County. This outreach effort builds on the outreach that was undertaken for the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan.

At the beginning of the planning process, the project team met with the Directors of the Councils of Government, COG, to discuss the Annual Action Plan and ask for their assistance in outreach to their member municipalities.

The project team facilitated three public hearings to be convened during the drafting and finalization of the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan. The first public hearing was held at the Allegheny County Economic Development Office on February 22, 2023 to receive input on housing and community development needs. There was also a virtual participation option for this hearing. A second public hearing was held on April 24, 2023 in the Carnegie Borough building to take comments on the draft FY 2023 Annual Action Plan. Finally, a third hearing was conducted April 26, 2023 the Allegheny County Economic Development Office, with a virtual participation option. The team enlisted the assistance of the COG Directors and their member municipalities to disseminate information about the public hearings and notify the stakeholder organizations about the hearings.

The project team followed the guidelines set forth in ACED's Citizen Participation Plan in order to provide the public with timely notice and reasonable access to public hearings and information.

5. Summary of public comments

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

TBD

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

TBD

7. Summary

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

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

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for the administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	
CDBG Administrator	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	Economic Development
HOME Administrator	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	Economic Development
ESG Administrator	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	Department of Human Services

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The purpose of the Consultation and Public Outreach Process is to outline the procedures that will be used to ensure opportunities for public participation in the preparation of the Allegheny County 2023 Annual Action Plan. In concert with the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) Citizen Participation Plan, the Consultation and Public Outreach Process is intended to involve governmental organizations, stakeholders, and citizens within Allegheny County in the decision-making process of investing federal grant program funds in the communities of the County. This outreach effort builds on the outreach that was undertaken for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and will be focused on issues and initiatives that surfaced during 2022 and may be considered for the 2023 Annual Action Plan. As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the County continued to offer virtual meetings, interviews, and targeted outreach. Public hearings were held both in person and virtually.

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

Allegheny County developed an outreach effort to maximize input from a large cross-section of stakeholders. The County’s outreach effort included virtual and in person public meetings, published meeting notices, and virtual stakeholder meetings. During the preparation of this Annual Plan, Allegheny County consulted with many entities, including the following:

- Directors, Allegheny County Councils of Governments (COG)
- Allegheny County Departments (Human Services, Health)
- Local Housing Options Team
- Homeless Services Providers
- Continuum of Care
- Allegheny County Housing Authority

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

Allegheny County is committed to working with the Continuum of Care (CoC) to determine the allocation of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program funds each year, develop the performance and evaluation standards for activities, and develop the policies and procedures related to the administration and operation of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Representatives of the County serve on the Continuum of Care Board and attend their meetings regularly. The CoC is consulted for each Annual Action Plan. Over the past year, the County and CoC members have met and discussed the ESG Program. Coordination between the County and Allegheny Link, who implements the Coordinated Entry System for the County, ensures efficient assessments of all persons presenting to the Continuum and offering solutions that best meet their individual needs.

During the development of this Annual Plan, coordination with the CoC was essential to evaluate the needs of persons experiencing and at risk of homelessness. In addition, outreach conducted during the program year as part of the development of the County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan informed the needs of the CoC and ESG providers.

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

Allegheny County continues to consult with the CoC Board and committees to determine funding priorities to assist people experiencing homelessness. Specific efforts are listed in AP-65. The CoC is part of the decision-making process for the development of the ESG program. Allegheny County continues to work with the Continuum of Care and uses its performance standards for projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, including reviewing the standards that the CoC has established for their sub-grantees. Established CoC standards that are applicable and easily transferrable to ESG projects and activities are used in the effort to apply a standard set of criteria across homeless funding programs. Allegheny County will continue to work with the CoC, through their representation on the Homeless Advisory Board, to evaluate the outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds. The County will continue to work with the CoC to develop funding, policies, and procedures for the administration and operation of the HMIS.

Specific efforts to assist chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, unaccompanied youth and persons at risk of becoming homeless, are identified in AP-35, Project Summary and AP-65, Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities.

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

1	Agency/Group/Organization	ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	CHAR-WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	NORTH HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	SOUTH HILLS AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	TURTLE CREEK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing & Community Development Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing & community development needs of the agency's members.

8	Agency/Group/Organization	ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth 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?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing needs and the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Allegheny Link
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth 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?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing needs and the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	LOCAL HOUSING OPTIONS TEAM
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth 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?	Agency was consulted via group interview to obtain input on housing needs and the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

There were no types of agencies that Allegheny County intentionally did not consult, either through focus group meetings and/or personal interviews. Broadband providers and hazard mitigation agencies were consulted during the preparation of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and were not consulted during the development of this AAP plan.

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?
Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness	Continuum of Care	The goals in the CoC plan informed the Strategic Plan goals focused on homelessness.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

Allegheny County is committed to increasing citizen awareness and involvement in the preparation and implementation of the CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs. In concert with the Allegheny County Economic Development's (ACED) Citizen Participation Plan, the Consultation and Public Outreach Process was developed to maximize input from governmental organizations, stakeholders, and citizens within Allegheny County. This outreach effort included public meetings, published meeting notices, stakeholder meetings and telephone interviews.

The project team met with the Directors of the Councils of Governments (COG) to report on the purpose and schedule of the Annual Plan and to ask for their assistance in outreach to their member municipalities. Working with ACED staff, the project team developed a list of key constituencies. Special attention was focused on the needs of low- and moderate-income individuals and households, along with the needs of special needs populations, such as seniors, persons with disabilities, homeless individuals, and public housing residents.

Allegheny County convened two sets of public hearings during the drafting and finalization of the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan to receive public testimony and comment on the draft Plan. As indicated above, one set of public meetings was conducted with a virtual option as well as in person in order to accommodate individuals with barriers to attending in person, or for those who were more comfortable participating virtually. This first public hearing was held February 22, 2023 in the County's offices, and via Microsoft Teams. In addition, the County conducted the second set of public hearings both in person and virtually. These meetings were held on transportation routes. One such public hearing was held on April 24, 2023, in Carnegie Borough, and a second was conducted April 26, 2023 in the County's office, with a virtual participation option. The purpose of the hearings was to take comments on the draft the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan during the 30-day public comment period.

Allegheny County followed the guidelines set forth in ACED's Citizen Participation Plan in order to provide the public with timely notice and reasonable access to public hearings and information. Arrangements were also available for any persons requiring assistance due to Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

The County made its Plan available via multiple electronic means, including offers to email or mail via USPS copies of the Plan to interested parties. In addition, a copy of the Plan was placed on display in the County Manager's office, as well as at the ACED Offices.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	All Community residents	0 people attended the February 22, 2023 hearing	No comments received.	N/A	
2	Public Hearing	All Community residents	Second hearing conducted April 24, 2023.			
3	Public Hearing	All Community residents	Second hearing conducted April 26, 2023.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The County anticipates receiving the following amounts in Program Year 2022:

- \$13,402,636 CDBG
- \$3,238,682 HOME
- \$1,174,237 ESG

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	\$13,402,636	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$14,902,636	\$15,000,000	Funds for housing and non-housing community development needs. Remainder available is approximately one times annual allocation.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	\$3,238,682	\$0	\$0	\$3,238,682	\$3,200,000	Funds for housing development. Remainder available is approximately one times annual allocation.

ESG	Public-federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	\$1,174,237	\$0	\$0	\$1,174,237	\$1,150,000	Funds for homeless and at risk of homelessness activities. Remainder available is approximately one times annual allocation
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Table 2 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The County will continue to partner with other public agencies and non-profit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources and maximize outcomes in housing and community development. Leveraged resources include, but are not limited to, Continuum of Care dollars, Housing Authority resources, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol services, services for the elderly, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). The HOME program requirement of 25% match for every dollar in program funds will be met by the sub-recipient of the HOME funds, including developers and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Match may include non-Federal cash contributions and below-market interest rate loans to the project. Developer equity from a LIHTC deal will not be counted as match. ESG funds will be matched dollar for dollar through cash or other in-kind services.

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

Allegheny County does not anticipate that any publicly owned land or property will be used to address the needs identified in the Annual Plan.

Annual Goals and Objectives

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

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Provide Homeless Housing and Services (ESG)	2020	2024	Homeless	Countywide	Provide Homeless Housing and Services	CDBG: \$1,174,237	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 29 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 1309 Persons Assisted
2	Public Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Countywide	Public Facilities/Infrastructure	CDBG: \$941,254	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4585 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Water/Sewer Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Countywide	Public Facilities/Infrastructure	CDBG: \$1,751,191	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10395 Persons Assisted
4	Parks/Recreation Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Countywide	Public Facilities/Infrastructure	CDBG: \$338,115	Other: 6 Other
5	Safe Neighborhood Demolition	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Countywide	Eliminate Slum/Blighting Influences	CDBG: \$527,922	Buildings Demolished: 49 Buildings
6	COG Administration	2020	2024	Admin	Countywide	Planning/Administration	CDBG: \$374,997	Other: 8 Other
7	Removal of Architectural Barriers	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Countywide	Public Facilities/Infrastructure	CDBG: \$794,502	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 23307 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Rehabilitate Existing Housing Stock	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Countywide	Increase Access to/Quality of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$650,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 10 Households Assisted Rental units rehabilitated: Household Housing Unit
9	Provide Human Services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Countywide	Provide Public Services	CDBG: \$953,570	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 259 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Households Assisted Other: 1 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
10	Economic Development/Financing	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Countywide	Economic Development	CDBG: \$983,200	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 135 Persons Assisted Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
11	Create New Affordable Rental Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Allegheny County-Mon Valley Communities	Increase Access to/Quality of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$2,470,000 HOME: \$3,750,000	Rental units constructed: 16 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 32 Household Housing Unit
12	Increase Homeownership	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Countywide City of McKeesport Municipality of Penn Hills	Increase Access to/Quality of Affordable Housing	CDBG: HOME: \$329,895	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 17 Households Assisted
13	Planning/Administration	2020	2024	Admin	Countywide	Planning/Administration	CDBG: \$2,305,530 HOME: \$323,868	Other: 2 Other

Table 3 – Goals Summary
Annual Action Plan

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Provide Homeless Housing and Services (ESG)
	Goal Description	Allegheny County will use ESG funds to address a number of homeless issues, including emergency shelter operations, shelter and assistance for victims of domestic violence, street outreach, and rental and financial assistance for households that are literally homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
2	Goal Name	Public Improvements
	Goal Description	The County will use CDBG funds to make improvements to streets, sidewalks and stormwater infrastructure facilities throughout the County.
3	Goal Name	Water/Sewer Improvements
	Goal Description	The County will use CDBG funds to make improvements to water and sewer infrastructure communities throughout the County.
4	Goal Name	Parks/Recreation Improvements
	Goal Description	Recreation improvements in Allegheny County are important to supporting the quality of life by providing adequate open space and recreation opportunities. The County will continue to support its various community development needs through upgrades to existing recreation amenities and creation of new opportunities.
5	Goal Name	Safe Neighborhood Demolition
	Goal Description	The County will use CDBG funds for code enforcement demolition and acquisition/demolition/disposition in various selected municipalities throughout the County's COG jurisdictions.
6	Goal Name	COG Administration
	Goal Description	Support administration and delivery of CDBG activities within eight COGs.

7	Goal Name	Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Goal Description	Ensuring access for persons with disabilities to County amenities is of critical importance. The County will utilize CDBG dollars to remove architectural barriers in its parks, public facilities, and sidewalks to ensure ease of and safe access and transit for persons with disabilities.
8	Goal Name	Rehabilitate Existing Housing Stock
	Goal Description	The Home Rehabilitation Program supports the preservation and rehabilitation of homes countywide by supporting families and individuals who already own their homes but, due to economic hardship or excessive cost-burden, are not able to make repairs necessary for critical upkeep and value retention. This goal serves to improve and maintain the quality of affordable housing across the County.
9	Goal Name	Provide Human Services
	Goal Description	The County will provide funding for human service projects.
10	Goal Name	Economic Development/Financing
	Goal Description	Provide technical assistance and investment capital through business loan funds to assist businesses in preserving and creating new economic opportunities. Provide technical assistance and counseling through business resource centers, assistance directories and company site visits. Provide economic opportunity for low and moderate income people via training and education programs. Goal also includes financing and incentives for brownfield/underutilized land redevelopment activities.
11	Goal Name	Create New Affordable Rental Housing
	Goal Description	Allegheny County will provide resources to increase the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and accessible rental housing that is affordable to low- moderate-income households. This could be construction of new units or rehabilitation of existing vacant units/buildings into affordable rental units.

12	Goal Name	Increase Homeownership
	Goal Description	The County will support homebuyer development programs that create new homeownership units and provide down-payment assistance to low- moderate-income first-time homebuyers.
13	Goal Name	Planning/Administration
	Goal Description	Funds used to support the County's implementation efforts and to ensure the CDBG and HOME programs operate in compliance with all federal requirements.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

#	Project Name
1	2023 Emergency Solutions Grant
2	2023 Public Improvement Projects
3	2023 Water/Sewer Improvements
4	2023 Parks and Recreation
5	2023 Safe Neighborhood Demolition
6	2023 COG Administration
7	2023 Removal of Architectural Barriers
8	2023 Housing
9	2023 Human Services
10	2023 Economic Development
11	2023 Planning and Administration

Table 4 – Project Information

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

Allegheny County will allocate its CDBG funds to those geographic areas whose population is at or above 51% low- and moderate-income persons. At least 70% of all of the County's CDBG funds that are budgeted for activities will principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The following guidelines for allocating CDBG funds will be used by the County:

Public facilities improvements will either be located in a low- and moderate-income census tract/block group or the County will prepare surveys which show a benefit ratio of low- and moderate-income population at or above 51%.

Demolition of structures will either be located in low- and moderate-income areas or in areas that have been designated as slum and blighted areas.

Funding for public services will be based on the clientele's income or in certain cases a limited clientele which have a presumed low- and moderate-income status.

Economic development projects will either be located in a low- and moderate-income census tract/block group, or a poverty tract greater than 20%, or part of a redevelopment plan, or by providing 51% or more of the jobs for low- and moderate-income population.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	2023 Emergency Solutions Grant
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Provide Homeless Housing and Services (ESG)
	Needs Addressed	Provide Homeless Housing and Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,174,237
	Description	Allegheny County will use ESG funds to address a number of homeless issues, including emergency shelter operations, shelter and assistance for victims of domestic violence, street outreach, and rental and financial assistance for households that are literally homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 29 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 1309 Persons Assisted
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Street Outreach \$90,000 Shelter Operations \$545,000 Rapid Rehousing \$408,843 Data Collection/HMIS \$140,000
Project Name	2023 Public Improvement Projects	

2	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	Public Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$941,254
	Description	Improvements to streets, sidewalks, storm water infrastructure, and other public facilities
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 4,585 low-income individuals will benefit from the proposed activities.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Funding for Public Improvement Projects, such as road reconstruction, retaining walls, catch basins and other municipal improvements. Matrix Codes 03I, 03K, 03L
3	Project Name	2023 Water/Sewer Improvements
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	Water/Sewer Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,751,191
	Description	Improvements to water and sewer infrastructure communities throughout the County
	Target Date	6/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10,400 low income individuals will benefit from the proposed activities.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Funding for Water and Sewer Projects Matrix Codes 03J
4	Project Name	2023 Parks and Recreation
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	Parks/Recreation Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$338,115
	Description	Funding for parks and recreation projects.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	8,520 low income individuals are expected to benefit from the proposed recreation improvement activities.
	Location Description	Homestead, Wilmerding, Glassport Boroughs
	Planned Activities	Funding for Parks and Recreation Projects Matrix Codes 03F
5	Project Name	2023 Safe Neighborhood Demolition
	Target Area	Countywide

	Goals Supported	Safe Neighborhood Demolition
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Slum/Blighting Influences
	Funding	CDBG: \$527,922
	Description	The County will use CDBG funds for code enforcement demolition and acquisition/demolition/disposition in various selected municipalities throughout the County's COG jurisdictions.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 1200 individuals will benefit from the proposed activities.
	Location Description	Countywide
	Planned Activities	Demolition Matrix Code 04
6	Project Name	2023 COG Administration
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	COG Administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning/Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$374,997
	Description	Funding for the Administration and Delivery for the Council of Governments.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A Administration
	Location Description	Countywide
	Planned Activities	Funding for the Administration and Delivery for the Council of Governments Matrix Code 21A
7	Project Name	2023 Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	Removal of Architectural Barriers
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$794,502
	Description	Funding for the Removal of Architectural Barriers to ensure ADA accessibility.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 23,000 low income, disabled individuals will benefit from the proposed activities.
	Location Description	Countywide
	Planned Activities	Barrier removal projects including curbs and sidewalks Matrix Code 03L
8	Project Name	2023 Housing
	Target Area	County-wide

	Goals Supported	Rehabilitate Existing Housing Stock Increase Homeownership
	Needs Addressed	Increase Access to/Quality of Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,120,000 HOME: \$4,079,895
	Description	Funds will be used to rehab existing rental units, create new affordable rental housing, and provide homeownership assistance to first-time homebuyers.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 27 low income households will benefit from the proposed homebuyer activities; 48 households will benefit from improved rental housing.
	Location Description	County-wide, McKeesport, Penn Hills
	Planned Activities	Rehabilitation of existing rental units Matrix Code 14B
9	Project Name	2023 Human Services
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	Provide Human Services
	Needs Addressed	Provide Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$983,200
	Description	Funding for Human and Public Service projects.
	Target Date	6/30/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 300 low-income individuals will benefit from the proposed services.
	Location Description	Countywide
	Planned Activities	Various public service activities Matrix Codes 05U, 05C, 05M, 05Z
10	Project Name	2023 Economic Development
	Target Area	Countywide
	Goals Supported	Economic Development/Financing
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$983,200
	Description	Provide technical assistance and investment capital through business loan funds to assist businesses in preserving and creating new economic opportunities. Provide technical assistance and counseling through business resource centers, assistance directories and company site visits. Provide economic opportunity for low and moderate income people via training and education programs. Goal also includes financing and incentives for brownfield/underutilized land redevelopment activities.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 135 low income individuals will benefit from employment services proposed by this project.
	Location Description	County-wide

	Planned Activities	Provide economic opportunity for low and moderate income people via training and education programs Matrix Code 05H
11	Project Name	2023 Planning and Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Planning/Administration
	Needs Addressed	Planning/Administration
	Funding	
	Description	Funds used to implement CDBG and HOME programs in compliance with federal requirements.
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A Admin
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Funds used to implement CDBG and HOME programs in compliance with federal requirements. Matrix Code 21A

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

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

Allegheny County has not designated geographic areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CDBG-Eligible	100%

Table 5 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Allegheny County will allocate its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds to those geographic areas whose population is at or above 51% low- and moderate income. At least 70% of the County's CDBG funds will principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The County will use the following guidelines for allocating CDBG funds:

- Public facilities improvements will be located in low- and moderate-income areas as determined by census tract/block group data or benefit area survey data.
- Demolition activities will occur in low- and moderate-income areas, slums/blighted areas or on a spot basis for structures that have been designated as hazards by local code enforcement.
- Funding for public services will be based on the clientele's income or in certain cases a limited clientele that have a presumed low- and moderate-income status.
- Economic development projects will be located in low- and moderate-income census tract/block groups, poverty tracts, redevelopment areas, or by providing 51% or more of the jobs for low- and moderate-income population.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds will be targeted to low- and moderate-income households, and projects proposed to be located in areas outside of racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAPs) will be given a higher priority. Penn Hills and McKeesport will get a specific allocation as members of the Allegheny County HOME Consortium.

Emergency Solutions Grants Program funds will be directed to emergency homeless shelters, targeted street outreach activities designed to identify street homeless persons and connect them to housing solutions, and rapid rehousing assistance. Funds will also be used for data collection/HMIS management.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.420, 91.220(g)

Introduction

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

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	
The Production of New Units	
Rehab of Existing Units	48
Acquisition of Existing Units	27
Total	75

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

Discussion

The figures reported above are only for units qualifying as affordable under the HOME Program regulations at 92.252 and/or 92.254. Persons expected to be assisted through emergency shelter or transitional housing are not reported above.

AP-60 Public Housing - 91.420, 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority plans to invest in capital improvements and continue family self-sufficiency programming in an effort to improve the living environment of its residents.

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

The ACHA Resident Advisory Board typically meets monthly to provide input and feedback to ACHA's Board of Directors and staff on the management, operation and physical condition of ACHA properties. During the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings have been more limited and when held have been conducted virtually.

ACHA operates a Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program to encourage public housing and housing Choice Voucher residents to become homeowners.

MHA has a resident council at every Asset Management Project, and there is one resident advisory board. Crawford Village has two resident advisory councils because the senior high-rise building is separate from the family community. These resident councils and the resident advisory board provide input and feedback on MHA's management, operations and physical condition of MHA properties.

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

N/A Neither PHA is designated as troubled

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

There is an ongoing need for more affordable rental housing units as well as permanent supportive housing units and other low-barrier housing options in Allegheny County. Rents continue to rise and incomes are not increasing in a manner that can support increased housing costs. In addition, supportive services are often identified as a need in order to achieve and maintain stability for households experiencing homelessness.

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

Allegheny County is part of the Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Penn Hills/Allegheny County Continuum of Care (CoC). This is a regional initiative staffed by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS), Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED), and the City of Pittsburgh Department of Planning. The County supports the efforts of the Continuum of Care and submits ESG funding request applications to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on behalf of organizations. Each January, the COC conducts a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of the County's sheltered and unsheltered homeless to ascertain the number and characteristics of the homeless population and to assess their needs.

In 2018, the Continuum of Care implemented the Coordinated Entry System (CES) in order to assess the unique needs, barriers and strengths of persons experiencing housing crises and then referring them to resources, services and housing best suited for addressing those needs and barriers. CES is intended for unsheltered homeless, persons in an emergency shelter, persons attempting to flee domestic violence, persons exiting institutions where the institutional stay was 90 days or less and the person was homeless prior to institutionalization. Prioritization is based upon need, financial parameters, and specific presenting characteristics. The County will continue to support efforts focusing on street outreach to the unsheltered homeless, especially unsheltered youth and unsheltered chronically homeless. The Coordinated Entry process continues to evolve in its assessments of households. Currently, the CoC utilizes the Allegheny Housing Assessment, a tool designed to help prioritize admissions to supportive housing services for individuals or families experiencing homelessness. The tool a predictive risk model to determine the likelihood of a mental health inpatient stay, a jail booking and frequent use (4 or more visits) of hospital emergency rooms if they were to remain unhoused.

In addition, the Department of Human Services has continued to expand the mobile field unit to areas where homeless persons tend to congregate (drop-in centers, enrollment centers, camps) and focuses on families, youth, Veterans.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

HMIS captures Point in Time data, Systems Performance Measures and Coordinated Entry data to evaluate and understand the emergency needs of persons in the County experiencing homelessness. While no longer a priority at the federal level, there are transitional housing needs that still exist in Allegheny County, in addition to robust case management services. The County uses the information generated by the HMIS to inform Strategic Plan priorities as well as CDBG, HOME and ESG budget and planning processes.

All persons presenting to the continuum are assessed using the Allegheny Housing Assessment, which uses data to predict outcomes if a person remains unhoused. This data and potential outcomes is then used to determine the type of housing intervention that will most adequately address their need. Potential interventions include transitional housing, rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing. There are currently emergency shelters available for people experiencing homelessness and people impacted by domestic violence, though overall length of stay in shelter has increased due to lack of affordable housing inventory in the County. The County opened Second Avenue Commons in 2022, which provides low-barrier shelter, additional year-round shelter capacity, as well as overflow space in the winter months.

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

Allegheny County's CES managed through the Allegheny Link streamlines access and referral to the other components of the homeless system to shorten the amount of time and number of referrals standing between homeless households and housing assistance.

Ending chronic homelessness is a priority for the CoC, and as such, has prioritized serving persons experiencing chronic homelessness in all of its permanent supportive housing beds. As discussed above, all persons presenting to the Continuum of Care are assessed to determine the type of housing intervention that will most adequately address their need. The CoC has adopted housing first, which seeks to place persons in permanent housing as quickly as possible, then provide supportive services to promote stability in housing. In addition, the CoC ranks projects seeking federal dollars based on their ability to meet certain Systems Performance Measures, including keeping the length of stay under 30

days (i.e. placement in RRH/PSH within 30 days of presenting to the CoC) and participants ability to remain in or move into permanent housing. Ensuring proper services are in place will also be prioritized to prevent recidivism and returns to homelessness.

Coordinated entry has been working with mobile field units and focuses on families, youth, and Veterans. The CoC has worked with the VA and Veteran's Leadership Program (VLP) since 1984 to reach out to Veterans, provide housing, and to prevent homelessness. The County and CoC will continue these efforts.

The County's Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines the following strategic initiatives:

1. Provide year-round low-barrier emergency shelter
2. Establish a centralized rental housing locator
3. Increase supply and access to affordable housing
4. Expand outreach resources to fully cover all areas of the County hosting significant populations of homeless persons
5. Develop a communications plan to more broadly disseminate information on the homeless services system

The County continues to identify ways and resources to expand availability of supportive services designed to promote stability and prevent returns to homelessness. Increasing the affordable inventory continues to be a priority in order to reduce the length of time homeless.

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.

Allegheny County has a number of services to assist low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless. Providers will be working toward the goal of enabling people at greatest risk of homelessness to maintain permanent housing through targeted prevention and diversion activities. When homelessness cannot be avoided, CES and providers will connect people with appropriate resources to stabilize them in housing as quickly and effectively as possible. The County will continue to prioritize resources to aid in homelessness prevention efforts, especially given the lack of affordable inventory and barriers to new housing an eviction record will create.

The County's Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness prioritizes efforts to avoid transition from and discharge from shelter, hospitalization or other institutionalization into homelessness. The County follows all PA state mandated transition policies when discharging consumers from hospitals and/or institutions.

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

Introduction

Allegheny County updated its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in 2020-2021. The AI identified the following impediments:

- Fair Housing Education, Outreach and Training
- Affordable Rental Housing
- Affordable Housing for Sale
- Accessible Housing Units
- Private Lending Practices
- Approach to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- Economic Issues Affecting Housing Choice

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

Allegheny County will continue to provide Fair Housing Education and Services in an effort to remove barriers to fair housing in the County. In addition, the County will continue to prioritize affordable housing developments that are proposed in areas of opportunity in the County.

The County will continue to support the Allegheny Housing Development fund, which provides funding to non-profit and for-profit developers for acquisition, new construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

The County will continue to reserve CDBG funds for projects that aim to reduce architectural barriers and assure safe, traversable sidewalks throughout the County.

Discussion

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

Introduction

Allegheny County has developed the following actions planned to: address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based hazards, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structures, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The County will utilize its federal dollars to provide funding for rehabilitation of owner and renter-occupied units; support homeless housing and services; and promote economic development activity, especially in commercial revitalization districts.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The County will continue to support affordable housing by providing rehabilitation assistance; supporting developers' efforts to create new affordable rental and homeownership opportunities; offering housing counseling; offering homeownership assistance; and providing fair housing education and services. In addition, the County is proposing to fund several agencies that provide eviction prevention counseling services in an effort to ensure households are able to maintain housing and prevent episodes of homelessness that are anticipated once eviction moratoria expire.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is responsible for testing for elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) in children. The County now requires that all children be tested; as a result, the number of tests has increased, but overall there is still a downward trend in the number of children with EBLL.

All housing assisted with CDBG and/or HOME dollars will be evaluated for the presence of lead-based paint hazards. Interim controls or abatement will be performed on all lead hazards identified during the assessment.

The County will continue to ensure that rehabilitation programs address lead-based paint hazards. The County currently has a grant to support these efforts and plans to apply for additional dollars for the removal of lead-based paint hazards.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The County's chief anti-poverty strategy is based on attracting/retaining/growing businesses and supporting workforce development, including job-training services for low-income residents. The County's planned anti-poverty policies, programs and activities include:

- Workforce development
- Support services for new employees
- Assist in job creation, especially for the unemployed and underemployed
- Assistance for food, shelter, and training programs
- Development of new commercial/industrial facilities
- Commercial/industrial infrastructure development
- Rehabilitation of commercial/industrial facilities
- Promote small business and micro-enterprises
- Collaborate with community and economic development agencies to attract new businesses or assist existing businesses to expand
- Through programs like Allegheny Together, revitalize community's business districts to assist in the creation of new job opportunities.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Allegheny County Economic Development will coordinate activities among the public and private agencies and organizations in the area. This coordination will ensure that the goals and objectives of the County's Consolidated Plan will be effectively addressed by more than one agency. The staff of Allegheny County Economic Development will facilitate and coordinate the linkages between these public-private partnerships and develop new partnership opportunities. The County will continue to evaluate the needs of homeless and at-risk of homeless individuals and families by using the Coordinated Intake process established by the Coordinated Entry System implemented by the Allegheny Link. This will better evaluate the needs of households and direct them to appropriate services and housing to meet their needs.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Allegheny County coordinated heavily with its institutional network of public sector, private sector, and non-profit organizations to identify the emergent needs for housing and community development services and coordinate their delivery. In particular, the homeless, low-income persons facing high housing cost arrears, and senior citizens relied on effective delivery of services and assistance. These linkages are still in place currently.

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

The County is committed to continuing its participation and coordination with boroughs, townships, municipalities, Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as with the private and non-profit sectors, to serve the needs of target income individuals and families in the County. The County solicits applications for CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds. In addition, the County sends out applications to a list of agencies, organizations, and housing providers that have previously submitted an application or have expressed an interest in submitting an application. The applications are reviewed by the Allegheny County Economic Development staff and they discuss any questions with the applicants. The Allegheny County Economic Development staff also provides help and assistance to the public and private agencies that receive funding.

Discussion:

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

Introduction

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

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$1,500,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan	
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	
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.	
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	
Total Program Income	\$1,500,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities

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

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

No other forms of investment are proposed.

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

Allegheny County, through the Allegheny Housing Development Fund (AHDF), utilizes HOME funds for the development of affordable homeownership housing, including new construction and the acquisition and rehabilitation of single-family homes. The HOME regulations at 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) require that HOME-assisted housing remain affordable throughout the period of affordability. The HOME period of affordability for homeownership housing under a recapture provision is based upon the per-unit amount

the direct HOME subsidy provided. The "direct HOME subsidy" is the amount of HOME assistance that enabled the homebuyer to buy the house. This includes any HOME assistance that reduced the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price but excludes the amount between the cost of producing the unit and the market value of the property (i.e., the development subsidy). The County's policy, in accordance with the HOME regulations, requires that all HOME-assisted housing must meet the affordability periods as applicable: a minimum of five years for assistance under \$15,000; a minimum of ten years for assistance between \$15,000 and \$40,000; and a minimum of fifteen years for assistance over \$40,000.

To ensure long term affordability, the County will utilize the recapture provision at 24 CFR 92.254(a)(5)(ii)(4), "Owner investment returned first" and apply it to all HOME-assisted for-sale housing as well as other homeownership housing assisted with funds from the Allegheny Housing Development Fund. The affordability restriction will be secured using a deed restriction and will expire at the end of the affordability period. If the HOME-assisted homebuyer fails to occupy the unit as his or her principal residence (i.e., unit is rented or vacant), or the home was sold or otherwise transferred during the period of affordability and the applicable recapture provision was not enforced, then the project will be considered in noncompliance. Accordingly, the County will monitor for compliance with the principal residency requirement and the terms of the recapture provision.

Because recapture provisions cannot be used when there is no direct HOME subsidy, as defined above, the County will only provide HOME funds for affordable homeownership housing to projects that include a direct HOME subsidy.

To preserve affordability, the County may use purchase options, right of first refusal or other preemptive rights to purchase the house before foreclosure. However, should HOME-assisted housing be sold or transferred (voluntarily or involuntarily) during the period of affordability, recapture will be triggered and the County will recoup all or a portion of the direct subsidy, limited to net proceeds, to the extent that sufficient funds remain. Net Proceeds is defined as the sales price minus the superior non-HOME loan repayment minus closing costs related to the sale (but not the original purchase of the unit). From the available net proceeds, the County will distribute the funds as follows:

1. The homeowner will recover the amount of the downpayment that the homeowner contributed in cash;

2. The homeowner will recover the cost of documented permanent capital improvements, as defined in the guidelines for the Allegheny Housing Development Fund program, made to the property by the owner since the purchase;
3. From the proceeds remaining after items one and two are paid, the County will recapture up to the full amount of the HOME assistance, and the remaining amount, if any, will be remitted to the homeowner; and
4. In the event that net proceeds are not sufficient to pay the above, the County will permit the homeowner to recover up to their entire investment (down payment and documented capital improvements) and the recapture requirement will be considered satisfied. In no case shall recapture amount exceed what is available through net proceeds.

In instances where the County partners with a Land Trust to use HOME dollars for affordable housing development; resale provisions may be utilized in accordance with the policy attached in the Unique Appendix.

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

In instances where the County partners with a Land Trust to use HOME dollars for affordable housing development; resale provisions may be utilized in accordance with the policy attached in the Unique Appendix.

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

The County does not plan to use HOME funds to refinance existing debt.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

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

- Coordination - Each proposed grant recipient is a member of the Continuum of Care and uses the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) services to ensure that data on all persons served and all activities assisted under ESG are entered into

HMIS in accordance with HUD's standards on participation, data collection, and reporting. This coordination will help to determine the necessary services that are needed to address the needs of clients.

- Prioritizing Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing - Priority for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities will be given to clients that meet income eligibility and have the best chance of becoming self-sufficient once the ESG assistance ends. At this time, the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County support a network of shelters through the ESG funding that provides services to homeless and near homeless persons, including men, women, families, youth, etc. Coordination with the Continuum of Care will enable any gaps in services to be identified and any necessary changes in funding priorities to be made.
- Rental Assistance - Funds will be used to pay security deposits and rental assistance up to a maximum of twelve (12) months. The first nine (9) months will be paid at a maximum of 100% and the last three (3) months at a maximum of 75%. Rental and/or utility arrearages will be paid up to six (6) months of costs. Forward utility costs will be allowed.
- Standards & Procedures Evaluation - Each individual or family will receive a full evaluation of their needs and case management services that is necessary to help the clients stabilize their lives.
- Street Outreach/Essential Services - Agencies with the appropriate experience and skilled staff will provide street outreach and essential services as needed.
- Admission, Referral, Discharge & Length of Stay - No person will be denied services based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, familial status, age or use of a guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness or physical disability. All shelters must meet local safety regulations and housing habitability standards. Accessibility for the handicapped will be provided where possible. A list of rules and regulations for each shelter will be provided to all residents. A grievance policy and procedure will also be in place at each shelter. The length of stay will be determined by the case managers and the client needs for further assistance. Residents can remain in the shelter as long as client continues to meet the program requirements.

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

The Continuum of Care for Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Allegheny County has an operational Hybrid Centralized Call Center and No Wrong Door approach to Coordinated Intake which began October 1, 2014. The system utilizes HMIS to collect required set of data fields to determine the most appropriate housing option for the consumer requesting housing services. This system utilizes the HUD 2014 data standards for homeless, near homeless, prevention services and special needs housing. The Allegheny Housing Assessment utilizes

data to predict outcomes if a person remains unhoused (I.e., prison, Emergency Room, inpatient stay in an institution) and determine an appropriate housing placement.

The Coordinated Intake system will allow homeless and near homeless individuals and families to access homeless and prevention services through an intake process through the Allegheny Link Call Center or through individual providers. The No Wrong Door Approach allows the Call Center or the provider to collect the same basic information to address the determination and posting to an electronic bulletin board through HMIS. Information is based upon need, financial parameters, and specific presenting characteristics. Both access points have the ability to view current vacancy data and eligibility criteria for each program via HMIS. The active programs include: HUD funded programs including ESG and HUD SHP programs, PA Department of Human Services programs, VA programs, HOPWA, PATH, and private programs. Currently there are over 140 separate programs listed as a part of the coordinated intake.

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

The consortium of Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Continuum of Care serves as the ad hoc committee to allocate funding from the ESG program that is awarded to both the County and the City. This committee is comprised of the following members:

- Allegheny County Economic Development
- City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Penn Hills/Allegheny County Continuum of Care
- Formerly Homeless Person(s)

Once Allegheny County receives its allocation amount, the County and the City of Pittsburgh announce the availability of funds through advertising in the local newspaper(s) and notifying potential applicants from an existing list of emergency shelters and programs. When proposals are received, they will be catalogued by agency, dollar request, and types of activities proposed. The selection committee will review the proposals to determine funding awards and decide if the County or City will fund the proposed projects. The current criteria for prioritizing funding are as follows:

- Rapid Re-Housing Activities
- Homeless prevention Activities
- Essential Services
- Street Outreach
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Each application will be evaluated on the basis of need, eligibility, demonstrated ability to

provide rental assistance, financial accountability, and existing/potential additional funding sources.

The County will submit its list of proposed projects for approval to HUD as part of an Annual Plan amendment. Once that approval is received, agencies will be notified of their awards, a general orientation session will be held with these groups, if needed, and the contract process will be initiated by the County.

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

Allegheny County meets the homeless participation requirement found in 24 CFR 576.405(a). A formerly homeless person is active on the Homeless Advisory Board, ESG Review Committee and also serves on the Continuum of Care's sub-committees. Several organizations representing the homeless were contacted for input during the planning process. The public meeting was advertised and homeless persons were informed of the meeting at the time housing and social services were provided.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Based on past experience and after consultation with the Continuum of Care's Systems Performance Measures, the following evaluation standards for ESG activities will be utilized:

- the organization's prior performance
- quality of services provided
- ability to draw down funds in a timely manner
- number of people served
- ability to leverage other funds

A committee which consists of representatives from Allegheny County Economic Development, the Continuum of Care, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the Pittsburgh City Planning and formerly homeless person will review and select ESG activities. The composition and procedures of this committee will be reviewed and modified as necessary as the ESG program guidelines are finalized.

ESG funds will be matched dollar for dollar through cash or other in-kind services.