



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
Little Rock Field Office, Region VI  
Office of Community Planning and Development  
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May 5, 2011

Ms. Gayle Vickers  
Community Development Director  
P. O. Box 1845  
Jonesboro, AR 72403-1845

Dear Ms. Vickers:

We have completed our review of the City of Jonesboro's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which covers the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. The enclosed report conveys to you the results of our review and assessment of the City's performance in the administration of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program during this period.

This review was made in accordance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, which provides that the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will make an annual assessment of the grantee's capacity to continue to administer HUD-funded programs. We are hopeful that, in addition to meeting Departmental mandates, this review and assessment will provide a basis for working together as partners to help you achieve your housing and community development goals.

We congratulate the City on its many accomplishments during the past year and look forward to working with you during the upcoming program year. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance to you in any way, please contact me at (501) 918-5731 or Chandra Taylor, Community Planning and Development Representative, at (501) 918-5737.

Sincerely,

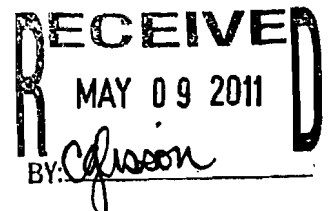
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Slater".

James E. Slater  
Director, Community  
Planning and Development

Enclosure

cc:

✓ Honorable Harold Perrin  
Mayor, City of Jonesboro



City of Jonesboro, Arkansas  
Annual Community Assessment  
For the Period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) is required to make an annual comprehensive performance assessment of HUD-sponsored CPD formula grant programs in accordance with HUD's Consolidated Plan regulations (24 CFR 91.525). Additionally, the Secretary of HUD must determine that the grant recipient is in compliance with the implementing statutes and regulations and has a continuing capacity to implement and administer the programs for which assistance is received.

This assessment meets the mandates of the statutes and provides a basis for working in partnership to help the City of Jonesboro achieve housing and community development goals listed in the City's Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans. CPD's overall evaluation of the City's performance during the 2010 Program Year is based on documents and reports submitted by the City, including the City's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

#### Evaluation by HUD

HUD shall review the performance report and determine whether it is satisfactory and that all reporting requirements have been met. If a satisfactory report is not submitted in a timely manner, HUD may suspend funding until a satisfactory report is submitted, or may withdraw and reallocate funding if HUD determines, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the jurisdiction will not submit a satisfactory report.

#### Grantee Performance Reports

Regulation 24 CFR 91.520 requires each jurisdiction that has an approved Consolidated Plan to annually review and report on the progress it has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its Action Plan. The performance report must include a description of the resources made available, the investment of available resources, the geographic distribution and location of investments, the families and persons assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of persons assisted), actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing, and other actions indicated in the strategic plan and the Action Plan. This report must be submitted to HUD within 90 days after the close of the grantee's program year.

In supplying year-end information to HUD, grantees will submit details of specific activities undertaken and accomplishments achieved through the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). In addition to IDIS reports, other required reporting components include Narrative Statements, Additional Program Narratives, and Supplemental Information, including maps and graphics.

Timely and accurate performance reporting by grantees to HUD meets three basic purposes: (1) it provides HUD with necessary information for the Department to meet its statutory requirements to assess each grantee's ability to carry out relevant CPD Programs in

compliance with all applicable rules and regulations; (2) it provides information for HUD's Annual Report to Congress, also statutorily mandated; and (3) it provides grantees an opportunity to describe to citizens their successes in revitalizing deteriorated neighborhoods and meeting objectives stipulated in their Consolidated Plan.

### CAPER Requirements

#### Required Narrative Statements

The narrative statements provide a summary of the grantee's overall progress in meeting local priorities and goals during the program year and describe the status of the annual actions taken to address specific needs under the Consolidated Plan. The required narratives cover the following areas: Assessment of Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives; Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; Affordable Housing; Continuum of Care; Other Actions; Leveraging Resources; Citizen Comments; and Self-Evaluation.

A number of program narratives are required in addition to those identified above. These additional narratives address specific program-related concerns. Other special program-related narratives are also required when certain activities are carried out during the program year.

#### Citizen Participation

In accordance with Regulation 24 CFR 91.105, the performance report must be made available to citizens for review and comment at least 15 days prior to submission to HUD. The availability of the City's CAPER was published in the local newspaper on March 16, 2011 and copies were made available to the public for review. The advertisement explained the 2010 report and gave information on the comment period. The City did not report receiving any comments from the public on this report. We have concluded that the City is in compliance with HUD's citizen participation requirements.

#### Program Progress

Meeting HUD's timeliness standard for expenditure of funds is a major concern for the Department and a concerted effort is being made to reduce the number of untimely grantees. Grantees failing to meet the regulatory standard for timeliness will be subject to having their grants reduced in amounts corresponding to the amount by which they fail to meet the HUD standard. HUD Regulations state that there should be no more than 1.5 equivalent years funding in the line of credit at 60 days prior to the end of the program year. Based on the 60-day drawdown ratio at November 1, 2010 the City's ratio of timeliness for expending CDBG funds is 1.50, which met the allowable 1.5 ratio. Accordingly, the City has met the spending test for timely performance.

#### Summary Assessment

We congratulate the City on its many accomplishments during the past year on achieving Departmental objectives and addressing the goals outlined in the City's Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan. The City has met and exceeded the regulatory requirement of expending at least 70 percent of CDBG funds for activities that principally benefit low and

moderate-income persons, and has operated the program within the regulatory limitation. For the 2010 program year the city met the administration and public service percentile rate required by HUD.

### Continuum Care

The City of Jonesboro is actively involved in the community to assist homeless persons and families during the 2010 program year. Among the agencies that are most active in assistance to those at risk of becoming homeless are Salvation Army, Women's Crisis Center of NEA, Consolidated Youth Services, Mid-South Health, Jonesboro Urban Renewal Housing Authority, Crowley's Ridge Development Center, FOCUS, NARAN, Arkansas ESD, CASA, local DHS offices, and housing builders/ building management representatives.

### Strategic Goals and Objectives

The City of Jonesboro's primary focus for the 2010 year was housing, public services, and neighborhood revitalization which included demolition, code enforcement, and sidewalks. The City performed six (6) demolitions, fifteen (15) housing rehabilitation and two (2) sidewalks: Bridge and Word. Also, during 2010 the City funded three (3) public service activities: Summer/After School Mentoring, Educational Enrichment, and Employment (Job Skills Training). Each activity produced a high number of participants receiving assistance.

### Leveraging Resources

The City of Jonesboro receives funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development each year, which is an entitlement amount. With the inclusion of the 2010 funds of \$602,512, there was no leveraging of public or private funds for any of the programs. The City will continue to work with HUD and other Federal programs to tap any and all resources available for projects and programs for its citizens. The Planning, Community Development, Sanitation, Community Relations, Public Works, Police, Fire and Engineering Departments are in contact with the public to provide essential services to its citizens.

### Affordable Housing

The City of Jonesboro is continuing to provide affordable housing by homeowner rehabilitation projects, demolition projects, and homeowner assistance projects. During the 2010 program year the city provided fifteen (15) homeowner rehabs, six (6) demolitions and one (1) homeowner assistance projects.

### Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

The City of Jonesboro partnered with Legal Aid to assist in educational workshops and a public awareness of legal rights and responsibilities. The educational services include the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants and a presentation to the Craighead County Bar Association about Fair Housing project and to assist the project clients. Two Fair Housing Events were held discussing tenant rights. Outreach Walks were also held, which provided fair housing education materials to residents in low income areas.

## Conclusion

Based on our review of the City's CAPER and other available information, all required CAPER elements have been submitted in a timely manner and mandatory reporting requirements have been met. It appears that the City of Jonesboro's CDBG Program is being carried out as proposed in the City's approved 2010 Consolidated Plan and is in compliance with HUD Regulations. The City's performance is viewed as good and the City is determined to have the continuing capacity to administer the CDBG Program in accordance with applicable Federal requirements.

## Grantee Review and Comment Period

In accordance with Consolidated Plan Regulation 24 CFR 91.525(b), grantees have 30 days in which to review and comment on HUD's review of the CAPER. HUD may revise the report after considering a grantee's views and shall make the report, the grantee's comments, and any revisions available to the public, upon request, within 30 days after receipt of such comments.