



Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Through the CDBG Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funds to local governments for a wide range of community development activities for low-income persons. The funds will be used for housing rehabilitation, affordable housing or community development projects, public supportive services, and removal of architectural barriers for the elderly or disabled. In order for an activity to be eligible for CDBG funding, it must be shown to address one of the following national objectives:

- Benefit people with low incomes (up to 80% of median)
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight
- Meet an urgent need (such as earthquake, flood or hurricane relief)

The City of Jonesboro, located in the Northeast corner of Arkansas in Craighead County, is one of the state's fastest growing cities, the fifth largest city in Arkansas (with 77,391 people), and the second largest city in land mass. Located between Little Rock, St. Louis, and Memphis, Jonesboro stands out as the largest metropolitan city in Northeast Arkansas within a 80.2 square-mile radius area. Jonesboro is the county seat for Craighead County, also the home to Arkansas State University, and considered a regional center for manufacturing, agriculture, medicine, education, and trade.

Housing and community development needs include affordable housing in the Census tract areas that include the low-income populations. Maintaining the current housing stock in these areas and neighborhood revitalization are high priorities. Affordable housing is a definite need by either ownership or rental. The Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority (JURHA) provide rental assistance, but there are nearly 1,000 people currently on the waiting list for HCV and public housing. Furthermore, city has identified this as a high priority; however, with CDBG funding endanger of been cut by Federal legislators, the impact that can be made using CDBG funds is minimal. The city will be working closely with the housing authority to develop additional funding possibilities.

The Jurisdiction has very limited space to shelter the homeless population. The only shelter space consist of 22 beds at the local Salvation Army, which always stays full. When space is unavailable at the Salvation Army, many homeless residents are transported to shelters in nearby counties. Additionally, area churches provide 1-2 night accommodations at local motels if funds are available. At the time of the last point in time (PIT) Count. The volunteers counted 104 unsheltered and 21 sheltered individuals within the Jurisdiction. However, in April of 2017, the City, with the support of volunteers, opened the HUB, a resource center for homeless and families in crisis. Since the opening of the HUB, over 100 homeless residents have come forward seeking services, such as birth certificates, identification, assistance with disability and social security, counseling, drug rehabilitation, transportation, job

placement, and of course, finding a place to sleep or live. CDBG funding will be utilized to assist with the homeless population and is considered a high priority. The Jurisdiction is working closely with the NEA Homeless Coalition to address the ever growing homeless population needs.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

According to the data tables below, in 2020 Jonesboro had a population of 77,391 with 30,123 households and a median income of \$47,062.

According to the CHAS data, Jonesboro has housing problems in each of the four housing areas: Housing lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities; Overcrowded; Severely Overcrowded and Housing Cost Burden.

There is a great discrepancy in renter-occupied housing vs. owner-occupied housing.

The vast majority of rental property is located in R/ECAP (low-income) areas of Jonesboro. While the national standard for housing cost burden says that not more than 30% of income should be paid in housing cost, the 2020 American Fact Finder results show a direct correlation between income and percent of income paid in housing cost. For the 26.5% of Jonesboro families living on less than \$20,000 per year, 21.1% of them pay 38.6% of their income in housing costs. While 18.2% of our families earn between \$20,000 to \$34,999 annually, 8.5% of them pay more than 30% of their income in housing costs.

According to the 2008-2012 CHAS data below, 5,602 renters pay more than 30% of their income in housing cost, compared to 1,450 homeowners who pay more than 30% in housing cost. Additionally, 3,348 renter-households vs. 745-homeowners pay 50% or more of their income in housing cost. The total of 8950 renter-occupied households and 2,195 owner-occupied homes are living with a housing cost burden.

Jonesboro also has over 200 substandard renter-occupied units and over 35 owner-occupied substandard units. Over 450 renter-occupied units are over-crowded vs. 104 owner-occupied over crowded units.

The high rate of housing cost burden indicates a need to provide affordable housing at all income levels. There is also a need to prepare marginalized residents for homeownership through financial literacy and classes that teach understanding credit. Furthermore, the high rate of severe housing problems in renter-occupied housing indicates a need for property owner's accountability, such as a local property maintenance code, which would require property owners to maintain a certain standard on rental property.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Housing

The jurisdiction continues to focus on the stabilization of the housing market:

- Met with Habitat for Humanity to discuss partnership in new construction of affordable housing, transitional housing, rehabilitations, and neighborhood revitalization.
- Expanded our new homebuyers program
- Expanded and improved our Homeowner Rehabilitation program
- Assisted with homeless counts done by the regional homeless coalition
- Expanded Code Enforcement to alert of possible condemnations of housing that can rehabilitate.
- Provided for the maintenance, upkeep, and expansion of our parks and community centers.

Supportive Housing Needs

Among the agencies active in assisting those at risk of becoming homeless are Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, Veterans Action Clergy, Family Crisis Center of NEA, Consolidated Youth Services, Mid-South Health, Jonesboro Urban Renewal Housing Authority, Crowley's Ridge Development Center, FOCUS, local DHS offices, and the HUB.

Most of these agencies provide supportive services which include counseling for the mentally and emotionally ill, victims of substance abuse, family violence, serious and adolescent sex offenders, family therapy, and anger control/social motivation classes. Other services provided include Court Advocacy and interstate contact (for children moving out of the state.)

Transitional/Permanent Housing Needs

There remains a definite need for transitional housing in Jonesboro. Domestic violence victims, children coming out of the foster care and protective services system at the age of eighteen, prisoners, and those coming out of drug and alcohol rehabilitation all are in need of housing. Currently there are no agencies that have the capacity and/or funding to implement a project of sufficient size to address this issue.

Emergency Shelter Needs

The primary goal is to eliminate homelessness through the provision of affordable housing and the needed support services necessary to build self-sufficiency. Although permanent housing is HUD's primary focus, the City continues to find, that on this issue, the immediate needs differ. Currently the City has one "general" emergency shelter, the Salvation Army, which has neither the staff, nor the facilities required to change their current policy, which does not allow anyone, including mothers with children, to remain on the premises throughout the day. Having the homeless on the streets during the day is not acceptable. While other services try to fill this gap, the need remains unaddressed. Additionally, the Salvation Army has a total of 22 beds.

Recognize Housing Needs

The City of Jonesboro remains aware of the many housing needs going unmet and continues to seek solutions in an attempt to address those needs. Funding for rental housing is severely underfunded and affordable housing in the City of Jonesboro has improved, but is very limited for our very low-income families. The PHA is unable to keep up with the demand for public assisted housing, with a waiting list of up-to eighteen months.

Public Services

In partnership with several non-profits, the jurisdiction continues to provide support and financial resources to cover a range of outreach services for underserved populations. Services have included: after school care, translation services, community engagement, community gardens, and more.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Jonesboro has designed this community-wide Citizen Participation Plan to provide for and encourage citizen participation in its public hearings and HUD-funded programs. This Plan is an essential element of the City's present and future community development and has been established to comply with the regulations and requirements of the CDBG program as administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This Plan supersedes all other Citizen Participation Plans, which may have been adopted by the City of Jonesboro.

The primary goal of this Citizen Participation Plan is to provide all citizens of the community with adequate opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the City's CDBG program. The Plan sets forth policies and procedures designed to maximize the opportunity for citizen participation in the community development process. Persons of low and moderate incomes, residents of blighted neighborhoods, and residents of areas where community development funds are utilized, participation was encouraged and emphasized.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in all phases of the CDBG program(s) and are provided full access to program information. However, final responsibility and authority for the development and implementation of CDBG program(s) are the responsibility of the City of Jonesboro.

5. Summary of public comments

The public hearings for the CDBG Consolidated and AFH produced several comments from the small group of residents that attended the seven meetings. In addition, JURHA submitted 1,312 surveys with 251 responses that was returned to the housing authority for review. Twenty of the twenty-seven participants in the public hearings provided the following responses that were used in the development of the Consolidated Plan and 2022 Action Plan. They are as follows: individuals expressed their top priority was for more public infrastructure throughout the CDBG targeted areas in sidewalks, lighting, public transit, drainage improvements and other street needs. The second priority was the need for affordable and decent housing in the CDBG targeted areas. The third priority was for the expansion of public transit throughout the CDBG identified neighborhoods.

The AFFH meetings produced the following responses used in the development of the Fair Housing goals outlined in the AFH Plan. Those responses are as follows: Many residents requested the following items: 1. The City should provide more variety for independent living for elderly and disabled residents; 2. Senior housing should provide amenities such as recreational activities to improve the quality of life; 3. Transportation for the elderly and disabled leaves much to be desired. Yes, the City provides public transportation (JETS), but how do you get to the bus stops when you are elderly or disabled.

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

As stated previously, the public hearings for the CDBG Consolidated, Action and AFH Plans produced several comments from the small group of residents that attended the meetings. The City and JURHA received a few comments that were not accepted because they were not in considered as one of the National Objectives or the focus of HUD funding. Those responses are as follows: at one of the focus group sessions, one resident expressed concerned about the AFFH rule. They stated that this rule and subsequent assessment tools would allow the Federal government additional authority to direct the City in the zoning of its land use.

Another resident expressed concerned that the AFH would allow low-income families to use Section 8 vouchers to move into middle or high income neighborhoods. She also expressed that as long as low-income families can use Section 8 to rent, that they will not be concerned about purchasing a house.

In the Consolidated and 2022 Action Plans, one of the residents requested funding for rehabilitation of Habitat Housing.

7. Summary

The City's Five Year Strategy is intended to be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities that may become available. However, the following are the goals for the next five years. The types and number of projects that are carried out will also depend on the amount of CDBG funding available for the next five years and the city will adjust appropriately.

These are the following goals that will be implemented through the Consolidated Plan:

1. Determine the need to expand public transportation (JET) which may include operating after 6:00 p.m. and/or introduce weekend routes around Publicly Supported Housing and in R/ECAP
2. Establish a Citizens Fair Housing Board to educate residents (with a focus on protected classes) on how to apply fair housing laws, and to reduce community opposition to the development of affordable housing in high opportunity areas in Jonesboro
3. By 2023, develop a community revitalization strategy to reverse the trend of segregation in the R/ECAP by addressing the contributing factors in each fair housing issues
4. Through the previously discussed outreach efforts of the CFHB, increase knowledge and understanding of fair housing among landlords and residents and affirmatively furthering fair housing, international property maintenance codes, and revised state landlord/tenant laws.
5. Increasing awareness and enforcement of fair housing laws among publicly assisted families.
6. Establish a land bank/land trust to make homes more affordable for low-wealth families, help eliminate slums and blight, and reverse the trend of deteriorating property in low-income areas by making two (2) low-income home per year available through 2022.
7. The City will increase accessibility for people with disabilities through sidewalk and pedestrian crossing investments and expansion of para- transit services.
8. Increase the number of property owners willing to accept Housing Choice Vouchers to open up available housing throughout the community due to the lack of affordable housing for Publicly assisted families in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.
9. Create Attractive Neighborhoods through fostering livability and functionality in low-income neighborhoods.
10. Increase housing and services opportunities to the homeless populations.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	JONESBORO	Grants and Community Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Tonya G. Hass, HUD Grant Manager

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Jonesboro, AR 72403-1845

Phone: 870.336.7229

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PR-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(I) and 91.315(I)

1. Introduction

The City of Jonesboro, the Jonesboro Urban Renewal & Housing Authority (JURHA), and Mid-South Health Systems are actively involved in the Northeast Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. Through this partnership, the jurisdiction enhances coordination by providing technical assistance, collaboration and funding opportunities. The jurisdiction also partners with these organizations in an exchange of ideas and information. The jurisdiction and JURHA recently submitted its joint AFH plan to HUD. This coordinated effort required an examination that revealed how crucial it is for the organizations to not only continue coordination of efforts, but to expand efforts to create a transparent relationship in order to better serve our constituents.

The City also partners with Mid-South Health Systems, the City's largest mental health agency. Mid-South Health is a recipient of CDBG funds and provides outreach and coordination through its involvement in city and civic affairs and participation in community events. In addition to counseling, the organization provides staff and volunteers who collaborate with government on serving the homeless, near homeless and those in transition from institutions into the larger community.

The jurisdiction is a key partner with the Northeast Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. Members of the Taskforce cover a wide range of service delivery areas and include Goodwill Industries, homeless shelters, churches, Craighead County Veterans Action Clergy, Mid-South Health Systems, Habitat for Humanity, Reclamation House and others. It is this Taskforce, along with several volunteers, who have committed to providing the necessary expertise and time to ensure the needs of homeless and near homeless citizens are met.

As previously stated, the City of Jonesboro is an active partner in the Continuum of Care. This relationship has been important in helping us meet the needs of low- and moderate-income residents, the homeless, and those facing homeless. However, in the State of Arkansas, ESG funds are administered through the state Department of Human Services. Any organization applying to the State for sub-grantee funds must be a member of the Continuum of Care, and the Continuum's role is limited to providing confirmation and a letter of support that the applicant agency is in good standing with the Continuum of Care.

During the planning process, the jurisdiction reached out to JURHA, Mid-South Health Systems, Goodwill Industries, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), East Arkansas Planning and Development District (EAPDD), Craighead County Veterans Services, Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC), Hispanic Community Services, Inc. (HCSI), and a host of other non-profit organizations, church outreach ministries, community groups and neighborhood associations.

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

As previously stated, the City of Jonesboro is an active partner in the Continuum of Care. This relationship has been important in helping us meet the needs of the homeless and those facing homeless. However, in the State of Arkansas, ESG funds are administered through the state Department of Human Services. Any organization applying to the State for sub-grantee funds must be a member of the Continuum of Care, and the Continuum’s role is limited to providing confirmation and a letter of support that the applicant agency is in good standing with the Continuum of Care.

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The City conducts the annual PIT Count; collaborates with its partners to serve the homeless populations and those endangered becoming homeless. During this year’s PIT count, we saw an increase of individuals being homeless within Craighead County than in Greene or Poinsett.

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

The Arkansas Balance of State, one of the regional Continuum of Care organizations, serves the jurisdiction. City staff regularly attend their monthly meetings. A member of staff also serves on the CoC Nominating Committee.

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

The City of Jonesboro planning process is a 12-month process that solicits and accepts input throughout the year. Information and data are collected from federally mandated public hearings; including CDBG, AFH hearings, community meetings and listening sessions. The jurisdiction met with the local housing authority on several occasions to plan and discuss the joint AFH plan. This process has enhanced the avenues for sharing data and gaining a better understanding of how we can coordinate our efforts to improve the lives of our low- and moderate-income citizens. Additionally, social service agencies and

other entities were also invited to the table during the planning process as well as throughout the year. This year-long listening process has proven to be successful in gaining input from a cross-section of the community and service providers.

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	Jonesboro Urban Housing Renewal
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans AFH Plan
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority (JURHA) is the jurisdiction's partner on the development of the AFH Plan. They provided the public housing needs, housing choice vouchers data and assisted in the public hearings. In addition to the AFH partnership, JURHA has representation on the Homeless Taskforce since its inception.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	East Arkansas Planning & Development District, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	EAPDD has developed through a Housing Sustainability and Economic Development Plan in 2021 for 12 counties in Northeast Arkansas. This plan was made possible through the HUD Sustainability and Economic Growth Program and the City was an active participant in their study for housing stock and economic conditions.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Jonesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County Regional Planning and Transportation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Transportation Planning
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Jonesboro has consulted over the last three years regarding transportation planning for the City and County jurisdictions.

4	Agency/Group/Organization	Jonesboro Economical Transportation System
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Public Transit Organization Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Transportation
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	JET has been involved in the transportation needs for our low- to moderate income populations as well the homelessness programs of the jurisdiction.

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

Not applicable

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	City of Jonesboro	This plan overlaps the Consolidated and Action Plans through ensuring affordable and decent housing is available for the homeless to become independent and integrated into the community. In addition, transportation planning and implementation was the second goal that was part of both programs for the jurisdiction.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

Narrative (optional):

PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(c)

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

The primary goal of this Citizen Participation Plan is to provide all citizens of the community with adequate opportunity to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the City’s CDBG program. The Plan sets forth policies and procedures designed to maximize the opportunity for citizen participation in the community development process. Special emphasis is placed on encouraging participation by persons of low and moderate incomes, residents of blighted neighborhoods, and residents of areas where community development funds are utilized.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in all phases of the CDBG program(s) and are provided full access to program information. However, final responsibility and authority for the development and implementation of CDBG program(s) are the responsibility of the City of Jonesboro.

The City will make reasonable efforts to provide for citizen participation during the community development process and throughout the planning, implementation and assessment of all CDBG program(s), including, but not limited to, the following phases:

Identification and assessment of housing and community development needs; determination of CDBG project(s) and documentation; and the development of CDBG application(s);

1. changes and/or amendments to approved CDBG projects; and,
2. assessment of CDBG program performance.

All phases of the community development process are conducted by local officials in an open manner. Citizens are encouraged to participate at all levels and given access to program information during each phase of any CDBG program as outlined herein.

As the fundamental means of notifying interested citizens about the Consolidated Plan and related activities, such as the Annual Action Plan or the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, the Grants Administrator will utilize advertisement notices in newspapers of general circulation. Such notices will be published at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to public hearings. All notices will be written in

plain, simple language and direct efforts will be undertaken to publish and / or post information at locations that will elicit maximum low- and moderate-income and minority participation.

The City will conduct at least two (2) public hearings to obtain citizens' views and to respond to proposals and questions. The hearings will occur prior to development of the draft plan and will be intended to solicit public input regarding distinct issues, thereby aiding in developing the content of the plan.

Information about the time, location and subject of each hearing will be provided to citizens at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance through adopted public notice and outreach procedures. This notification will be disseminated to local governments and other interested parties. Public notification of the hearings will be published in the local newspaper. Grants and Community Development Department staff may also attend other meetings and conventions in the City of Jonesboro throughout the year, thereby providing an opportunity for additional public information on the Consolidated Plan.

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)
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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	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Non-profit organizations	The City held 2 public meetings for the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan and the 2022 Action Plan. Of the 2 meetings, the attendance was low with a total participation of 12 individuals. Three of the participants were black with 2 Hispanic/Latinos self-identified and 4 white non Hispanic. 8 of the participants were considered low to moderate income individuals. Three	The Twelve individuals expressed their top priority was for addressing homelessness. PPublic infrastructure throughout the CDBG targeted areas and sidewalks, lighting, public transit, drainage improvements and other street needs were also priorities. The Third priority of the citizens was the need for affordable and decent housing in the CDBG targeted areas. The third priority was for addressing blighted properties in the jurisdiction. Our fourth priority is for first time homebuyers program. Fifth priority is	Homelessness was our number one priority to address. The Jurisdiction has continually visited this priority but not much luck in finding a suitable location.	17
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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	Surveys	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Hispanic Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Landlord and realtors	JURHA and the City requested of 1,328 individuals to participate in a fair housing survey that requested the residents' housing needs for the AFH Plan. Of the 1,328 surveys sent, only 251 surveys were returned to JURHA and the City.	Many residents requested the following items: 1. The City should provide more variety for independent living for elderly and disabled resident2. Senior housing should provide amenities such as recreational activities to improve the quality of life3. Transportation for the elderly and disabled leaves much to be desired. Yes, the City provides public transportation (JETS), but how do you get to the bus stops when you are elderly or disabled. The individual was informed about the 'para transit' service provided by JETS, and	At one of the focus group sessions, one resident expressed concerned about the AFFH rule, stating that this rule and subsequent assessment tool would allow the Federal government coming in and tell the City how to zone its land use. Stall met with the resident before the meeting and explained that this is a planning document for use by the city and the Federal government has neither the desire or resources to tell cities how they should zone their property. HUD staff were available at this focus session and tried to reassure the resident, as well, that this is not what this planning document is about. We could not accept this comment because it was not the focus of	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

Continue the Fair Housing Board to hear complaints and monitor adherence to fair housing policies and regulations.

Increase knowledge and understanding of fair housing and affirmatively furthering fair housing through outreach and education:

Offer meeting space and set up educational schedule for both consumers and providers of housing to be carried out by the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission (AFHC):

- Assist in coordinating local delivery of educational services to local renters,
- Assist in coordinating local delivery of professional training services to landlords, program managers, other rental housing providers.

Prominently display posters, flyers, and fair housing educational printed materials

Distribute printed materials that provide information regarding:

- Definitions of reasonable accommodation and modification,
- Examples of discriminatory terms and conditions in rental markets,
- Differences between affirmatively furthering fair housing, affordable housing production and preservation, and landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities.

Consider updating the Jonesboro Fair Housing Ordinance to be consistent with current state and federal fair housing laws and enhance the accessibility and awareness of this resolution.

Create improved referral system by distributing information about fair housing including how to file a complaint.

Create fair housing outreach e-mail distribution list for fair housing materials that might be distributed quarterly to all those who may be interested in fair housing.

Request technical support from the State's Little Rock HUD office for outreach and education activities that might be targeted to racial and ethnic minority consumers of housing.

Establish baseline information of the actual level and types of discrimination occurring in the community through audit testing activities:

- Request that the City track complaint data more closely and use complaint data to compare year-to-year changes in fair housing activities. While more complaints are likely to be filed if educational efforts are successful, the goal of this action is to decrease the percentage of complaints that are found to be without cause and increase the percentage of those that are amicably reconciled. An additional goal is the decrease of the number of persons who abandon the complaint process without resolution.

Coordinate renter, homebuyer and homeowner credit training with local bankers and Realtors.

- • Enhance the understanding of poor real estate business practices, such as steering, redlining and blockbusting.
- • More broadly inform the public of recent land use changes to exclusionary zoning and land use policies.
- • Enhance understanding of credit, what leads to poor credit and the attributes of predatory lending.

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

Summary of Housing Needs

Demographics	Base Year: 2018	Most Recent Year: 2022	% Change
Population	74,710	77,391	7%
Households	26,218	30,123	15%
Median Income	\$45,931.00	\$67,605.00	47%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments:

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	13,245	7,947	4,270	3,115	14,210
Small Family Households	1,290	1,160	1,315	1,330	7,440
Large Family Households	125	150	310	320	1,020
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	370	645	895	455	3,060
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	160	410	420	405	1,240
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	920	695	810	740	1,885

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

Housing Needs Summary Tables

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	40	20	60	25	145	4	0	0	25	29
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	35	25	0	35	95	10	0	0	0	10
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	60	165	74	30	329	15	0	40	50	105
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,875	1,220	164	30	3,289	290	220	160	60	730
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	115	545	1,325	160	2,145	165	190	430	115	900

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	375	0	0	0	375	75	0	0	0	75

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source

Comments:

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	2,010	1,430	304	125	3,869	320	220	200	135	875
Having none of four housing problems	385	1,010	2,495	1,370	5,260	270	685	1,280	1,485	3,720
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	375	0	0	0	375	75	0	0	0	75

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source

Comments:

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	835	745	425	2,005	235	110	225	570
Large Related	95	150	95	340	0	0	85	85
Elderly	85	295	335	715	165	220	125	510
Other	1,055	695	684	2,434	65	80	175	320
Total need by income	2,070	1,885	1,539	5,494	465	410	610	1,485

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source

Comments:

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	780	405	55	1,240	125	25	65	215
Large Related	75	80	0	155	0	0	10	10
Elderly	60	170	80	310	135	140	20	295
Other	1,005	570	74	1,649	30	60	65	155
Total need by income	1,920	1,225	209	3,354	290	225	160	675

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2013-2017 CHAS

Source:

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	75	165	24	30	294	19	0	15	50	84

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Multiple, unrelated family households	20	25	50	35	130	0	0	25	0	25
Other, non-family households	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Total need by income	95	190	74	65	424	29	0	40	50	119

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Alternate Data Source Name:
2018-2022 CHAS
Data Source
Comments:

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Data Source
Comments:

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

There is a total of 637 overcrowded single family households in the jurisdiction. Of the 637 households, 165 renters have a housing burden of 30%; 130 renters have a housing burden between 30 and 50%, and 35 renters have a housing burden of 80% or higher of their monthly income! When we compare that to single family *homeowners*, Only 4 have a housing cost burden of 30%; 40 have a burden of 30-50%; and there are on households with a burden of 50-80%; however, 60 single family households have a housing burden between 80 and 100%. Based on personal circumstances/situations, all these families could be in danger of homelessness.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

According to the Jonesboro Police Department, in 2021, there were 562 reports of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. An overwhelming percentage (80%) were domestic violence; a small percentage (2%) were stalking, and 18% were cases of rape.

What are the most common housing problems?

The housing problems that plague this jurisdiction are primarily because of the age of housing stock and poorly maintained homes especially for low-income and minorities that are renters. Since the State of Arkansas nor the jurisdiction have property maintenance codes (tenant and landlord laws) to govern the housing stock, the housing standards are merely based on certain portions of the International Property Standards. The portions adopted were based on the basic structural design with fire codes applied during the construction phase. While our rental housing stock continues to decline, we anticipate 3,348 of the low-income and minority households would be in danger of losing their housing.

As the housing stock continues to decline, the low-income households could easily become homeless since the affordable housing is consider substandard for human habitation in certain instances. The two major housing characteristics that have been linked to homelessness would be plumbing and electrical failures because of years of neglect or availability of funds.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

The lack of decent affordable housing in certain areas affects the ability of protected classes to access housing outside low poverty areas. Other policies of notice are: Education, transportation, and employment. Low income areas in Jonesboro are also at a disadvantage for grocery stores and fresh produce.

A person's place of residence plays a tremendous role in their exposure to poverty. Residency goes to the heart of exposure to poverty. This becomes obvious when looking at the data. Minority populations (Blacks/Hispanics) Are at the top of every bad index and the bottom of every good index. Further, R/ECAP data shows that these protected groups are disproportionately represented within the R/ECAP. While they represent a minority of the City's population, they represent a majority percentage of the population's poorest and most under served. Racial and Ethnic families with children are most affected by the poverty indicators. Between 60 and 80% percentage of families in the R/ECAP area have children who have a high exposure to poverty.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

Low income and extremely low income families who are at imminent risk of homelessness have diverse need. The law states that anyone going without utilities for a week (7 days) due to delinquency can be evicted from their home. Therefore, in addition to the need for utility assistance/deposits, these families require rental assistance, assistance with deposits, transportation, assistance with obtaining identification.

The jurisdiction currently does not have a rapid rehousing program.

We have also determined that both categories of families require structure, life skill classes (including budgeting and financial management), and mentoring.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

The jurisdiction has not identified any housing characteristics that are linked to instability or increased risk of homelessness.

Discussion

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,610	380	450
White	1,515	160	210
Black / African American	910	195	94
Asian	24	0	85
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	120	25	60
0	0	0	0

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,385	960	0
White	1,470	675	0
Black / African American	700	195	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Hispanic	115	35	0
0	0	0	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,255	2,010	0
White	1,550	1,550	0
Black / African American	345	250	0
Asian	15	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	15	0
Pacific Islander	55	0	0
Hispanic	200	85	0
0	0	0	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	535	2,585	0
White	440	1,965	0
Black / African American	75	545	0
Asian	0	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	20	60	0
0	0	0	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:
2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

Discussion

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205

(b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,330	655	450
White	1,305	370	210
Black / African American	835	265	94
Asian	24	0	85
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	120	25	60
0	0	0	0

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,650	1,695	0
White	1,030	1,110	0
Black / African American	410	485	0
Asian	0	0	0

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	115	35	0
Other	0	0	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	504	3,775	0
White	319	2,795	0
Black / African American	95	500	0
Asian	15	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	55	0
Hispanic	59	225	0
Other	0	0	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	260	2,855	0
White	200	2,200	0
Black / African American	35	575	0
Asian	0	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	20	60	0
Other	0	0	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

Discussion

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction:

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	19,835	3,880	4,214	470
White	15,600	2,790	2,754	225
Black / African American	2,895	770	1,145	94
Asian	270	0	39	85
American Indian, Alaska Native	25	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	55	0	0
Hispanic	755	185	140	60

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

Discussion:

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)

Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The Jonesboro Housing Authority's Housing Choice voucher program is comprised of 57.74% of families who have a person with disability, 15.25% of families are elderly households, and 73% of the households have children in the household.

The Jonesboro Housing Authority has issued 1312 HCV vouchers from January 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021 with 99 families finding housing and 55 families vouchers expired. Families allow the voucher to expire for many reasons but lack of affordable housing is almost at least part of the reason if not the primary reason for a voucher expiring. Affordable housing was found 64.03% of the time but in many cases the search took up to 120-150 days - 24.24% of the families finding affordable housing with 30 days, 36.36% of the families finding affordable housing in 30 - 60 days, 18.18% of the families take 60-90 days to find housing, 11.11% of families take 90-120 to find affordable housing, 10.10% of families find affordable housing 120-150 days. Listed below is an analysis of HGV families by census track . The largest concentration of HGV holders are in census 4.00, 6.10 and followed by 6.20 with is the R/ECAP area. Although census track 4.00 is not listed as a R/ECAP area it is fast becoming an area of contraction among low-income families Census Tracks 1.00 - 8.00 are within the City of Jonesboro and Census Tracks 9.00 - 12:00 census are outside the City of Jonesboro but within Craighead County.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	0	224	224	0	0	0	22	4

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Alternate Data Source Name:

Census.gov Housing Statistics for Jonesboro, AR

Data Source Comments:

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	0	0	10,201	9,426	0	9,212	0	9,829
Average length of stay	0	0	3	4	0	4	0	3
Average Household size	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	3
# Homeless at admission	0	0	171	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	244	244	0	113	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	0	212	837	0	327	0	4
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	135	1,283	0	1,232	0	22
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:

Census.gov Housing Statistics for Jonesboro, AR

Data Source Comments:

Race of Residents

Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	318	548	0	524	0	10	2
Black/African American	0	0	732	733	0	706	0	12	2
Asian	0	0	6	1	0	1	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	6	1	0	1	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 24 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

Ethnicity of Residents

Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	2	14	0	13	0	1	0
Not Hispanic	0	0	133	1,269	0	1,219	0	21	4

***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:

Census.gov Housing Statistics for Jonesboro, AR

Data Source Comments:

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

Affordable housing was found less than 50% of the time but in many cases the search took up to 120-150 days - 24.24% of the families finding affordable housing with 30 days, 36.36% of the families finding affordable housing in 30 - 60 days, 18.18% of the families take 60-90 days to find housing, 11.11% of families take 90-120 to find affordable housing, 10.10% of families find affordable housing 120-150 days. Listed below is an analysis of HGV families by census track . The largest concentration of HGV holders are in census 4.00, 6.10 and followed by 6.20 with is the R/ECAP area.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders

Public Housing maintains 1256 units of the public housing stock inside the borders of the R/ECAP Area. Of the 19 public housing units within the R/ECAP, 95% of them are families with children. Thirty-four of the 134 units outside of the R/ECAP are located within one block of the R/ECAP on streets that intersect with the northern border (Belt Street) of the R/ECAP area. 100% of the units bordering the R/ECAP are comprised of families with children.

Jonesboro Housing Authority also manages a LIHTC property of 31 units that falls within the R/ECAP area. Of the 31 LIHTC units managed by JURHA within the R/ECAP, 12.9% are elderly and 22.6% are disabled.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

Jonesboro has a home ownership rate at almost 56 percent. This is below the national average and the goals established for cities by HUD based on its sustainable communities initiatives. Even greater concern, were the home ownership rates among African Americans and Hispanics, at 18% and 32%, drastically lower than the city, state and national averages.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census American Fact Finder, 49% of white families own their own home; and 29.1% are renters; while less than 5% of minorities own their own home, but approximately 15% rent their home.

The vast majority of rental property is located in RE/CAP areas of Jonesboro. While the national standard for housing cost burden says that not more than 30% of income should be paid in housing cost, the 2020 American Fact Finder results show a direct correlation between income and percent of income paid in housing cost. For the 26.5% of Jonesboro families living on less than \$20,000 per year, 21.1% of them pay 38.6% of their income in housing costs. While 18.2% of our families earn between \$20,000 to \$34,999 annually, 8.5% of them pay more than 30% of their income in housing costs.

Jonesboro Housing Authority's Public Housing is located just outside of the Racially/Ethnicly Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP). Though physically located out of the Racially/Ethnicly Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP), based on the PHA annual review for de-concentration in Public Housing, 87% (121 of 140 public housing residents) fall at or below the Extremely Low Income Level! Eleven of the remaining 19 families live at the 50% or Very Low Income Level.

Discussion

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

Over the past 24 months, the jurisdiction has been strategically planning how to end homelessness in our metropolitan area.

A gaps analysis has been developed to determine what needs and services are not being met. The analysis found that most needs are available throughout the tri-county area. However, services are fragmented (not available every day) and many services are not advertised or promoted.

In early February, the Balance of State Continuum of Care members volunteered to do the annual PIT count. The count was completed for a three-county area: Craighead, Poinsett, and Green Counties.

Results from the PIT Count show that 82% of the homeless need assistance with Food; 45% need assistance with Employment; 23% need medical assistance; 18% need counseling, 17% need assistance with SSI/SSDI, and 3% said they need assistance in furthering their education.

Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	104	15	700	250	3	60
Persons in Households with Only Children	1	78	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	0	6	50	50	4	60
Chronically Homeless Individuals	5	0	25	25	1	365
Chronically Homeless Families	6	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	1	1	9	9	2	120

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Unaccompanied Child	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	0	5	5	0	120

Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Alternate Data Source Name:
2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments: Enter the PIT statistics for Craighead County

Indicate if the homeless population is: Has No Rural Homeless

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

This process of tracking homelessness data has been increasingly difficult due to the pandemic. Currently there are two persons enrolled in the HUB for homelessness. The 2022 PIT county recorded a total of 777 homeless persons in the three county region. There were 880 Students that were reported in the three county school districts.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	15	0
Black or African American	13	0
Asian	3	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	10	0
Pacific Islander	↪	0
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	31	0
Not Hispanic	607	0

Data Source

Comments:

2022 PIT COUNTY SUMMARY

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

There were 30 homeless veterans in the 2022 PIT count.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

Of the 777 2022 Homeless PIT Count, 449 are white; 201 were black, and 50 others. The minority population is approximately 18% in the City of Jonesboro and they make up 20% of the homeless population.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

The Jurisdiction has very limited space to shelter the homeless population. Shelter space consist of 22 beds at the local Salvation Army, which stays full. When space is available, homeless residents are transported to shelters in nearby counties. Additionally, area churches provide 1-2 night accommodations at local motels. At the time of the last PIT Count. The volunteers counted

21 unsheltered and 37 sheltered individuals within the Jurisdiction. Since the opening of the HUB, over 100 homeless residents have come forward seeking services, such as birth certificates, identification, assistance with disability and social security, counseling, drug rehabilitation, transportation, job placement, and of course, finding a place to sleep or live.

Within the tri-county metropolitan area, where we conduct our PIT Count, There was a total of 777 homeless individuals. Of this total, 390 were males and 279 were females; 19 were under the age of 18 ; 431 were white, 200 black; and 60 other. A large percentage suffer from mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse. Those identified 28 of those were counted as fleeing a domestic violence situation.

Discussion:

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction:

The number of people with various types of disabilities in Jonesboro is significant. Some of these disabilities may not require any particular special housing modifications, while many do. Typically, special home modification must be made to accommodate a resident when specified modifications are not already available in a unit, with the exception of new apartments that are required to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards before receiving a certificate of occupancy from the building official.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Total Disabilities	8718
Hearing Difficulty	2338
Vision Difficulty	1768
Ambulatory Difficulty	5056
Cognitive Difficulty	4062
Self-Care Difficulty	1743
Independent Living Difficulty	2859

*[Hudapps.hud.gov/Aft/ArcGis/table/13/051410](https://hudapps.hud.gov/Aft/ArcGis/table/13/051410)

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

Accommodations are often expensive to provide in an existing unit. Universal design ordinances require that all new housing units be built with future accommodations in mind, minimizing the cost of future changes. These include larger doors to allow for wheelchair access, blocking in walls to facilitate the installation of grab bars, and larger space in closets and bathrooms to allow turning room for a wheelchair. While no data exist that indicates the extent to which the housing stock in Jonesboro

accommodates persons with disabilities, it is not very likely to be a significant number, beyond the recently built multifamily units that have been compliant with ADA standards.

Based on hudapps data, 1,168 persons between the ages of 5 to 17; 5207 persons between the ages of 18 to 64; and 3249 persons age 65 years and older were classified as having a disability. These figures represent a total of 9624 of the population of the jurisdiction.

Supportive Services for this population group will generally focus on the following needs:

- Group housing,
- Mobility assistance in normal daily activities,
- Physical rehabilitation and medical care,
- New job training skills,
- Unemployment and the resulting loss of income/ insurance coverage due to inability to perform job functions,
- Special transportation needs due to medical and physical condition, and
- Assistance in meal preparation, housekeeping and shopping (depending on the stage of the disease).

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

The Northeast Arkansas Regional AIDS Network (NARAN) assists in preventing homelessness in several ways: providing emergency rental assistance and emergency utility assistance; Assisting in placing homeless family units in housing. This included assistance with locating apartments, referrals for long-term rental assistance if appropriate, providing furniture and household items, providing clothing, and providing food from the organization's food pantry. The organization has provided many indirect services that have assisted clients so that they could remain healthy enough to continue employment. With continue employment, the client remains able to have income so that they can pay rent/mortgage and utilities independently. For those who are unable to continue working, the organization will assist the clients with the applications for disability benefits through the Social Security Administration. NARAN has served over 300 clients in the last several years.

Discussion:

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Facilities:

There remains a definite need for transitional housing in Jonesboro. Domestic violence victims, children coming out of the foster care and protective services system at the age of eighteen, prisoners, and those coming out of drug and alcohol rehabilitation all are in need of housing. Our existing agencies are not able to accommodate the need. Most do not have the capacity and/or funding to implement a project of sufficient size to address this issue.

The Jurisdiction is developing a plan to eliminate homelessness through its homeless resource center by providing rapid rehousing, affordable housing and supportive services needed to build self-sufficiency.

Currently the City has one “general” emergency shelter, the Salvation Army, which offers 22 total beds.

In addition to the transitional housing for homeless, the individuals with disabilities transitioning from institutional settings in the community are unable to find the appropriate transitional housing for their needs. Again, without this critical public facilities to assist our special needs individuals leaves these individuals at risk of homelessness or remaining in the institutional setting.

How were these needs determined?

These needs were determined based on the demands of those whom will be a direct recipients as well from the service providers that work with these populations. The public hearings provided several needs that will become some of our goals. After these needs were provided, the staff began reviewed the goals of the AFH and HUD regulations to ensure the needs/projects proposed will fit into the program.

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Improvements:

As part of the hearings, many residents and city officials agreed the City needed street improvements throughout, but particularly in North Jonesboro and Fairview Neighborhoods. These residents were overwhelmingly passionate about needed sidewalks, bike lanes and street drainage. Some insisted there were additional needs for security lighting and more policing in the R/ECAP areas of the jurisdiction.

As stated in the AFH, the City has a small transit system and approximately 45 percent of the sidewalks are usable overall with the low-income areas even further worse. In addition, the City has no bike lanes for the residents in our low-income areas that use bicycles to travel to work and other place as a mode of transportation. Many residents in these areas use the public transit during the week but the service is extremely limited during weekdays with no services offered on weekends and nights.

How were these needs determined?

Again, these needs were expressed in different venues such as public hearings, city council meetings, newspaper editorials and social media outlets. Again, the demands/needs from the residents and public hearings are reviewed and the determination is made if these items meet the National Objectives and the definition of public improvements for the targeted neighborhoods. These comments were converted into goals for the City to meet the needs of the residents of our low-income areas. Again, these needs were chosen to provide better quality of life of those individuals within the targeted areas of CDBG.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

In the public hearings, some of the needs for services within these neighborhoods were suggested for childcare services throughout the year, summer camps for educational and community enhancement, recreational activities for youth, workforce training and housing counseling. The largest need is for childcare services and summer camps that provide these residents with services that could not be affordable otherwise.

How were these needs determined?

Each year, the jurisdiction makes its request for public service applicants available to the non-profit community. Submitted applications are reviewed by staff to ensure applicant proposals are responsive and have a direction connection to the CDBG ConPlan/Action Plan goals. Once reviewed by staff, applications and proposals are submitted to the Citizen Action Committee for review and selection. The committee ranks the applications on a weighted scoring sheets and those with the highest scores are funded—based on available public service funds.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

The following section of the Consolidated Plan presents the analysis of housing supply and demand in Jonesboro. The analysis is based on data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, Jonesboro Board of Realtors, realtytrac.com. It should be understood that the current housing market was very unpredictable at the time of the creation of this document and projections into the future will be minimal. As economic conditions stabilize a clearer picture of the housing market will be possible. While some improvements have been seen in the market, further market declines could return through 2022/2023. Projections beyond that time period would be pure speculation without any concrete data to support it.

There are 115 homes are for sale in Jonesboro, AR real estate market. The number of homes for sale in Jonesboro, AR increased by 57.5% between May 2022 and June 2022. The median list price of listings available in June 2022 was \$265,000, while the average time on the real estate market was 49 days. Between June 2021 and June 2022, listing prices of homes in this real estate market have seen the following changes: 1 bedroom properties prices increased by 0%, 2 bedrooms properties did not move, prices of 3 bedrooms properties went up by 5%, 4 bedrooms properties did not move, prices of 5 bedrooms properties increased by 4.6%. Volume of homes for sale changed: 1 bedroom homes inventory did not change, the quantity of 2 bedrooms homes went up by 33.3%, 3 bedrooms homes inventory increased by 48.5%, number of 4 bedrooms homes increased by 74.1%, 5 bedrooms homes inventory increased by 57.1%.

According to the U.S. Census, there were 31,736 housing units in Jonesboro in 2020.

MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

Introduction

Jonesboro has a home ownership rate of 58.2 percent. This is below the national average and the goals established for cities by HUD based on its sustainable communities initiatives. Of even greater concern, were the home ownership rates among African Americans and Hispanics, at 13% and 32%, drastically lower than the city, state and national averages. Home ownership rates are highest in areas of the city with newer homes, despite the higher median housing values in those areas.

There is a direct correlation between the housing cost burden of those who rent and those who own their own home, The vast majority of rental property is located in RE/CAP areas of Jonesboro. While the national standard for housing cost burden says that not more than 30% of income should be paid in housing cost, the 2020 American Fact Finder results show a direct correlation between income and percent of income paid in housing cost. For the 20.2% of Jonesboro families living on less than \$20,000 per year, 26.3% of them pay 39.6% of their income in housing costs. While 18.2% of our families earn between \$20,000 to \$34,999 annually, 8.5% of them pay more than 30% of their income in housing costs.

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	16,207	67%
1-unit, attached structure	410	2%
2-4 units	2,337	10%
5-19 units	2,832	12%
20 or more units	944	4%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	1,587	7%
Total	24,317	100%

Table 27 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Alternate Data Source Name:

Census.gov Housing Statistics for Jonesboro, AR

Data Source Comments:

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	45	0%	315	2%
1 bedroom	70	0%	2,545	19%
2 bedrooms	1,565	10%	5,715	43%
3 or more bedrooms	13,319	89%	4,805	36%
Total	14,999	99%	13,380	100%

Table 28 – Unit Size by Tenure

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

Based on the AFH, the Jonesboro Housing Authority's local data for the Housing Choice Voucher program show that census 6 and census 4 has the highest level of rental property available. Census 6 has been identified as having a high level of Segregation of Black, Non-Hispanic and is also in the R/ECAP area.

The majority of Jonesboro Housing Authority's Public Housing is located just outside of the R/ECAP area with only 12.58% of the units being in the R/ECAP. Map 5 indicates that Public Housing is located at 500 East Cherry, which is one building of one site. Public Housing is made up of six different complexes, scattered among different locations within a five-mile radius all outside the A/CAP. In 70 of our 151 public housing units are located on East Alpine and East Roseclair, contiguous to Garden Manor and North Acres Apartments which are also shown on the map. Thirty-six public housing units are located on Marshall and Melrose bordering, but not within the R/ECAP northern border (Belt). Craighead Place is a Low Income Housing Tax Credit 31 unit complex located at 1435 Belt is within the R/ECAP with eight public housing units in the MeadowCrest complex at 1011 Belt and 11 individual single family units.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

There is no loss of public or assisted housing units expected during this consolidated plan period, though units may go in and out of service due to maintenance, and as soon as repairs are complete the units will be placed back into service. Major obstacles to meeting underserved needs consist primarily of a lack of funding for the development of additional units and rental subsidies to support additional units.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

The Jonesboro Housing Authority has issued 15285 vouchers from January 1, 2021 through December 2021. Affordable housing was found 64.29% of the time but in many cases the search took up to 120-150 days - 24.24% of the families finding affordable housing with 30 days, 36.36% of the families finding affordable housing in 30 - 60 days, 18.18% of the families take 60-90 days to find housing, 11.11% of families take 90-120 to find affordable housing, 10.10% of families find affordable housing 120-150 days.

The lack of affordable housing, concentration of affordable housing in certain areas, and limitation of density of housing does limit or deny access to opportunity and can promote segregation.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

There is currently no formal process in place for requesting and obtaining reasonable accommodations and accessibility modifications.

The Jonesboro Housing Authority's HGV and Public Housing follow federal regulations stipulating that requests for accommodations will be considered reasonable if they do not create an "undue financial and administrative burden" for the PHA, or result in a "fundamental alteration" in the nature of the program or service offered. A fundamental alteration is a modification that alters the essential nature of a provider's operations.

While Jonesboro has made great strides in the scope of its affordable housing stock for moderate income families, there is still a grave disparity between affordable units for those living in poverty. Segregating residents by income (which is generally minorities, elderly, disabled, and others based on their familial status), increases the size and scope of our R/ECAP, denies access to opportunity by confining these low income residents to a specific area with limited opportunity, where they have a shortage of 'affordable' housing, publicly supported housing, and limited access for those who are disabled. Without a knowledge of fair housing laws and their rights under the law, residents will continue to be disenfranchised and this situation will get worse.

Much of Jonesboro's affordable and rental housing is located in just a two neighborhoods (North Jonesboro and Fairview). These neighborhoods have a high representations of minority and other protected class residents. This concentration of affordable housing has a disproportionate impact on protected classes and impacts their housing choice, their ability to access neighborhoods with community amenities like good schools and proximity to jobs. Affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods throughout the city will cause the continued decline in segregated areas and within our R/ECAP.

Discussion

MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

Introduction

While the City of Jonesboro effectively uses its CDBG entitlement funds to improve the quality of life in low-income neighborhoods, more funds must be leveraged if significant changes are to occur. The lack of public investment in certain neighborhoods leads to a diminished quality of life, which leads to segregation, R/ECAPs, and disparities in opportunities.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2019	Most Recent Year: 2022	% Change
Median Home Value	127,500	265,000	108%
Median Contract Rent	497	717	44%

Table 29 – Cost of Housing

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments:

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	4,044	30.2%
\$500-999	8,175	61.1%
\$1,000-1,499	910	6.8%
\$1,500-1,999	155	1.2%
\$2,000 or more	80	0.6%
Total	13,364	99.9%

Table 30 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2013-2017 ACS

Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	450	No Data
50% HAMFI	1,910	645
80% HAMFI	7,615	2,255
100% HAMFI	No Data	4,100
Total	9,975	7,000

Table 31 – Housing Affordability

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 CHAS

Data Source Comments:

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	0	0	0	0	0
High HOME Rent	0	0	0	0	0
Low HOME Rent	0	0	0	0	0

Table 32 – Monthly Rent

Data Source Comments:

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

While Jonesboro has made great strides in the scope of its affordable housing stock for moderate income families, there is still a grave disparity between affordable units for those living in poverty. Therefore, this factor as listed as a high priority-it denies access to opportunity, fair housing choice, and civil rights. It also contributes to all seven of the fair housing issues. Segregating residents by income (which is generally minorities, elderly, disabled, and others based on their familial status), increases the size and scope of our R/ECAP, denies access to opportunity by confining these low income residents to a specific area with limited opportunity, where they have a shortage of 'affordable' housing, publicly supported housing, and limited access for those who are disabled. Without a knowledge of fair housing laws and their rights under the law, residents will continue to be disenfranchised and this situation will get worse.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

Housing values are directly affected by absentee property owners whose property has been abandoned and/or deteriorated. Since this impacts multiple fair housing issues (R/ECAPS, Segregation, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs), This was listed as a high priority in the AFH." CDBG funds are used as effectively as possible to fight blight when dealing with local property owners who qualify for assistance. However, absentee property owners present a challenge when cleaning up slums and blight.

There is a substantial need for private support and investment in the areas of economic development, housing, and commercial development in specific low income neighborhoods, this factor requires private investors and economic developers to be attracted to specific low-income neighborhoods. The degree of private development will depend on the degree of public investment such as infrastructure and other amenities. This Contributing Factor contributes to Access to Opportunity and Disproportionate Housing Needs, because Hispanic, African American, elderly, and citizens with disabilities inhabit these areas disproportionately, and suffer from a lack of amenities and development because of insufficient sources of private investment.

While the City of Jonesboro effectively uses its CDBG entitlement funds to improve the quality of life in low-income neighborhoods, more funds must be leveraged if significant changes are to occur. The lack of public investment in certain neighborhoods leads to a diminished quality of life, which leads to segregation, R/ECAPs, and disparities in opportunities. These neighborhoods are primarily inhabited by ethnic minorities, primarily African Americans and Hispanic. The results of a lack of public investment in these neighborhoods contributes to Segregation, R/ECAPS, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, and Disability and Access. Minorities, the elderly, and those with disabilities are affected because the lack of public investment means fewer amenities (i.e. housing, entertainment, shopping, etc.) and a lack of economic development in their neighborhoods to address these amenities. This issues will worsen without significant planning, investment and leveraging of resources.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

HOME Funds are not available in Jonesboro.

Discussion

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

Introduction

Older housing stock and housing that may need maintenance are mainly in the central portions of the City. Not surprisingly, these areas also have the largest number of vacant structures and dilapidated buildings. Addressing these issues will be of importance in the comprehensive housing policy. The City's newest housing stock is in the southern and eastern portions of the city. This disparity in the concentration of older housing in older lower income concentrated areas, coupled with the location of new construction being primarily in other areas, is an issue facing Jonesboro.

Most of the city's housing is single-family. Over 70 percent of the total housing stock in Jonesboro between 2014-2022 was single-family. It is important to remember that the city's single-family homes include both homeowner occupied and rental units.

Definitions

Five classifications are used to determine a policy orientation for reversing decline in the Neighborhood Classification Model below.

The five classifications are:

- i Stable Neighborhood Planning Areas / Stabilization
- i Neighborhood Planning Areas in Transition / Enhancement
- i Declining Neighborhood Planning Areas / Selective Renovation and Reinvestment
- i Deterioration Neighborhood Planning Areas / Selective Redevelopment; and
- i Residential Conversion to Non Residential Planning Areas / Redevelopment

Stable Neighborhood Planning Areas

The Stable or Stabilization strategy is used in those neighborhoods that are in good to fair condition and that show some evidence of, at least, sustaining or beginning improvement. It is also used in conjunction with enhancement and other strategies when neighborhoods are showing some beginning decline.

Neighborhoods in Transition Planning Areas

The Neighborhoods in Transition or Enhancement strategy is the next step up, in terms of intervention or participation in the neighborhood revitalization process. It is used in conjunction with stabilization

strategies in neighborhoods currently in good to fair condition and represents the primary strategy for those neighborhoods with minor deterioration but which are already showing signs of improvement. These are generally neighborhoods where private economic forces are already at work and it is clearly evident that market forces are still at work. City intervention or participation is used to facilitate, compliment and assist the revitalization process already underway.

Declining Neighborhood Planning Areas

The Declining or Renovation - Reinvestment strategy is used in those neighborhoods where minor deterioration is prevalent and where decline is underway; and in those neighborhoods where there is major deterioration and where improvement has already started. The rationale for this strategy is that there needs to be a more active level of intervention or participation in these neighborhoods in order to either turn them around, or in those cases where there is sever deterioration, but some improvements, keep the process going. In some cases, this strategy is combined with selective redevelopment where existing conditions are such that renovation is too costly or where external pressures to change land use patterns are too great.

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	2,350	16%	5,890	44%
With two selected Conditions	35	0%	380	3%
With three selected Conditions	4	0%	15	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	12,620	84%	7,090	53%
Total	15,009	100%	13,375	100%

Table 33 - Condition of Units

Alternate Data Source Name:
2018-2022 ACS
Data Source Comments:

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	4,215	28%	4,205	31%
1980-1999	5,740	38%	4,555	34%
1950-1979	4,290	29%	3,955	30%
Before 1950	765	5%	655	5%
Total	15,010	100%	13,370	100%

Table 34 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	5,055	34%	4,610	34%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	3,655	24%	1,615	12%

Table 35 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Alternate Data Source Name:
2018-2022 ACS
Data Source Comments:

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	0	0	0
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 36 - Vacant Units

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

The analysis considered the income concentrations in areas during the housing conditions survey, neighborhood planning assessment phase and the Assessment of Fair Housing. This data shows the correlation between lower income and areas identified as declining, in transition, and deterioration in the information. As discussed previously, there are non-viable portions of planning areas and arguably some entire neighborhoods, which are candidates for transition from residential to non-residential uses strictly based on planning principles, advanced signs of transition or the degree of neighborhood decline. However, the historical and cultural presence, resident input, and issues associated with replacement housing for those who would be displaced must be considered by the City. Other areas identified as declining and in transition were areas of high renter-occupied single-family and multifamily homes. Strategies to facilitate rehabilitation of these housing units are discussed in the issues relative to rental housing improvements and proactive code enforcement.

Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards

Approximately one-third of the total housing stock in Jonesboro was built prior to 1970. These housing units are likely older housing stock, and may contain lead-based paint in their interiors.

Discussion

MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

Introduction

Jonesboro Housing Authority's public housing is located just outside of the Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP). Though physically located out of the Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP), based on the PHA annual review for deconcentration in Public Housing, 87% (121 of 140 public housing residents) fall at or below the Extremely Low Income Level! Eleven of the remaining 19 families live at the 50% or very low income level.

The Jonesboro Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Family Characteristics and HAP by CFP Size report shows that the Black, Non-Hispanic population is 64.76% compared to 19.65% for the City of Jonesboro, AR CDBG population (Table 1 • Demographic Trends). The HGV program Elderly population is 15.25% compared to the City of Jonesboro 65+ population of 12.13% from Table 2 • Demographic Trends. The HGV program has a Disabled person in 57.74% of the households assisted. The City of Jonesboro shows 30% of the population as disabled in Table 1 Demographics. The HGV families are comprised of 73% with children and the City of Jonesboro has 47.91% Families with Children of the population Table 2 • Demographic Trends. The Housing Choice Voucher program is 91% female head of households and 10% male head of households. The Jonesboro, AR CDBG population is 47.97% Male and 52.03% Female. The Housing Authority has no data is available on National Origin as it is not tracked by our software.

The Jonesboro Housing Authority's Housing Public Housing Characteristics and report indicates that the Black, Non-Hispanic population is 70% compared to 19.65% for the City of Jonesboro, AR CDBG population (Table 1 • Demographic Trends). The JURHA Elderly 202 Project Based Housing is 88% which is slightly less than the 71.24% white population for the City of Jonesboro. The thirty- one unity Low Income Housing Tax Credit property managed by JURHA has a Black population at 80% compared to the 19.65% for the City of Jonesboro, AR CDBG population (Table 1 • Demographic Trends).

The Public Housing elderly population is 6.34% compared to the City of Jonesboro 65+ population of 12.13% from Table 2 - Demographic Trends. The Public Housing program has a Disabled person in 35.92% of the households assisted. The City of Jonesboro shows 30% of the population as disabled in Table 1 Demographics. The Public Housing families are comprised of 72.54% with children and the City of Jonesboro has 47.91% Families with Children of the population Table 2 - Demographic Trends. The public housing program is 79% female head of households and 21% male head of households. The Jonesboro, AR CDBG population is 47.97% Male and 52.03% Female. The Housing Authority has no data is available on National Origin as it is not tracked by our software.

In summary using local data from the Jonesboro Housing Authority the Housing Choice Voucher program and Jonesboro Public Housing Program, with the exception of the 70 unit elderly multifamily complex, has a higher proportion of protected class groups (Race - Black, Non-Hispanic, Disability, Sex, Familiar Status) than Jonesboro, AR CDBG jurisdiction.

Totals Number of Units

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available			913	15,285			0	433	910
# of accessible units									
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 37 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Alternate Data Source Name:
2018-2022 ACS
Data Source Comments:

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

There are a total of 913 public housing units with an inspection of 93 percent this year and overall score of 96 percent. A 93 percent would indicate excellent or above average condition, however to maintain the in this condition, JURHA needs to follow the 5-year plan for rehabilitation and replacement which depends on Capital Improvement Program that is endangered of massive budget cuts in Washington, D.C.

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Aspen Gardens Development	96
Cayman Villa	96
Goff Courts	96
Jonesboro Ecumenical Center	96
Marshall	96
Oakrun	96
Woodland Courts	96

Table 38 - Public Housing Condition

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

The Public Housing Authority has outlined their five-year plan for revitalization efforts for the public housing developments scattered throughout the city.

1. Rehab interior walls, interior doors - dwelling unit interior painting non-routine
2. Roll-in showers upgrade to dwelling units
3. Plumbing tubs, showers and bathroom flooring
4. Gutters and siding, downspouts, building exterior, siding, soffits
5. Roof replacement
6. Sidewalk and parking
7. Playground area equipment
9. Refrigerators and ranges
10. Kitchen cabinets, kitchen sinks and faucets, bathroom counters and sinks

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

The above items listed in our physical needs work statements in JURHA five year plan through 2021. JURHA hopes to use capital fund program (CFP) allocation to complete the projects as needed.

Discussion:

Forecasts are that the CFP funds will continue to be reduced in future program years. JURHA depends on the CFP funds for revitalization and making necessary improvements for the living environment of our low and moderate income families residing in public housing. Tenants pay 30 percent of income toward the rent, so increasing rent payments will not an option for the revitalization required in the future.

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

The Jurisdiction has very limited space to shelter the homeless population. Shelter space consist of 22 beds at the local Salvation Army, which stays full. When space is available, homeless residents are transported to shelters in nearby counties. Additionally, area churches provide 1-2 night accommodations at local motels.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	4	0	0	3	0
Households with Only Adults	18	0	27	5	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	1	0
Veterans	0	0	0	1	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source Comments:

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons

One of five homeless persons were estimated to be seriously mentally ill in the jurisdiction. The homeless mentally ill are typically unable to work and are often not connected to entitlement programs. They usually benefit from the availability of supportive services, such as outreach, medication, case management, representative payee, specialized crisis services, and, often, substance abuse treatment. With housing placement, the mentally ill are often only successful if case management is available to help them manage their affairs.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

Stepping Stone in Truman. is the lead agency for the Northeast Arkansas Continuum of Care Plan (CoC) process. Mission Outreach NEA is a non-profit organization providing shelter and food to the homeless and indigent people of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. The City of Jonesboro participates in the CoC process and provides information and assistance in the development of the CoC.

The following is a list of the public housing facilities, agencies and entities:

- Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority

- 1. Jonesboro Ecumenical Center, Inc.
- 2. Christopher Homes of Jonesboro
- 3. Aspen Gardens
- 4. Walker Courts
- 5. North Acres Apartments
- 6. Bel-Aire Village

- Crowley's Ridge Development Council
- Mid-South Health Systems
- Consolidated Youth Services
- Jonesboro Human Development Center
- Habitat for Humanity
- Abilities Unlimited
- Mission Outreach NEA, Inc.
- Wesley on the Ridge
- St. Bernard's Village

Homeless service providers in Jonesboro include:

- Mission Outreach NEA
- Salvation Army
- Consolidated Youth Services
- Women's Crisis Center
- Mid South Health Systems
- Jonesboro Human Development Center
- Crowley's Ridge Development Center
- Abilities Unlimited
- Pathfinders
- David E. Puryear Center

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

The number of people with various types of disabilities in Jonesboro is significant. Some of these disabilities may not require any particular special housing modifications, while many do. Typically, special home modification must be made to accommodate a resident when specified modifications are not already available in a unit, with the exception of new apartments that are required to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards before receiving a certificate of occupancy from the building official. Accommodations are often expensive to provide in an existing unit. Universal design ordinances require that all new housing units be built with future accommodations in mind, minimizing the cost of future changes. These include larger doors to allow for wheelchair access, blocking in walls to facilitate the installation of grab bars, and larger space in closets and bathrooms to allow turning room for a wheelchair. While no data exist that indicate the extent to which the housing stock in Jonesboro accommodates persons with disabilities, it isn't very likely to be a significant number, beyond the recently built multifamily units that comply with ADA standards.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

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, Consolidated Youth Services, Goodwill Industries, FOCUS, NARAN (Assistance to those with HIV/AIDS), CASA, local DHS offices, and the HUB.

These agencies provide diverse supportive services which include counseling for the mentally and emotionally ill, victims of substance abuse, domestic violence, serious and adolescent sex offenders, family therapy, and anger control/social motivation, transportation, career counseling and job placement classes. Other services provided include Court Advocacy and interstate contact (for children moving out of the state.) Educational services include GED tutoring, pregnancy and child care training, HIV/Aids, and independent living skills.

There remains a definite need for transitional housing in Jonesboro, domestic violence victims, children coming out of the foster care and protective services system at the age of eighteen, prisoners, and those coming out of drug and alcohol rehabilitation all are in need of housing. Currently there are no agencies that have the capacity and/or funding to implement a project of sufficient size to address this issue.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing

The city currently does not have an appropriate system to ensure supportive housing.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

The current administration in the City of Jonesboro fully supports placing an emphasis on affordable housing. The staff has made a number of changes directed toward making affordable housing a reality through a variety of education and supportive programs.

The City believes neighborhood preservation and revitalization are an essential component of maintaining the sustainability of low income housing. The CDBG Program includes education, land acquisition for affordable housing, homeowner housing rehabilitation, new homeownership assistance, as well as assistance with a transitional housing.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

Not Applicable

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

Location and type of affordable housing is listed as a high priority contributing factor in our AFH, because it affects all seven (7) fair housing issues. Much of Jonesboro's affordable and rental housing is located in just two neighborhoods (North Jonesboro and Fairview). These neighborhoods have a high representation of minority and other protected class residents. This concentration of affordable housing has a disproportionate impact on protected classes and impacts their housing choice, their ability to access neighborhoods with community amenities like good schools and proximity to jobs. Affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods throughout the city will cause the continued decline in segregated areas and within our R/ECAP.

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

Jonesboro is a city of distinction in Northeast Arkansas. We are the 5th largest city in Arkansas, with a population of over 77,391. Our Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is over 132,828. Jonesboro is centrally located with easy access to other major markets, including America's Distribution Center, Memphis, Tennessee.

Jonesboro provides a positive business environment with a diversified economic foundation. A qualified workforce, low cost utilities, the training capabilities of Arkansas State University and an overall low cost of doing business are just a few reasons why many companies are proud to call Jonesboro home. In addition, the quality of life is exceptional, with a high-quality educational system, excellent healthcare facilities, abundant retail opportunities and numerous recreational and cultural activities available. (Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce website)

As you can see from the HUD data source, Jonesboro is a hub of diverse business activity. Leading business activity includes: education, healthcare, manufacturing, retail, arts, entertainment and accommodations and wholesale trade.

Jonesboro also has a Civilian Labor Force of 66364; with 35,350 of those over 16 employed. However, the unemployment rate is just over 2.7%, and over 28% of our young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are unemployed.

Employed civilians include 6,415 high school graduates (or equivalency) and 6,891 with some college, and 8,730 of the civilian labor force has a college degree or higher. Only 1,976 of the civilian labor force with less than a high school diploma are employed. There is an approximately a \$35,000 gap in earnings between those with less than a high school diploma and those with a Bachelor's Degree.

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	855	128	3	0	-3
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	3,402	5,582	11	15	4
Construction	3,494	1,742	11	5	-6

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Education and Health Care Services	3,936	10,393	12	28	16
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	1,741	1,486	5	4	-1
Information	6,204	376	19	1	-18
Manufacturing	5,368	6,611	17	18	1
Other Services	462	671	1	2	1
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	1,002	1,437	3	4	1
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	3,376	6,217	11	17	6
Transportation and Warehousing	978	1,343	3	4	1
Wholesale Trade	1,145	1,502	4	4	0
Total	31,963	37,488	--	--	--

Table 40 - Business Activity

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments:

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	51,078
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	51,078
Unemployment Rate	3.20
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	14.90
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	3.20

Table 41 - Labor Force

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments:

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	4,750
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	200
Service	1,110
Sales and office	5,750
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	200
Production, transportation and material moving	541

Table 42 – Occupations by Sector

Alternate Data Source Name:

Civilian Labor Force Jonesboro-FRED

Data Source Comments:

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	27,604	85%
30-59 Minutes	2,930	9%
60 or More Minutes	1,780	6%
Total	32,314	100%

Table 43 - Travel Time

Alternate Data Source Name:

DataUSA Labor Force

Data Source Comments:

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	0	275	1,210

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	14,802	385	3,325
Some college or Associate's degree	10,152	255	2,595
Bachelor's degree or higher	8,692	145	1,685

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments:

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	85	125	229	490	745
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	770	695	413	1,145	920
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	1,995	2,890	2,695	4,815	2,975
Some college, no degree	5,455	2,485	2,105	3,229	2,040
Associate's degree	650	1,000	990	1,110	183
Bachelor's degree	1,180	2,880	1,745	2,785	1,188
Graduate or professional degree	20	900	1,355	1,885	1,210

Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2013-2017 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	37,745
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	98,010
Some college or Associate's degree	140,430
Bachelor's degree	129,435
Graduate or professional degree	179,315

Table 46 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Alternate Data Source Name:

2018-2022 ACS

Data Source Comments:

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

As you can see from the HUD data source, Jonesboro is a hub of diverse business activity. Leading business activity include: education, healthcare, manufacturing, retail, arts, entertainment and accommodations and wholesale trade.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The City has worked on updating the existing sidewalk and infrastructure inventory list since January 2018. This is listed as a high priority in our AFH because in our rough estimation of the inaccessible sidewalks and other infrastructure for pedestrian use, it was noted only 35-40% of the sidewalks and other infrastructure was ADA compliant. Furthermore, many of our intersections have pedestrian crossings and curb cuts but nothing further such as sidewalks, bike paths or multi-purpose trails. This factor only contributes to limiting or denying access to opportunity; however, it contributes to five of the seven fair housing issues: Segregation, R/ECAPs, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, and Disability and Access. It contributes to these fair housing issues by isolating minorities, the disabled, and the elderly to specific neighborhood with limited access. Pedestrian crosswalks without sidewalks are considered incomplete and will be addressed in later years. The funding for sidewalks and other infrastructure is extremely limited unless additional funding streams remain untapped. The issue is improving as residents and other stakeholders are forming partnerships to create a more livable city in our R/ECAP and other portions of the city disproportionately inhabited by minorities, elderly, and those with disabilities.

The limited availability, type, frequency, and reliability of public transportation is considered a also a high priority in our AFH because it contributes to Segregation, R/ECAPS, Access to Opportunity, Publicly supported housing and Disability and access. The City should look into developing one or several public transportation plans that will address the limitations of the public transit and other modes, such as sidewalks, multi-purpose trails and bicycle lanes. The lack of a centralized plan or other transportation plans continue to encourage segregation, other emerging R/ECAPS, limited access to opportunities for those who have no other means of transportation within their neighborhoods. In addition, the lack of transportation goes directly to the quality of life of our residents because it limits access to jobs, shopping, medical care, and other services. Without development of the public transportation within this jurisdiction to address this factor, racial/ethnic minorities, elderly, families and individuals with disabilities will continue to remain with limited public transportation. In the next five years, the City must find partners to help leverage the existing funds with other sources to address these gaps in the City's public transportation system.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

The City of Jonesboro and other partners are supporting a private enterprise in the building of a convention center and hotel. Currently, the jurisdiction has no convention center and most residents support the project and believe Jonesboro is overdue for getting a convention center.

Arkansas State University has built a convention center on the campus of the university. These two convention centers will provide jobs and career opportunities for hundreds of residents across a diverse range of skills and education. It is believed they will also serve as a catalyst for other business opportunities.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

The jurisdiction is fortunate to have a very diverse business culture. Job opportunities range from manufacturing to healthcare and scientific professionals and almost everything in between. Jonesboro has an approximately 10 percent unemployment rate. This rate is based on those residents who struggle to maintain employment because of education, transportation, criminal background, and work history. There are employment programs within a number of non-profit organizations to assist these residents get on the road to sustainability.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

According to the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce Training Center (WTC) is a non-profit, employer-driven consortium of industry and education that delivers cutting-edge training to its member companies' employees. The WTC is located within the Workforce Training Center at the ASUN Jonesboro Campus in the center of the Jonesboro Industrial Park. Curriculum includes courses in welding, industrial technology, mechatronics (advanced manufacturing), computer literacy and applications, safety and first aid, supply chain management, electronics, mechanical skills and many more. Training can be customized and developed for specific needs of individual companies and can be performed at the company's facility or offsite. Often training qualifies for grants offered through the Arkansas Department of Career Education – Office of Skills Development.

Arkansas State University Delta Center for Economic Development

The Delta Center coordinates the economic development outreach services of ASU's College of Business and provides professional development training to the Jonesboro area. Courses such as computer literacy, a series of classes for supervisors, technology courses and more are offered on a regular basis. The Delta Center is also home to the Small Business Technology Development Center, which offers such classes as marketing a business using Facebook and Twitter, and assistance with developing a business plan.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Manufacturing Solutions

AEDC - MS is housed within the ASU Delta Center and is a Workforce Training Center partner. AEDC - MS provides world class training, hands on implementation and expert coaching. They offer consulting in Lean 101, Training Within Industry, Toyota Kata, etc.

This effort offers a unique opportunity to partner for training with underserved populations.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

No

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

The formation of what has become known Jonesboro Vision 2030. The District realized the potential of the planning process to help shape the region's future and jumped on board to lead the way. Partnerships were developed with all twelve counties, most of the 107 cities, Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas Little Rock, five community colleges and a consulting team. Using the Partnership for Sustainability's Livability Principles, a project scope was developed to engage the local communities and traditionally marginalized populations through outreach, local planning, data collection and several specific deliverables designed to provide detailed analyses of existing conditions.

Discussion

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

The housing supply in Jonesboro was analyzed under three frameworks. First, the analysis examines the characteristics of the overall housing supply. Second, the housing supply was analyzed by tenure (owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing). Third, the housing supply was analyzed by housing type, including single-family, duplex, multifamily, mobile, manufactured, group quarters, and special needs housing. The analysis is based on data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources as available. It should be understood that the current housing market was very unpredictable at the time of the creation of this document and projections into the future will be minimal. As economic conditions stabilize a clearer picture of the housing market will be possible. Projections would be pure speculation without any concrete data to support it.

As discussed in the AFH, our R/ECAP area(s) is where houses having multiple housing problems are concentrated.

According to hudapps Table:

Demographics of Households with Disproportionate Housing Needs: 26% of homes lived in by whites have four or more housing problems, while 48% of homes lived in by blacks have four or more housing problems; 52% of homes lived in by Hispanics have four or more problems. With approximately 70% of the Jonesboro population being white, this shows disproportionate housing needs, with the majority of these housing problems located in rental property within the R/ECAP.

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Racial and ethnic minorities disproportionately reside in the R/ECAP area of the jurisdiction. While blacks and Hispanics make up about 30% of the total population, Over 50% of the R/ECAP area is made up of ethnic minorities.

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

Data shows that Jonesboro continues to realize housing growth and in the past two decades, this growth was necessary and most likely attributable to units needed to accommodate the growing population. According to the U.S. Census, there were 1,380,728 housing units in Jonesboro.

Older housing stock and housing that may need maintenance are mainly in the central portions of the City. Not surprisingly, these areas also have the largest number of vacant structures and dilapidated buildings. Addressing these issues will be of importance in the comprehensive housing policy. The City's

newest housing stock is in the southern and eastern portions of the city. This disparity in the concentration of older housing in older lower income concentrated areas, coupled with the location of new construction being primarily in other areas, is an issue facing Jonesboro.

There are also a large affordable housing communities being developed in North Jonesboro and other areas of the city.

Jonesboro has a homeownership rate at almost 62 percent. This is below the national average and the goals established for cities by HUD based on its sustainable communities initiatives. Of even greater concern, were the homeownership rates among African Americans and Hispanics, at 18 percent and 32 percent, drastically lower than the city, state and national averages. Homeownership rates are highest in areas of the city with newer homes, despite the higher median housing values in those areas. The data show that the age of the housing stock tends to be marginally older for renter-occupied housing, with 31percent of rental housing and 26.7 percent of owner-occupied housing built prior to 1970.

Most of the city's housing is single-family. Over 70 percent of the total housing stock in Jonesboro is single-family. It is important to remember that the city's single-family homes include both homeowner occupied and rental units.

The Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority (JURHA) manage 151 public housing units throughout the City of Jonesboro. Currently, 1,312 Jonesboro households receive tenant-based rental assistance through the Section 8 Voucher Program. The City has 344 subsidized units, which are affordable to very low income and low income households supported by various HUD programs.

As the city's population changes so will its demand for housing. The next section, 'Housing Demand', re-examines trends discussed in previous sections and projects possible population and housing scenarios for Jonesboro.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Community assets include an alternative school, a pre-kindergarten center, a grocery store, a glass manufacturing facility, community centers, a few dollar stores, fast food and sit-down restaurants, a healthcare clinic, Arkansas State University, NYIT Medical School and a sparse small business community.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

The lack of a community revitalization strategy is listed as a high priority in our AFH because it contributes to Segregation, R/ECAPS, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, and Disability and Access. An approved revitalization strategy would ensure city leaders, staff and residents are informed, aware, and on the same page when it comes to the city's future and would help create economic opportunity in disadvantaged neighborhoods with disproportionately high representation of protected classes. A revitalization strategy would also provide opportunities for residents to offer input and ideas about how their city develops. Without the development of a well-thought revitalization strategy to address this and other contributing factors, racial/ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the elderly will be forced to remain in their circumstances, which will only get worse each year. The jurisdiction has goals in the AFH to develop a strategic plan for the area.

MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

Jonesboro has a definite need for broadband infrastructure expansion. We are currently looking to invest ARA money into Broadband Infrastructure throughout the jurisdiction.

Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

There are a few providers in the jurisdiction to choose.

MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)

Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The Strategic Plan for the City of Jonesboro will consist of the following goals: decent and affordable housing, homelessness reduction and a comprehensive community development strategy.

Housing Strategy:

Housing costs remain high and overall housing affordability continues to be a major problem for low income individuals and families. Recent trends in home prices have led to an increasing number of people being priced out of the homeownership market. One consequence has been a shift in tenure trends, with increasing number of people remaining in the rental market, intensifying the competition for scarce affordable housing units. Increasing the supply of affordable housing and maintaining the current housing stock is a primary goal of the Consolidated Plan.

The city will continue to work with the Housing Authority in maintaining its current level of assisted rental units for low-income households over the next five years. The Housing Authority will attempt to increase its number of assisted rental units as additional HUD funding allows. However, we do not expect any significant increases in HUD funding for rental assistance or new construction in the next five years.

In addition to addressing the city's current assisted rental units, new homeownership and homeowner rehabilitation assistance will have a substantial impact on deteriorating neighborhoods. Owner occupants tend to be more invested in their neighborhoods, are less likely to move, and have a greater incentive to maintain their properties than their renter counterparts.

Homeless Strategy:

The City of Jonesboro intends to assist, as much as is feasibly possible, the current shelter and service providers addressing homelessness and services to those at risk of becoming homeless. These organizations strive to guide families effectively out of the generational poverty cycle and public assistance dependency into self sufficiency.

Community Development Strategy:

The city's Community Development Strategy involves focusing on neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of lower income households in order to maintain public facilities improvements, provide adequate neighborhood infrastructure and amenities in the form of transportation and community centers, improve neighborhood appearance and safety, and improve accessibility for disabled residents.

The Community Development Strategy also involves providing a variety of public services to those most in need in order to prevent homelessness, provide shelters, transitional housing, rapid rehousing efforts and support to those who are homeless, assist low income households with basic needs and the means through supportive services to break the poverty cycle, assist at-risk and homeless youth and help seniors survive on their limited incomes and continue living in their homes. The city intends to carry out the following actions over the next five years.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

Geographic Area

Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	Jonesboro
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Other
	Other Revital Description:	Employment Training
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	
	Identify the needs in this target area.	
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	
2	Area Name:	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Area Type:	Low Income Neighborhoods
	Other Target Area Description:	Low Income Neighborhoods
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	

	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	
	Identify the needs in this target area.	
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	
3	Area Name:	North Jonesboro
	Area Type:	Strategy area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	11/29/2012
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	The North Jonesboro neighborhood boundaries identified as for the Strategy Area are the following: starts with the western boundary of State Highway 141 and runs East to North Caraway Road then the northern boundary starting on Belt Street and the southern boundary aligns with Aggie Road. The block census tract is 6.01 and part of 6.02 in Craighead County.
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	Majority of the housing stock dates to the 1930s to 1970s and primarily built as affordable housing. Average sizes of housing stock is 800 to 1500 square feet of living space on extremely small lot spaces of 25-40 linear feet of square frontage. This neighborhood has one grocery store, two general stores, three fast food restaurants, one dining restaurant and one manufacturer (Arkansas Glass Corporation). Two-thirds of the neighborhood would be considered as slums and blighted with a large amount of vacant lots throughout the area.	

<p>How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?</p>	<p>The City did consult the residents of the neighborhood along with other departments and non-profit organizations involved with this group. In the 2012 - 2016 Consolidated Plan, it was established as a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area due to the deterioration and lack of businesses within the neighborhood.</p>
<p>Identify the needs in this target area.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rehabilitation of housing stock of low-income homeowners 2. Clean up the slum and blighted parts of the neighborhood 3. Create economic development opportunities within the neighborhood 4. Invest with public infrastructure for quality of life improvements and amenities 5. Build new affordable housing throughout the neighborhood on vacant lots
<p>What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?</p>	
<p>Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?</p>	<p>This neighborhood has been considered as the low-income neighborhood with high criminal activities and deteriorated housing. The stigma of the neighborhood is the largest barrier for economic development to flourish and for residents to consider moving into the area.</p>

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

Our CDBG money is used to assist LMI citizens of the jurisdiction.

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 48 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods
	Associated Goals	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Description	<p align="left">Lack of public investment in specific neighborhoods, including services and amenities.

	Basis for Relative Priority	<p>This was given a high rating because the lack of transportation limit or deny fair housing choice, limit or deny access to opportunity, and limit or deny access to opportunity. The Housing Choice Voucher Resident Advisory Board and Public Housing Resident Council specifically identified transportation as a serious barrier. Transportation was discussed at length and it was agreed that more transportation routes and expanded hours are needed to help families get and keep jobs. Although a lack of transportation opportunities are city wide affecting not only the R/ECAP areas but also other majority white, high opportunity neighborhoods it is recognized that there is a much greater need for transportation opportunities in the R/ECAP area and near Publicly Supported housing. The lack of transportation may have disproportionate impact on low income and disability populations who are more likely to rely on public transportation. Improving transportation could help residents of R/ECAP and publicly supported housing access areas of high opportunity for either housing, jobs, or schools.</p>
2	Priority Need Name	AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons
	Priority Level	High
	Population	<p>Extremely Low Low Moderate Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities</p>
	Geographic Areas Affected	<p>North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods</p>

	Associated Goals	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled
	Description	Access to transportation for persons with disabilities
	Basis for Relative Priority	The City has a small public transit system that serves approximately half of the city's population. Jonesboro Economical Transportation System (JET) has a para-transit program that runs adjacent to the fixed routes within 3/4 mile radius of it five routes. This contributing factor is listed as a high priority because its limited access to transportation for persons with disabilities which limits and denies access to opportunity, negatively impacts fair housing and civil rights compliance. It also contributes to five of the seven fair housing issues: segregation, R/ECAPS, access to opportunity, disproportionate housing needs, and disability and access. These issues are affected because, in general, persons with disabilities, who require public transportation are minority, elderly, and live in lower income (segregated) neighborhoods. The para-transit program is an on-call service and for a small fee, the jet will pickup disabled individuals at their door and return them upon their desire to return home. This small transit system is not adequate in providing these services to all residents, therefore we can ascertain that some of the individuals with disabilities do not have access to public transit system. In addition to the lack of access to our public transit, the City has limited resources of personnel and funding to adequately operate JET System throughout the city limits and its metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), concerned citizens, and the JET System are partnering to move this issue forward. We are hopeful this issues is on the verge of becoming better as the issue is now at the forefront of the City.
3	Priority Need Name	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability
	Priority Level	High

Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
Geographic Areas Affected	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods
Associated Goals	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
Description	The availability, type, frequency, and reliability of public transportation

	Basis for Relative Priority	The limited availability, type, frequency, and reliability of public transportation is considered a high priority because it contributes to Segregation, R/ECAPS , Access to Opportunity, Publicly supported housing and Disability and access. The City should look into developing one or several public transportation plans that will address the limitations of the public transit and other modes, such as sidewalks, multi-purpose trails and bicycle lanes. The lack of a centralized plan or other transportation plans continues to encourages segregation, other emerging R/ECAPS , limited access to opportunities for those who have no other means of transportation within their neighborhoods. In addition, the lack of transportation goes directly to the quality of life of our residents because it limits access to jobs, shopping, medical care, and other services. Without development of the public transportation within this jurisdiction to address this factor, racial/ethnic minorities, elder1y, families and individuals with disabilities will continue to remain with limited public transportation. In the next five years, the City must find partners to help leverage the existing funds with other sources to address these gaps in the City's public transportation system.
4	Priority Need Name	AFH: Community Opposition
	Priority Level	High

Populat ion	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
Geogra phic Areas Affecte d	North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods
Associa ted Goals	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board
Descrip tion	<p align="left">Community Opposition</p>

	Basis for Relative Priority	Community Opposition is listed as a high priority contributing factor because it contributes to all seven (7) fair housing issues: Segregation, R/ECAPS, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, Publicly Supported Housing, Disability and access and Fair Housing Enforcement/Outreach We know it is a contributing factor because Jonesboro residents who attend public meetings voice their opinions in opposition to multi-family and affordable housing projects in their neighborhoods. The City Council generally votes with the opposing views, as they are generally the majority in the room. Residents have verbally expressed the view that this type of housing should be in low-income areas. (i.e. North Jonesboro). As long as this community opposition to multifamily and affordable housing exists, this contributing factor will become worse and continue to segregation that affects minorities, people of color, people with disabilities, certain familial status, and people of certain specific national origins (i.e. Hispanic). Because racial and ethnic minorities in Jonesboro tend to be lower-income than non-Hispanic whites, they are disproportionately harmed by the lack of development of affordable housing that is a result of community opposition.
5	Priority Need Name	AFH: Lack of Private Investments
	Priority Level	Low
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate
	Geographic Areas Affected	North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods
	Associated Goals	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Description	Lack of Private Investment in specific neighborhoods

	Basis for Relative Priority	This is listed as a low priority because while there is a substantial need for private support and investment in the areas of economic development, housing, and commercial development in specific low-income neighborhoods, this factor requires private investors and economic developers to be attracted to specific low-income neighborhoods. The degree of private development will depend on the degree of public investment such as infrastructure and other amenities. This Contributing Factor contributes to Access to Opportunity and Disproportionate Housing Needs, because Hispanic, African American, elderly, and citizens with disabilities inhabit these areas disproportionately, and suffer from a lack of amenities and development because of insufficient sources of private investment.
6	Priority Need Name	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods
	Associated Goals	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board AFH: Establish a City Land Bank AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Description	Location and type of affordable housing

	Basis for Relative Priority	Location and type of affordable housing is listed as a high priority-contributing factor because it affects all seven (7) fair housing issues. Much of Jonesboro's affordable and rental housing is located in just a two neighborhoods (North Jonesboro and Fairview). These neighborhoods have a large representation of minority and other protected class residents. This concentration of affordable housing has a disproportionate impact on protected classes and affects their housing choice, their ability to access neighborhoods with community amenities like good schools and proximity to jobs. Affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods throughout the city will cause the continued decline in segregated areas and within our R/ECAP.
7	Priority Need Name	AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions
	Priority Level	Low
	Population	Extremely Low Low Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Persons with HIV/AIDS Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Jonesboro
	Associated Goals	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board
	Description	Occupancy Codes and Restrictions for housing stock with the City

	Basis for Relative Priority	Occupancy Codes and restrictions is listed as low priority. We realize the magnitude of this factor, but recognize the issue is something the state must address; and is indirectly an issue the city government will have to rectify over a period. The City Council (by a split vote) recently approved a property maintenance code that required property owners and homeowners to maintain their property at international standards. The code also allowed property owners to be fined should Code Enforcement determine the property was not maintained at international standards. Property owners lead an effort to repeal the code, and they were successful in gathering enough signatures to call for a public vote and were successful in repealing the city ordinance. This is a contributing factor because by-and-large substandard rental property is inhabited by ethnic minorities (i.e. Blacks and Hispanics). We know this factor contributes to fair housing because it denies certain protected classes the right to safe, decent affordable housing. With the appeal of the local property maintenance code and the lack of state of Arkansas landlord/tenant laws, this problem will become worse.
8	Priority Need Name	AFH: Private Discrimination
	Priority Level	Low
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Victims of Domestic Violence Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities

	Geographic Areas Affected	North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods
	Associated Goals	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Description	Private discrimination is currently monitored and/or reviewed by other organizations in the region (i.e. Legal, Fair Housing Commission, HUD and the NAACP); it is, therefore considered as a low priority.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Private Discrimination goes straight to the heart of all fair housing issues. Many residents express their beliefs and dismay when applying for housing, and may believe they are facing and combating one-on-one racial, ethnic, familial type, disability and social economic discrimination. If the City is to establish local regulations and a local process, we must begin to collect data and statistics, and establishes a review/hearing process that provides an opportunity for those who believe they have been discriminated against an opportunity to express their position, while allowing for those accused refuting the allegation. Private Discrimination touches on all seven fair housing issues and affects all protected classes. The issue will improve once a formal process is in place where residents can be heard.
9	Priority Need Name	AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Jonesboro

	Associated Goals	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Description	Deteriorated and abandoned properties within the targeted neighborhoods through CDBG funding.
	Basis for Relative Priority	There are absentee property owners whose property has been abandoned and/or deteriorated. Since this impacts multiple fair housing issues (R/ECAPS, Segregation, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs), we place this as high priority." CDBG funds are used as effectively as possible to fight blight when dealing with local property owners who qualify for assistance. However, absentee property owners present a challenge when cleaning up slums and blight.
10	Priority Need Name	AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies
	Priority Level	High

Populat ion	<p>Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Non-housing Community Development</p>
Geogra phic Areas Affecte d	<p>North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods</p>
Associa ted Goals	<p>AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability</p>
Descrip tion	<p>The lack of a community revitalization strategy is a high priority because it contributes to Segregation, R/ECAPS, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, and Disability and Access.</p>

	Basis for Relative Priority	An approved revitalization strategy would ensure city leaders, staff and residents are informed, aware, and on the same page when it comes to the city's future and would help create economic opportunity in disadvantaged neighborhoods with disproportionately high representation of protected classes. A revitalization strategy would also provide opportunities for residents to offer input and ideas about how their city develops. This is a contributing factor because the lack of a well- thought out plan with buy-in from City Leaders and residents denies minorities, persons with disabilities, those protected under familiar status, and the elderly the opportunity to voice their opinions and provide input as to how their neighborhoods should develop. The lack of a plan also encourages Segregation and R/ECAPS when residents in specific neighborhoods have no choice of where they live and there is no plan in place to increase access to opportunity, address housing needs and improve access for people with disabilities. Without the development of a well-thought revitalization strategy to address this and other contributing factors, racial/ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the elderly will be forced to remain in their circumstances, which will only get worse each year. Given that R/ECAPs and other distressed areas in Jonesboro are predominantly inhabited by low-income protected class groups, particularly non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics, the lack of community revitalization strategies is likely to contribute to the continued decline of those areas, discourage future private investment, and limit fair housing choices for members of protected classed. Moving forward, it will be crucial for City leaders, stakeholders and residents to become partners to ensure a well-written, intuitive plan that has the benefit of all citizens in mind.
1 1	Priority Need Name	AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods

	Associated Goals	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge
	Description	Lack of local private fair housing outreach and enforcement
	Basis for Relative Priority	Lack of local private fair housing outreach and enforcement is listed as a high priority because in addition to negatively impacting fair housing and civil rights compliance, it contributes to all seven fair housing issues: segregation, R/ECAPs, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate housing needs, publicly supported housing, disability and access, and of course, fair housing enforcement/outreach. A local private effort will strengthen the local fair housing initiative; ensure that all seven of the protected classes are informed about their rights to fair housing and an understanding about the enforcement process. Outreach and education will empower protected classes and provide a avenue to have concerns heard with a reasonable expectation of a fair decision. The city or sponsoring entity must develop partnerships with organizations such as Legal Aid, realtors, landlords, developers, etc., will provide expertise not available via one particular organizations. Until there is a local private housing outreach and enforcement arm, this contributing factor will get worse.
1 2	Priority Need Name	AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing
	Priority Level	High

<p>Populat ion</p>	<p>Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development</p>
<p>Geogra phic Areas Affecte d</p>	<p>Jonesboro</p>
<p>Associa ted Goals</p>	<p>AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge</p>
<p>Descrip tion</p>	<p>Lack of knowledge of Fair Housing among residents, property owners, real estate agents, and bankers/lenders as well as the lack of agencies and/or organizations devoted to Fair Housing enforcement.</p>

	Basis for Relative Priority	This was given a High priority because the lack of fair housing knowledge and the lack of resources available limit or deny fair housing choice and can negatively affect fair housing or civil rights compliance for residents of publicly supported housing. Lack of knowledge of Fair Housing among residents, property owners, real estate agents, bankers/lenders and lack of agencies devoted to Fair Housing enforcement were among the top concerns from all stakeholders, HCV residents, PH residents, Landlord, and Program Coordinating Committee, which responded to JURHA's survey. Lack of fair housing knowledge stood out as a serious barrier to fair housing among Voucher Holders and Public Housing residents. The HCV program is comprised of 65% minorities, 15% elderly, and 58% have a disabled household member. Public Housing is made up of 70% Black, Non-Hispanic families and 35.92% of the families have a disabled member with 12.58% of the Public Housing population living within the R/ECAP Area. A valuable community resource to combat Fair Housing was lost when the Jonesboro Housing Authority HCDO was forced to terminate Housing Counseling Services. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the Jonesboro Housing Authority HCDO as a counseling agency in December 2007. We provided the following services until July 2015 when we lost our Housing Counselor due to lack of sufficient funding to administer the Housing Counseling Program. The Jonesboro Housing Authority was the only HUD approved Housing Counseling agency in a three county area (Craighead, Poinsett, and Greene County).
1 3	Priority Need Name	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	Geographic Areas Affected	North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods

	Associated Goals	AFH: Establish a City Land Bank
	Description	The availability of affordable units in a range of sizes within the City.
	Basis for Relative Priority	While Jonesboro has made great strides in the scope of its affordable housing stock for moderate-income families, there is still a grave disparity between affordable units for those living in poverty. Therefore, this factor as listed as a high priority--it denies access to opportunity, fair housing choices and civil rights. It also contributes to all seven of the fair housing issues. Segregating residents by income (which is generally minorities, elderly, disabled, and others based on their familial status), increases the size and scope of our R/ECAP. Denial of access to opportunity by confining these low-income residents to a specific area with limited opportunity, where they have a shortage of 'affordable' housing', publicly supported housing, and limited access for those who are disabled. Without a knowledge of fair housing laws and their rights under the law, residents will continue to be disenfranchised and this situation will get worse.
1 4	Priority Need Name	AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	Jonesboro

	Associated Goals	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled
	Description	Inaccessible sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, or other infrastructure in the targeted neighborhoods.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The City has worked on updating the existing sidewalk and infrastructure inventory list for over a decade. This is listed as a high priority because in our rough estimation of the inaccessible sidewalks and other infrastructure for pedestrian use, it was noted only 35-40% of the sidewalks and other infrastructure was ADA compliant. Furthermore, many of our intersections have pedestrian crossings and curb cuts but nothing further such as sidewalks, bike paths or multi-purpose trails. This factor only contributes to limiting or denying access to opportunity; however, it contributes to five of the seven fair housing issues: Segregation, R/ECAPs, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, and Disability and Access. It contributes to these fair housing issues by isolating minorities, the disabled, and the elderly to specific neighborhood with limited access. Pedestrian crosswalks without sidewalks are considered incomplete and will be addressed in later years. The funding for sidewalks and other infrastructure is extremely limited unless additional funding streams remain untapped. The issue is improving as residents and other stakeholders are forming partnerships to create a livable city in our R/ECAP and other portions of the city disproportionately inhabited by minorities, elderly, and those with disabilities.
15	Priority Need Name	AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing
	Priority Level	Low

Populat ion	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
Geogra phic Areas Affecte d	Jonesboro
Associa ted Goals	
Descrip tion	Lack of assistance for transitioning from institutional settings to integrated housing throughout the City.

	Basis for Relative Priority	<p>This Contributing Factor is given a low priority because even though the City has a local institution that participates in transitioning 15-20 individuals annually to the community, the issues arise when looking for permanent housing for those individuals in certain areas of the city. There have been refusals to rent from some landlords or opposition from certain neighborhoods or subdivisions within the city limits. This factor limits access to opportunity and negatively influences fair housing and civil rights compliance. By denying housing choice to certain individuals, this factor encompasses five of the seven fair housing issues: segregation, R/ECAPS, access to opportunity, disproportionate housing needs, and disability access. It contributes to these fair housing issues by isolating minorities, the disabled, and the elderly to specific neighborhood with limited access.</p> <p>Affected classes include minorities, elderly and those with disabilities. This issue will only get worse with time if more transitional housing is not designated in various areas of our city for disabled individuals leaving institutional settings.</p>
1 6	Priority Need Name	AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities
	Geographic Areas Affected	North Jonesboro Low Income Neighborhoods

Associated Goals	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
Description	Lack of public investment in specific neighborhoods, including services and amenities
Basis for Relative Priority	While the City of Jonesboro effectively uses its CDBG entitlement funds to improve the quality of life in low-income neighborhoods, more funds must be leveraged if significant changes are to occur. This is a contributing factor because it limits fair housing choice and the access to opportunity. This is listed as a high priority because lack of public investment in certain neighborhoods leads to a diminished quality of life, which leads to segregation, R/ECAPs, and disparities in opportunities. Ethnic minorities, primarily African Americans and Hispanic, primarily inhabit these neighborhoods. The results of a lack of public investment in these neighborhoods contributes to Segregation, R/ECAPS, Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs, and Disability and Access. Minorities, the elderly, and those with disabilities are affected because the lack of public investment means fewer amenities (i.e. housing, entertainment, shopping, etc.) and a lack of economic development in their neighborhoods to address these amenities. These issues will worsen without significant planning, investment and leveraging of resources.

Narrative (Optional)

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	The City will assist the Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority in educating property owners of the housing choice voucher programs that will provide more opportunities for decent housing for low and moderate income families.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	The City will assist the Jonesboo Urban Renewal and Housing Authority in educating property owners of the housing choice voucher programs for individuals with special needs that includes elderly, physical disabilities, mental disabilities, substance abuse individuals, AIDS/HIV and individuals of domestic violence.
New Unit Production	The City will establish a land bank to provide vacant lots to be repurposed for low to moderate income households for new construction of affordable housing. The first time homeownership through providing assistance of closing cost/downpayments.
Rehabilitation	The City has a large number of housing stock that has deteriorated throughout the low-income areas and some moderate income neighborhoods. This characteristic will affect the elderly, people with disabilities and low to moderate income households. The areas to be targeted will be North Jonesboro, Fairview, Nettleton and parts of West End Neighborhoods.
Acquisition, including preservation	The City will provide housing assistance and non-profit organizations with acquisition of public properties to be desugated for affordable housing and other residential public facilities that will benefit the low and moderate income households that includes homeless and special needs.

Table 49 – Influence of Market Conditions

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

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	621,812	0	0	621,812	0	The City will continue to utilize the CDBG Funds for the improvement of citizen's quality of life and to provide decent and affordable housing.
Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	public - federal	Admin and Planning Housing Other	94,397	0	0	94,397	0	The City will utilize the Continuum of Care funds to provide decent and rapid rehousing the homeless within our jurisdiction.

Table 50 - 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 jurisdiction will utilize the Continuum of Care and CDBG funds along with private donations in the assistance of the homeless population through the HUB (Helping Underserved Belong) coordinated entry to other resources. Overall, CDBG has no match requirements to satisfy the terms of the program.

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

Not applicable

Discussion

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
JONESBORO	Government	Economic Development Homelessness Non-homeless special needs Ownership Planning neighborhood improvements public facilities public services	Jurisdiction
Jonesboro Urban Housing Renewal	PHA	Public Housing Rental	Jurisdiction

Table 51 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

Economic Development: Strength - The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce serves as the coordinator and facilitator of Jonesboro’s economic development. In addition to attracting and recruiting jobs, the chamber also coordinates a workforce training initiative that includes organizations who recruit and training workers for careers and employment. We believe this effort is a strong asset for Jonesboro.

Gap: The gap here is ensuring these programs and opportunities reach our most vulnerable populations. Many are unaware these programs exist and may lack the transportation from our R/ECAP to training facilities.

Ownership - Strength: In addition to first time homebuyer assistance, the jurisdiction is researching the possibility of starting a land bank. The land bank will make property available for homeownership for a nominal fee. The jurisdiction has also seen an increase in the number of affordable housing units being built across a broad section of neighborhoods.

Gap: There is still a shortage of decent housing for very low income residents.

Planning - Gap: With the exception of sidewalk improvements, there are no planning activities underway to improve/revitalize our CDBG areas.

Neighborhood Improvements: Strength: The jurisdiction is working with the North Jonesboro Neighborhood Initiative to encourage their civic support and engagement.

Gap: It may take time to onboard new residents who are ready and willing to join the effort.

Public Facilities: Strength: The jurisdiction has a number of strategically placed community facilities and parks throughout the city that provide space for a variety of activities. The facilities are well-maintained and staffed as needed. Other public facilities include: the Salvation Army, transitional housing, a seniors’ center, and youth facilities.

Gap: There is a shortage of nursing homes, facilities for residents with disabilities, and childcare centers that service low-income families.

Public Services: Strength – The institution has a community of dedicated, committed, and capable non-profits organizations providing a wide range of services. Through our CDBG funds we are able to develop partnerships with organizations who programs and mission mirror our ConPlan.

Gap: There is a need for a community based development organization to provide an array of services that current non-profits do not provide, i.e. neighborhood revitalization strategies and development, resident engagement, and community/economic development, etc.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	
Legal Assistance	X		
Mortgage Assistance	X		
Rental Assistance		X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	X		
Mobile Clinics	X		
Other Street Outreach Services	X		
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X		

Child Care	X		
Education	X		
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X	X	
HIV/AIDS	X		
Life Skills	X	X	
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	
Transportation	X	X	X
Other			

Table 52 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

Homelessness: Strength: The jurisdiction and local services have opened a homeless resource center to provide a continuum of care for residents who find themselves homeless or on the verge of homelessness. The HUB refers these individuals to services and resources. Many of the resources are located within the HUB or are accessible from the HUB. Services and resources available include: Goodwill Industries, Social workers, mental health professionals, affordable health care representative, veterans services, counseling services, transportation, assistance with birth certificates and identification, and more. Once the appropriate intake application is completed, clients are assessed and referred to the appropriate service provider or volunteer for personalized care.

With HUB services, CDBG funding, the City of Jonesboro has established a homeless initiative and charted a course to end homelessness, not only in Jonesboro, but in the tri-county region (Paragould, Greene and Craighead Counties).

Gap: There are still organizations/agencies who provide needed services and are not partners with the HUB.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

Non-homeless Special Needs: Strength: The City of Jonesboro is in full support of placing an emphasis on housing programs and supportive services for low- to moderate- income and non-homeless special needs populations. The City believes neighborhood preservation and revitalization are an essential component of maintaining the sustainability of low income housing. The CDBG Program includes

education, land acquisition for affordable housing, homeowner housing rehabilitation, new homeownership assistance, as well as assistance with demolition of blighted property.

Gap: There is a shortage in housing programs for our disabled population and those with transitional housing needs.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit	2022	2026	Public Housing Transportation	North Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5000 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	AFH: Engage with the Citizen Fair Housing Board	2017	2018	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 20 Households Assisted
3	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy	2022	2026	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro	AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$145,000	Other: 15 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro	AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1312 Persons Assisted
5	AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement	2017	2019	Affordable Housing Public Housing	North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 151 Households Assisted
6	AFH: Collaborate with City Land Bank	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added: 10 Household Housing Unit
7	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled	2017	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro	AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Other: 5 Other
8	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing		Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 50 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
9	Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$93,271.80	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10000 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 50 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 10 Buildings
10	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless	2017	2021	Homeless	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$20,000 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 8 Households Assisted Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 15 Beds Homelessness Prevention: 250 Persons Assisted

Table 53 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit
	Goal Description	The Jonesboro Housing Authority is unfamiliar with the challenges facing the city in providing transportation for more routes and extending hours to weekends. The PHA is requesting a representative from the Housing Authority be added to the committee to promote the needs of Publicly Assisted Housing residents who rely on JET for transportation. The limited schedule affects their ability to access opportunity including jobs in the service industries, third-shift jobs, and other community amenities. Many residents who are impacted include the elderly, disabled and minorities.
2	Goal Name	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board
	Goal Description	Establish a Citizens Fair Housing Board to educate residents (with a focus on protected classes) on how to effectively utilize fair housing laws; and to reduce opposition community to the development of affordable housing in high opportunity areas in Jonesboro.
3	Goal Name	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Goal Description	By 2019, develop a community revitalization strategy to reverse the trend of segregation in the R/ECAP by addressing the contributing factors in each fair housing issue. Fair housing is not only about housing, but also about ensuring all residents have a great quality of life. The development of revitalization strategies will allow all residents to provide input into the vision of the quality of life they want for their neighborhood. Revitalization strategies will address contributing factors expressed by residents and staff identified throughout the AFH. The Census data shows that over the last ten years, there has been a constant flow of moderate/middle income families as well as white families moving out of North Jonesboro. Over the same period, there has been a constant influx of low-income and minorities moving into North Jonesboro. If this trend continues, it is only a matter of time before this R/ECAP become a slum and blight neighborhood; then criminal activities will filter into the area.

4	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge
	Goal Description	<p>Though the previously discussed outreach efforts of the Citizen's Fair Housing Board increase knowledge and understanding of fair housing among property owners and residents to affirmatively further fair housing, international property maintenance codes and influence the State of Arkansas to create tenant/landlord laws.</p> <p>This addresses the issues because education of the public regarding their rights and responsibilities with regards to the fair housing law is an essential component of fair housing enforcement. This includes the education of landlords and tenants, housing and financial providers, as well as citizens. Potential victims of housing and/or lending discrimination law should be aware of fair housing issues, know what constitutes a violation, and what they can do in the event they believe they have been discriminated against. Likewise, it is important for lenders, housing providers, and their agents to know what their responsibilities are and when they may be violating fair housing law. The Community Development Office is responsible for conducting public education, training and outreach of fair housing rights and remedies in Jonesboro.</p> <p>People are often unaware of their fair housing rights. Housing discrimination tends to be more subtle these days than it was in the past. Instead of saying no children are allowed, unreasonable occupancy standards may exclude families with children. Rather than saying, "We do not rent to Hispanics," a rental agent may say they have no vacancies, when, in fact, they have vacancies. In addition, a person who believes he/she may have been discriminated against will probably do nothing if he/she does not realize a telephone call can initiate intervention and a resolution, without expenditure of funds or excessive time.</p> <p>JURHA already provided fair housing material during briefing sessions and upon request. Voucher holder are required to come into the office every year for their annual reexamination. Providing materials on fair housing in the lobby will provide on-going exposure to voucher holders as well as applicants.</p>
5	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement
	Goal Description	Increasing awareness and enforcement of fair housing among publicly assisted families.

6	Goal Name	AFH: Collaborate with City Land Bank
	Goal Description	Collaborate with land bank to make housing more affordable for low-wealth households, help eliminate slums and blight and reverse the trend of deteriorating property in low-income areas.
7	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled
	Goal Description	The City will increase accessibility for people with disabilities through sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks and the expansion of para-transit services. Opportunities and accessibility issues for individual with disabilities goes to the heart of fair housing issues for these residents. Individuals with disabilities without transportation and other key public infrastructures can cause limited housing opportunities to exist throughout the city.
8	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice
	Goal Description	Increase the number of property owners willing to accept housing choice vouchers to open up available housing throughout the community due to the lack of affordable housing for publicly assisted families in the housing choice voucher programs. Jonesboro is one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Arkansas with an increase of 23.5% from 2000 per Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce with an annual growth rate of 2%. It is a challenge to enlist owners who willing to participate in the HGV program because it is a "sellers market" where there are more renters looking for units than there are rentals available.
9	Goal Name	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Goal Description	Create Attractive Neighborhoods through fostering livability and functionality in low-income neighborhoods. This goal will specifically target the slums and blight elimination in the low-income neighborhoods. In addition, it addresses park and recreational centers improvements, provide public services for low-income individuals and encourages employment programs for those identified areas.
10	Goal Name	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Goal Description	Increase housing and services opportunities to the homeless populations.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

Not Applicable based on the City does not have these funds.

SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)

JURHA has productively reduced our 30 mandatory slots to zero. Currently, JURHA is operating their program with 50 voluntary slots with 27 filled with 17 families with progress report and escrow balances. We have had four graduates this year from the FSS program. There are workshops offered yearly and attendance is required. Since the funding is not available, the local PHA has not requested additional number of accessible units.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

Community Service is simply an unfunded mandate for Public Housing Agencies. Section 8 HCV offers rental assistance for low-income families, yet HCV voucher holders receive the benefit of rental assistance without the requirement of performing Community Service. Public Housing staff must monitor and ensure that public housing residents do comply with the requirement to perform 8 hours of community service work per month in order to receive the same rental assistance that Section 8, HCV recipients receive for nothing. Since we are not being funded at 100 percent, we have lost a valuable position due to these budget cuts, the position that helped monitor and “chase” community service residents. It is very difficult for our staff to continue working at the high pace required to keep occupancy up, account receivables down, and comply with all the EIV requirements.

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

No

Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation

SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Location and type of affordable housing is listed as a high priority contributing factor in our AFH, because it affects all seven (7) fair housing issues. Much of Jonesboro's affordable and rental housing is located in just two neighborhoods (North Jonesboro and Fairview). These neighborhoods have a high representation of minority and other protected class residents. This concentration of affordable housing has a disproportionate impact on protected classes and impacts their housing choice, their ability to access neighborhoods with community amenities like good schools and proximity to jobs. Affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods throughout the city will cause the continued decline in segregated areas and within our R/ECAP.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

Numerous documents analyzed to determine the affect public policies has on affordable housing. The key documents were the Consolidated Plan, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice; the city's zoning ordinances, Annual Action Plans, Consolidated Annual Performance Reports (CAPERS) and documentation on various housing programs and projects. City staff also provided information on various efforts.

A significant barrier to affordable housing remains the financial ability of the low- to moderate- income families to provide necessary funding for acquisition or for major or minor homeowner repairs, so acquisition and repair programs implemented by the city help address this obstacle. Another obstacle the city continues to face is the rising cost of materials and labor for rehabilitation projects in the community and the negative impact of that escalation on the existing program limits. The city currently administers minor repair programs that enable low- and moderate- income homeowners to stay in their homes in a safe and decent environment. The city continues to assist the low-income community by offering the First-Time New Homeownership Assistance program to eligible participants. This program continues to be very successful.

The city enforces various zoning, permit, and parking requirements, which restricts 'free' use of land, but the city considers these regulations as being necessary to regulate safety and traffic issues for residential areas. The city has provided for more affordable housing by allowing for relaxed lot standards; smaller lots with reduced setbacks (RS-8 Single Family District). This district allows reduced 15 foot, setbacks in front and back yards, as well as 7.5 foot, side setbacks with a lot as small as, 5,445 square feet at 50 foot, in width. The city's Zoning Code requires two parking spaces per single-family or duplex unit.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City of Jonesboro is in the process of tackling the ever-increasing issue of homelessness. As more and more people find themselves without shelter, we are forced to come to grips with the fact that we can and must do more to provide for those who find themselves without a home. The taskforce consists of local service providers (i.e. homeless and transitional shelters, veterans services, mental health organizations, etc.), long with representatives from area churches, and passionate volunteers. This group has a unique perspective on gaps that must be filled, needs that must be met, and expectations from the homeless as well as services providers.

The jurisdiction is still operatingThe taskforce organized and opened a resource center for homeless and near homeless individuals called Helping Underserved Belong (HUB). The HUB is actually a living and breathing ‘coordinated entry’ system. Many of the points of entry are located within the HUB or are accessible from the HUB. On any given day, the HUB is staffed with 4-6 volunteers and 4-6 service providers (i.e. Goodwill Industries, Social workers, mental health professionals, affordable health care representative, veteran services, etc.). Once the appropriate intake application is completed, clients are assessed and referred to the appropriate service provider or volunteer for personalized care.

The City will continue to build on the HUB model, expanding and formalizing policies, procedures, and programs.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Currently, the jurisdiction works through the HUB to provide emergency and transitional housing needs for homeless individuals. As a resource center, the HUB will initially tap into emergency and transitional service providers. These includes area homeless shelters and churches. If beds are not available at a shelter, HUB volunteers call area churches who provide 1-2 nights in a motel. If churches are out funds for the month, the HUB used donated and/or raised funds to provide 1-2 nights motel stay before starting the process over. The jurisdiction and the HUB will continue to refine this process and encourage churches and other organizations to support our efforts to shelter our homeless.

A similar process is used for those individuals in need of transitional housing. HUB volunteers will call appropriate area transitional facilities in an effort to secure a bed. If no beds are available in the transitional facility, a bed is secured at a shelter or motel.

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.

The jurisdiction is working with the HUB and the Homeless prevention taskforce on a solution for the homeless in Jonesboro.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

The City currently provides housing rehabilitation assistance to those who own their home and need assistance to bring their homes up to codes.

We will continue this strategy, strengthening and expanding as the program develops.

SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards

To comply with the lead-based paint requirements under HUD’s Lead Safe Housing Rule (24 CFR Part 35) and EPA’s Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program Rule (40 CFR Part 745) the Project Coordinator will first determine the age of the house. All houses built before January 1, 1978 and when houses year built is unknown are presumed to have lead-based paint; therefore, Contractors performing rehab projects (renovation, repair and painting) that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools must be RRP certified and must follow lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination. All work must be performed in accordance with EPA’s Lead Safe Work Practices under the Renovators, Remodelers, and Painters Rule (RRP) as of April 22, 2010. The rule does NOT apply to minor repair and maintenance activities where less than two square feet (< 2 sq. ft.) of lead-based paint is disturbed in a room or where less than twenty square feet (< 20 sq. ft.) of LBP is disturbed on the exterior. Window replacement is NOT a minor maintenance or repair.

Every Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program client whose property was built before January 1, 1978 will receive a copy of the EPA’s pamphlet 747-K-12-001 titled “Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home”. Client will also sign a “Pre-Rehabilitation Form” that they received a copy of the booklet and that they understand the potential risks of the lead hazard exposure from rehabilitation of the home.

The Project Coordinator must have possession of the contractors/sub-contractors RRP training Certificate on file before contract will be awarded.

How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

The use of lead-based paints was banned in 1978. As a result, only housing built before 1978 typically presents a lead hazard, and then only if any coat of paint contains lead. The presence of lead itself is not a hazard, but the exposure of lead through dust or paint chips can have a detrimental effect on young children, who may be exposed by inadvertently ingesting dust particles contaminated with lead through the course of normal activities. Children may also be exposed to these hazards during a remodeling or repair of older homes. Exposure to lead through ingestion of paint dust or chips can cause developmental problems in young children.

Children in all income levels are susceptible to lead poisoning. Because low-income families are typically housed in older housing stock, they are disproportionately affected. As the housing stock ages, inadequate maintenance can potentially create a hazardous environment for children less than seven years of age, through the chipping, peeling, or flaking of lead-based paint. Older housing stock in deteriorated condition is what is typically available to low-income families.

The lead hazard is particularly important in the City of Jonesboro since it has significant number of older housing units. According to the 2011-2015 American Factfinder data, over 15 percent of the housing stock was built prior to 1960. Over 29 percent of the housing stock was built prior to 1970. Over 31 percent of rental and 26.7 percent of owner-occupied housing was built prior to 1970.

According to the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, among very low-income (0-30%) households, 497 owner-occupied households and 1,841 renter households were living in units with some type of problem related to housing condition in the city. Among other low-income (31-50%) households, 599 owner-occupied households and 1,309 renter households fall in this category. Among moderate low-income (51-80%) households, 544 owner-occupied households and 723 renter households fall into this category. Among the low- to moderate income households fall into this category. A total of 1,640 owner-occupied households and 1,357 renter-occupied households had housing problems. The figures from this estimate likely to have high overlap with the pre-1970 unit estimations of 3,670 owner-occupied households and 3,270 renter-occupied households. Based on this estimate, as many as 1,307 low- to moderate income homeowners and 2,249 low- to moderate income renter households in Jonesboro could be at risk of lead-based paint hazards.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

All homes built before 1978 are required to be tested for lead-based paints before rehabilitation begins on house built before 1970. After necessary testing has been done by certified contractors for the City, if lead paint has been detected on the area to be rehabilitated then the mitigation process begins prior to the actual performance of services. If the house has no lead paint identified during the testing phase then the rehabilitation will commence.

SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

The Anti-Poverty Strategy describes Jonesboro’s programs and policies to reduce the number of households with incomes below the poverty line. The poverty line is the level of income below which one cannot afford to purchase all the resources one requires to live. The official Census poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but are only adjusted annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. In high cost areas the poverty line may, in fact, be much less than what a household would need in a particular area to pay for all essential needs. Over the last five years, the poverty level has slightly decreased with the jurisdiction having a 20.2% poverty rate. As the population continues to rise, the City believes this rate will continue to rise.

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan

Support Services to Prevent Homelessness

The first goal is to prevent persons from becoming homeless, since most households living below the poverty line survive paycheck to paycheck and any unforeseen event can result in their becoming homeless. Support services such as emergency rental assistance, assistance with utilities, financial education, foreclosure resolution programs, and other such services are critical. Survival services needed to enable households to survive on their limited incomes are also critical. The city funds a number of such services and will continue to do so, as long as CDBG funds are available.

Job Training and Support Services

The second goal of the anti-poverty strategy is to assist in the provision of job training and support services. The Community Development Department is exploring a partnership between NEA Baptist Hospital and the ASU Economic Development Center to recruit LMI citizens to participate in technical training classes to fill positions at the hospital. The city will also seek out additional opportunities for creating jobs and business opportunities.

Affordable Housing

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is the final aspect of the anti-poverty strategy. Since housing costs typically take up a major portion of a household’s income, the provision of affordable housing is critical to ending the cycle of poverty. The city intends to continue its strong efforts to increase and maintain the affordable housing supply. Currently, the City of Jonesboro plans to apply for the HOME Program in order to promote more affordable housing projects.

SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures that the jurisdiction will use to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and will use to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The City of Jonesboro uses its existing delivery/reporting system to achieve its production and service goals. While this includes managing in-house programs, many programs and services will be contracted out to sub-grantees. The city conducts an on-site monitoring assessment or desk review of the program activities of each sub-recipient and contractor in order to ensure compliance with program guidelines as stated in their contractual agreement. The monitoring process includes quarterly reports and a review of contract compliance, program capacity, performance, and timeliness.

Financial monitoring occurs on a quarterly basis with a review of invoices and supporting documentation to ensure that all costs correspond to project services as outlined in the sub-recipient's contract budget. The quarterly reports include additional information including client data, project activities, progress in meeting goals/objectives and specific achievements.

The staff will perform annual desk or on-site reviews of the projects to ensure all financial and programmatic requirements are met. These reviews will occur after the program has ended typically in July of each year. Once the review has been completed, the sub-recipient or contractor will receive a report that will provide suggestions and/or findings if non-compliance has been identified. If findings require corrective actions, then the sub-recipient or contractor are given 120 days to make the necessary corrections. If the sub-recipient or contractor has been awarded during the corrective action period, the corrections must be completed prior to receiving funds for current project.

At the end of the program year, the department compiles all the client demographic data and prepares a comprehensive statistical report that becomes part of the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation and Review (CAPER).

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

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	621,812	0	0	621,812	0	The City will continue to utilize the CDBG Funds for the improvement of citizen's quality of life and to provide decent and affordable housing.
Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	public - federal	Admin and Planning Housing Other	94,397	0	0	124,362	0	The City will utilize the Continuum of Care funds to provide decent and rapid rehousing the homeless within our jurisdiction.

Table 54 - 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 jurisdiction will utilize the Continuum of Care and CDBG funds along with private donations in the assistance of the homeless population through the HUB (Helping Underserved Belong) coordinated entry to other resources. Overall, CDBG has no match requirements to satisfy the terms of the program.

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

Not applicable

Discussion

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	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit	2022	2026	Public Housing Transportation	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	AFH: ECollaborate with Citizen Fair Housing Board	2017	2018	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro North Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions	CDBG: \$145,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 12 Persons Assisted Other: 3 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 262 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement	2017	2019	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 30 Households Assisted
6	AFH: Collaborate with City Land Bank	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added: 2 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled	2017	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings	CDBG: \$20,000	Other: 1 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$0	Other: 10 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
9	Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	North Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$60,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 2 Buildings

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
10	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless	2017	2021	Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment - Transit AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$0 Competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: \$94,397	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 8 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 20 Persons Assisted

Table 55 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit
	Goal Description	The Jonesboro Housing Authority is unfamiliar with the challenges facing the city in providing transportation for more routes and extending hours to weekends. The PHA is requesting a representative from the Housing Authority be added to the committee to promote the needs of Publicly Assisted Housing residents who rely on JET for transportation. The limited schedule affects their ability to access opportunity including jobs in the service industries, third-shift jobs, and other community amenities. Many residents who are impacted include the elderly, disabled and minorities.
2	Goal Name	AFH: Collaborate with Citizen Fair Housing Board
	Goal Description	Establish a Citizens Fair Housing Board to educate residents (with a focus on protected classes) on how to effectively utilize fair housing laws; and to reduce opposition community to the development of affordable housing in high opportunity areas in Jonesboro.
3	Goal Name	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Goal Description	Fair housing is not only about housing, but also about ensuring all residents have a great quality of life. The development of revitalization strategies will allow all residents to provide input into the vision of the quality of life they want for their neighborhood. Revitalization strategies will address contributing factors expressed by residents and staff identified throughout the AFH. The Census data shows that over the last ten years, there has been a constant flow of moderate/middle income families as well as white families moving out of North Jonesboro. Over the same period, there has been a constant influx of low-income and minorities moving into North Jonesboro. If this trend continues, it is only a matter of time before this R/ECAP become a slum and blight neighborhood; then criminal activities will filter into the area.</p>

4	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge
	Goal Description	<p>Though the previously discussed outreach efforts of the Citizen's Fair Housing Board increase knowledge and understanding of fair housing among property owners and residents to affirmatively further fair housing, international property maintenance codes and influence the State of Arkansas to create tenant/landlord laws.</p> <p>This addresses the issues because education of the public regarding their rights and responsibilities with regards to the fair housing law is an essential component of fair housing enforcement. This includes the education of landlords and tenants, housing and financial providers, as well as citizens. Potential victims of housing and/or lending discrimination law should be aware of fair housing issues, know what constitutes a violation, and what they can do in the event they believe they have been discriminated against. Likewise, it is important for lenders, housing providers, and their agents to know what their responsibilities are and when they may be violating fair housing law. The Community Development Office is responsible for conducting public education, training and outreach of fair housing rights and remedies in Jonesboro.</p> <p>People are often unaware of their fair housing rights. Housing discrimination tends to be more subtle these days than it was in the past. Instead of saying no children are allowed, unreasonable occupancy standards may exclude families with children. Rather than saying, "We do not rent to Hispanics," a rental agent may say they have no vacancies, when, in fact, they have vacancies. In addition, a person who believes he/she may have been discriminated against will probably do nothing if he/she does not realize a telephone call can initiate intervention and a resolution, without expenditure of funds or excessive time.</p>
5	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement
	Goal Description	Increasing awareness and enforcement of fair housing among publicly assisted families.
6	Goal Name	AFH: Establish a City Land Bank
	Goal Description	With the establishment of the City Land Bank for vacant lots and donated property for the repurpose of property into affordable residential housing, this will provide low-income households to become homeowners.

7	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled
	Goal Description	Opportunities and accessibility issues for individual with disabilities goes to the heart of fair housing issues for these residents. Individuals with disabilities without transportation and other key public infrastructures can cause limited housing opportunities to exist throughout the city.
8	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice
	Goal Description	Increase the number of property owners willing to accept housing choice vouchers to open up available housing throughout the community due to the lack of affordable housing for publicly assisted families in the housing choice voucher programs. Jonesboro is one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Arkansas with an increase of 23.5% from 2000 per Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce with an annual growth rate of 2%. It is a challenge to enlist owners who willing to participate in the HGV program because it is a "sellers market" where there are more renters looking for units than there are rentals available.
9	Goal Name	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Goal Description	This goal will specifically target the slums and blight elimination in the low-income neighborhoods. In addition, it addresses park and recreational centers improvements, provide public services for low-income individuals and encourages employment programs for those identified areas.
10	Goal Name	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Goal Description	Increase housing and services opportunities to the homeless populations.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Forty Four individual projects are listed in the 2022 Action Plan. In this plan, the emphasis was given toward preserving housing stock with homeowner occupied housing rehabs for low- to moderate-income residents. Homelessness and homeless prevention (\$20,000); Public services ;homeownership assistance x8 (\$29,000); This year the public services have five projects; they are Hope Found of NEA at (\$19,271.00); Hispanic1CommunityServices, Inc . (\$15,000).; The Link Theater Group (\$10,000); Jonesboro Business Association (\$10,000) and CASA (\$10,000); Emergency fund (\$24177.80); Homeowner Rehabilitation x 5 (\$60,000); Public Facilities/Infrastructure 13 projects (\$300,000); administration and planning costs (\$124,362.40) . The priority was given to projects designed to serve the low-income individuals within CDBG low-income areas and additionally serve the greatest number of those targeted residents, thereby having the largest impact in the community.

Projects

#	Project Name

Table 56 – Project Information

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

Jonesboro’s 2022 Action Plan continues to reflect the objectives of the HUD Community Development Block Grant: Seeking to develop viable communities by promoting integrated approaches that provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate- income persons. As stated, the housing and community development projects are located in the CDBG targeted areas that represent the highest density of low income populations, and/or serve as a direct benefit to low income individuals. Two of the high priorities of the residents is improving the neighborhood infrastructures and maintaining the current housing stock in these areas. The remainder of the objectives for the City of Jonesboro is to increase the availability of affordable housing and neighborhood livability through the improvement of the quality of life for low income, disadvantaged, and often underserved citizens.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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

The CDBG funds are primarily focused in North Jonesboro, Fairview and parts of West End and Nettleton Neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have been identified through the U.S. Census Bureau as extremely low-income areas in particular to North Jonesboro and Fairview. North Jonesboro and Fairview have larger minority populations in addition to the high poverty rates. All efforts will be made when possible to direct CDBG funding to those with the most critical needs.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Jonesboro	15
North Jonesboro	50
Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	35

Table 57 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

There continues to be many community stakeholders willing to further our efforts to address the needs of targeted neighborhoods with great poverty. Through the 2017 CDBG program funds the city will be serving not only specific low income neighborhoods, but directly serving our low income and special needs populations including youth, elderly, disabled, and otherwise disadvantaged.

Our primary goal is to promote, sustain and preserve an excellent quality of life in these neighborhoods within the City of Jonesboro. Through the annual goals cited in the 2022 Action Plan, we are continuing to conduct our activities in a manner designed to benefit our most vulnerable populations.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

In the 2022 Action Plan, the city intends on offering four households with down payment/closing costs for the first time homeowners of low- to moderate- incomes. Additionally, 12 existing low- to moderate income homeowners will be provided an opportunity to receive rehabilitation assistance for their housing. This assistance will provided for homeowners the ability to stay in their housing and allow more opportunities for first time homeowners to purchase affordable homes throughout the city that otherwise would not be possible.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	9
Non-Homeless	22
Special-Needs	2
Total	33

Table 58 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	6
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	6

Table 59 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Jonesboro Housing Authority (JURHA) public housing developments are primarily located on the outskirts of the R/ECAP. Even though it is physically located out of the R/ECAP, based on the JURHA annual review for de-concentration in public housing, 87 percent (121 of 140 public housing residents) fall at or below the extremely low-income levels. Of the remaining eleven percent of the households (19 residents) live at the 50 percent or the very low-income levels of the city population.

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

Jonesboro Housing Authority notes that residents have frequently given opposition to the requirement that public housing residents provide community service. However, JURHA has no choice but to implement this requirement of federal law. In designing the program, the JURHA has addressed resident concerns. Non-exempt residents will be encouraged to perform community service at the development where they reside or in their immediately surrounding communities. Activities such as participation in Neighborhood Watch, Bus Stop Patrol, Tenant Patrol, Computer Lab Volunteer, and Youth Event Chaperone are made available to residents for community service credits. Residents may, however, perform community service at locations not owned or controlled by Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority. JURHA has ten approved work sites.

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

JURHA encourages active participation in our Public Housing Resident Council. Many single parents lacked the time and scheduling conflicts from residents' work schedules prevent adequate participation in these resident council meetings. JURHA offered different schedules for resident council and their board meetings, however the varying non-traditional work schedules of our residents is still second only to lack of transportation as an excuse for nonattendance at the meetings.

JURHA has a public housing resident on our Board of Commissioners, as required by HUD. We give each resident a flyer from JURHA CHDO that sells houses with homeownership tips. Unfortunately, we no longer offer a homeownership program where we were able to truly consult and advise residents on ways to improve credit scores and educate them about homeownership. HUD discontinued funding for the Homeownership Program, expecting housing authorities, to acquire funding from other sources. Even though banks were willing to provide some funding, we were unable to secure adequate funding from local banks

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

Not applicable

Discussion

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

Introduction

The City of Jonesboro is in the process of tackling the ever-increasing issue of homelessness. As more and more people find themselves without shelter, we are forced to come to grips with the fact that we can and must do more to provide for those who find themselves without a home. However, individuals with disabilities struggle to transition into permanent housing. The jurisdiction is aware of these issues and are willing to work with the service providers and the families of these individuals.

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

The taskforce organized and opened a resource center for homeless and near homeless individuals called Helping Underserved Belong (HUB). The HUB is actually a living and breathing 'coordinated entry' system. Many of the points of entry are located within the HUB or are accessible from the HUB. On any given day, the HUB is staffed with 4-6 volunteers and 4-6 service providers (i.e. Goodwill Industries, Social workers, mental health professionals, affordable health care representative, veteran services, etc.). Once the appropriate intake application is completed, clients are assessed and referred to the appropriate service provider or volunteer for personalized care.

The City will continue to build on the HUB model, expanding and formalizing policies, procedures, and programs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

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

Currently, the jurisdiction works through the HUB to provide emergency and transitional housing needs for homeless individuals. As a resource center, the HUB will initially tap into emergency and transitional service providers. These includes area homeless shelters and churches. If beds are not available at a shelter, HUB volunteers call area churches who provide 1-2 nights in a motel. If churches are out funds for the month, the HUB used donated and/or raised funds to provide 1-2 nights motel stay before

starting the process over. The jurisdiction and the HUB will continue to refine this process and encourage churches and other organizations to support our efforts to shelter our homeless.

The jurisdiction may consider ESG and/or CoC funds in the future to provide more long-term housing options for this vulnerable population.

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 elderly and disability populations require additional resources to stay within the community once they have been discharged from the institutional settings. The city intends to assist individuals and service providers with the resources through providing decent and affordable housing opportunities. In addition to the housing aspect, opportunities to enter into life skills and other programs will assist those living within a community setting.

The City currently provides housing rehabilitation assistance to those who own their home and need assistance to bring their homes up to codes.

Discussion

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

Introduction:

Location and type of affordable housing is listed as a high priority contributing factor in our AFH, because it affects all seven (7) fair housing issues. Much of Jonesboro's affordable and rental housing is located in just two neighborhoods (North Jonesboro and Fairview). These neighborhoods have a high representation of minority and other protected class residents. This concentration of affordable housing has a disproportionate impact on protected classes and impacts their housing choice, their ability to access neighborhoods with community amenities like good schools and proximity to jobs. Affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods.

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

A significant barrier to affordable housing remains the financial ability of the low- to moderate- income families to provide necessary funding for acquisition or for major or minor homeowner repairs, so acquisition and repair programs implemented by the city help address this obstacle. Another obstacle the city continues to face is the rising cost of materials and labor for rehabilitation projects in the community and the negative impact of that escalation on the existing program limits. The city currently administers minor repair programs that enable low- and moderate- income homeowners to stay in their homes in a safe and decent environment. The city continues to assist the low-income community by offering the First-Time New Homeownership Assistance program to eligible participants. This program continues to be very successful. The city enforces various zoning, permit, and parking requirements, which restricts 'free' use of land, but the city considers these regulations as being necessary to regulate safety and traffic issues for residential areas. The city has provided for more affordable housing by allowing for relaxed lot standards; smaller lots with reduced setbacks (RS-8 Single Family District). This district allows reduced 15 foot, setbacks in front and back yards, as well as 7.5 foot, side setbacks with a lot as small as, 5,445 square feet at 50 foot, in width. The city's Zoning Code requires two parking spaces per single-family or duplex unit.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Jonesboro continues to place major emphasis on HUD's priority goals of housing, and improving the quality of life for marginalized residents through the provision of needed public services. This year's projects and activities address these goals directly as it increases accessibility of affordable housing and the viability for potential homeownership through the provision of direct homeownership financial assistance. The city will address the sustainability of our existing affordable housing through its preservation, improvement, and rehabilitation projects. This year the plan prioritizes public improvements in low-income residents and homelessness.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Jonesboro's Department of Grants & Community Development has implemented a city-wide community engagement strategy that includes residents, churches, stakeholders and non-profit organizations that serve our lowest income residents. It is the city's intention to build a model of community involvement that directly addresses poverty issues, encourages community leadership, and enables low income neighborhoods to see marked change in the program year 2022.

There continues to be many community stakeholders willing to further our efforts to address the needs of their individual neighborhoods. Through the 2022 CDBG program funds the city will be serving not only specific low income neighborhoods, but directly serving our low income and special needs populations including youth, elderly, disabled, and otherwise disadvantaged.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Jonesboro is committed to the proper implementation of a balanced Community Development Program that maximizes benefits to low and moderate income persons both directly and indirectly through the improvement of their neighborhoods. Through the provision of decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment, educational and supportive services, and the expansion of economic opportunities, the city intends to change the face of our low income neighborhoods and provide residents with the needed resources to assist them in breaking both generational and circumstantial poverty. This year's primary focus is housing, along with a broad range of public and social services addressing the core needs of our low income residents.

CDBG funding makes it possible for Jonesboro to provide meaningful housing improvements, public improvement, and community restoration and development activities. It is through these activities that we address the quality of life issues that are essential in achieving a truly beneficial level of neighborhood specific community improvements. The following pages define the distribution of funds and outline the proposed projects and activities to be undertaken with the federal fund allocation.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

According to the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X), lead based paint hazard is defined as any condition that causes exposure to lead from lead contaminated dust, lead contaminated soil or lead contaminated paint that is deteriorated or present in chewable surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces that would result in adverse human health effects. As required by Title X, the City of Jonesboro is carrying out CDBG funded activities in tandem with our Jonesboro Inspection Department. The Chief Building official and inspectors are also certified in lead-based paint testing and removal.

Owners of properties to be rehabilitated are informed of the risks of lead based paint. As part of the rehabilitation process, the property is inspected for signs of defective paint. Defective paint in older homes that is suspected to be lead based is removed following the lead based paint standards. If there are children in the home, the parents are provided information regarding the benefits of having the children tested for lead based paint and also where they can go to get this done.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The institutional structure for implementation of the Consolidated Plan includes non-profit organizations along with other public agencies and educational institutions. The City of Jonesboro Grants and Department of Community Development is responsible for implementation of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

The city funds and coordinates with the nonprofit organizations that provide public services to benefit Jonesboro residents. The city also works with housing developers in the development of affordable housing throughout the city. Non-profit organizations are vital partners in achieving the Consolidated Plan goals.

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

The city will continue to offer their assistance to the Public Housing Authority in submitting applications for funding to increase Section 8 vouchers or provide additional funds for affordable housing or other housing services. The city regularly collaborates with the local PHA, participates in non--profit meetings and faith-based activities, and organizes and facilitates focus groups.

The city assists non-profit agencies in securing other state and federal funding by writing letters of support and assisting agencies to complete applications for funding.

The major strengths of the city's institutional structure is in the access to various city departments and a large number of very capable non-profit organizations who are highly competent in using available

resources and leveraging funding in order to achieve the desired housing and services.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The City of Jonesboro will continue to affirmatively further fair housing as set out under 24 CFR §91.220, and has prepared the AFH Plan that identifies impediments and barriers to fair housing choice, and maintains records pertaining to carrying out this certification. CDBG funding allows low-income individuals and families to be assisted in homeownership through education and matching grants for down payment and closing costs. For those who cannot afford to maintain their homes, CDBG funds will be used to provide grants for rehabilitation. The city has undertaken activities to address homeless resource center, transitional housing needs and rapid rehousing of our homeless individuals and families.

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

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
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.	80.00%

All the Action Plans for the next five years will provide overall benefit for at least 80% for low- to moderate- income individuals that reside in the low-income areas of the City of Jonesboro. The funds will assist those individuals through providing decent and affordable housing, creating suitable living environments and fostering economic development activities that will ultimately revitalize those areas in greatest need.

Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources

1	Data Source Name 2018-2022 ACS
	List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. American Community Survey
	Provide a brief summary of the data set. This data set will show actual numbers for housing in Jonesboro, AR.

	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set? CDBG Consolidated Plan/Action Plan</p> <p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected. July 13, 2022</p> <p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection. Performed extensive research on ACS and with the Jonesboro Urban Renewal Housing Authority.</p> <p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken. The samples are for the city of Jonesboro.</p> <p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
2	<p>Data Source Name 2018-2022 CHAS</p> <p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p> <p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
3	<p>Data Source Name Census.gov Housing Statistics for Jonesboro, AR</p> <p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. U.S.Census.gov</p>

	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set. Data set includes housing statistics for Jonesboro, AR.</p> <p>What was the purpose for developing this data set? To show housing statistics for Jonesboro, AR.</p> <p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected. 2022</p> <p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken. This is an overarching listing of all housing units and descriptions in Jonesboro, AR.</p> <p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed. All citizens of Jonesboro.</p>
4	<p>Data Source Name Civilian Labor Force Jonesboro-FRED</p> <p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set. St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank</p> <p>Provide a brief summary of the data set. Shows the Civilian labor force in Jonesboro</p> <p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected. July 14, 2022</p> <p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p> <p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken. 77391</p> <p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>
5	<p>Data Source Name DataUSA Labor Force</p>

	<p>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</p> <p>Data USA</p>
	<p>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</p> <p>Information regarding workforce in Jonesboro.</p>
	<p>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</p> <p>Data regarding workforce in Jonesboro.</p>
	<p>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</p>
	<p>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</p>
	<p>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</p> <p>77391</p>
	<p>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</p>