

City of Jonesboro Arkansas



Annual Action Plan

Community Development Block Grant

2019 Program Year

(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Department of Grants & Community Development
300 South Church Street, Suite 402
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program allocates annual funds to the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. The CDBG Program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The purpose of the program is to provide funding for grantees to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities benefitting for low- and moderate-income persons within city limits of Jonesboro. CDBG eligible activities must address one of the following three National Objectives:

- Benefit to low-and moderate-income (LMI) persons or households;
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; and
- Meet a need having a particular urgency (urgent need).

City of Jonesboro, as grantee, carry out a wide range of community development activities, such as, housing, economic development, and public services within the following programs:

- Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program;
- Homeownership Assistance Program;
- Demolition & Clearance Assistance Program;
- Public Services Program;
- Public Facilities and Improvements Program;
- Microenterprise Business Accelerator (MBA) Program; and
- Neighborhood Revitalization Program;

Designed to set goals that address community needs, the City of Jonesboro 2019 Annual Action Plan is an addition to 2017 – 2021 (Five-Year) Consolidated Plan. This Action Plan is the third annual report with descriptions and action items for specific activities that meet the goals outlined in the original Consolidated Plan.

As the lead agency for the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan, the City of Jonesboro Department of Grants and Community Development follows a citizen participation plan to include citizens, City departments, CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee, non-profits, and other public and private entities to contribute in the development of the Plan.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

The City of Jonesboro Department of Grants and Community Development with the citizens' participation process have identified objectives and outcomes to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities benefitting for low- and moderate-income persons within city limits of Jonesboro.

Based on the survey responses during the public hearings, citizens were asked to ranked these community needs: homelessness; economic development; code enforcement; housing; infrastructure; and clearance. Most citizens ranked housing as being a high need for City of Jonesboro to focus on, following with infrastructure and code enforcement needs. Homelessness was the second highest ranked need. These surveys were taken into consideration to identify objectives and outcomes for the 2019 Annual Action Plan.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The City of Jonesboro has continued addressing housing services and has been one of the priorities for the Grants and Community Development Department. Providing low-and moderate-income persons with decent housing and a suitable living environment is a continuing effort. Homeownership and Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance, and other activities funded have been instrumental to enable the City to address issues that homeowners encounter by living in substandard conditions. The partnership with Mid-South Health Systems (MSHS) is a great example addressing the City's goals of providing decent housing and a suitable living environment. In the past, MSHS has been awarded funds to rehabilitate their Transitional Group Homes to improve the quality of living conditions for individuals suffering mental illnesses and otherwise may be or become homeless without these services. For FY2018, the City allocated over \$165,000 in housing assistance programs.

Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) were allocated this past program year to establish a new economic development pilot program for Microenterprise Business Accelerator (MBA). The MBA Program provided funding to four microenterprises/start-up businesses to facilitate and

assist with rental and utility cost of their business, and or payroll assistance for positions being retained or created to employ LMI persons.

The prevention and/or elimination of homelessness keeps being another priority for the jurisdiction. The Transitional Housing for Veterans - Veteran Village project continues to proceed. Recently, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) awarded the City of Jonesboro \$1,058,925 from the National Housing Trust Fund Program to construct the transitional housing for veterans. CDBG funds will be leveraged for this much anticipated and needed project in the city.

Furthermore, the jurisdiction has continued forming partnerships with other entities to work together to have a more significant impact in community needs being addressed.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The jurisdiction follows the citizen participation plan to include citizens, City departments, non-profits, and other public and private entities to contribute in the development of the Plan. The CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee and the Grants and Community Development Department staff are involved in the decision-making for funds allocation. Citizens have the opportunity to provide input and to become informed throughout the planning process by participating in public hearings and public review and comment period, all advertised in local newspaper and City website.

On December 12, 2018 the *Notice of Funding Availability* and *Notice of Request for Proposal* was published in the local newspaper. The *Notice of Public Hearing* was advertised on December 19, 2018 for two separate hearing held on January 9, 2019. The two public hearings were at two different locations and times most convenient to citizens to encourage participation. The CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met on January 31, 2019 to review and score the proposals submitted. At this meeting, the CAC also identified objectives for the 2019 Annual Action Plan.

To fulfill the public comment and review period for the Action Plan Draft, the City published the *Notice of 30 Days Public Review and Comment Period* advertisement in the local newspaper and City website on March 14, 2019. A copy of the plan was available in the office for review. The last day for the public to submit comments was April 15, 2019. No requests to review the AP draft or comments were received.

5. Summary of public comments

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

Through the newspaper advertisement, the website, and City social media the public where given the opportunity for a 30-days public review and comment period for the 2019 Action Plan Draft. There were no comments or concerns submitted or brought up to the department.

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

Not applicable. No comments or review requests received.

7. Summary

Not applicable.

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

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

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

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

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Jonesboro Department of Grants and Community Development is the lead agency assigned to administrate, implement and oversee the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded programs and activities. The staff are responsible of preparing the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan with the input and collaboration with citizens, public and private entities.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The City of Jonesboro recognizes that collaborating with citizens, public and private entities is vital for the advancement of the community. The Grants and Community Development Department administers the Community Development Block Grant and continuously form partnerships with organizations to provide input on their field of expertise to better assist the department in developing the Plan.

During the planning process for the 2019 Annual Action Plan, the City consulted with the community, City departments, public and private organizations. Collaborated and consulted with the Jonesboro Urban Renewal & Housing Authority (JURHA), Crowley’s Ridge Development Council (CRDC), Department of Human Services, Beck Pride Center, United Way of Northeast Arkansas, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro, BancorpSouth, and many other organizations and agencies.

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

The jurisdiction receives input from City departments, Citizens Advisory Committee, public and private organizations, and federal and state agencies to coordinate community development and housing services. Coordination between entities include strategizing, communicating, and serving on committees and boards.

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 City was involved with planning and strategizing of the Homelessness Task Force Coalition in 2016 and 2017. A member of the Arkansas Balance of State, collaborate with Jonesboro Housing Authority (JURHA) was crucial. The City received the Continuum of Care grant in 2017 and the program delivery was between 2017 and 2018. The jurisdiction did not apply for the grant during the upcoming program year. Nonetheless, the City maintains its goal of addressing the needs of homeless persons.

During the planning process, the jurisdiction reached out to JURHA, Mid-South Health Systems, Goodwill Industries, the Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission

(N.A.R.T.C.P), East Arkansas Planning and Development District EAPDD), Craighead County Veterans Services, Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC), Hispanic Community Services, Inc. (HCSI), and other non-profit organizations, church outreach ministries, community groups and neighborhood associations.

The City participates in the annual Point in Time Count (PIT); collaborates with its partners to serve the homeless populations and at-risk of becoming homeless. The PIT count this year was on January 22, and data collected from Craighead, Greene, and Poinsett counties. A total of 17 participating organizations and agencies within the three counties reported 168 homeless individuals during the PIT count. The school districts in those counties reported 906 homeless.

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

The City of Jonesboro planning process is a 12-month process that solicits and accepts citizens' input throughout the year. Information and data are collected from federally mandated public hearings; including CDBG, AFH hearings, community meetings and listening sessions. 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 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 jurisdiction's 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	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. 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 in 2017. 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 Market Analysis Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	EAPDD has developed through a Housing Sustainability and Economic Development Plan in 2014 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	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Transportation Planning
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. 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
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	JET has been involved in the transportation needs for our low-and 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 - None known.

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

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The citizen participation process began with advertising the *Notice of Funding Availability* and *Notice of Request for Proposal* in the local newspaper and City website on December 12, 2018. With the notice of funding availability, citizens get informed of available funding for housing programs, such as rehabilitation, demolition, and homeownership assistance. The RFP notice, which is directed to nonprofit organizations that may be interested in applying for the upcoming program year, proposals were due January 14, 2019. The *Notice of Public Hearing* advertised in the local newspaper, flyers were posted on City's social media and website on December 19, 2018 and multiple times before the two separate hearing on January 9, 2019. The public hearings were held before the deadline to submit proposals with the intent for potential nonprofit applicants to attend the meeting. During the public hearing, attendees learnt about the CDBG Program and its process, FY2018 funding and allocations to projects and activities, a summary of what was achieved with the funding, and goals set for FY2019 Action Plan. The citizens that attended the hearing completed a short survey identifying priority areas of community needs within the six categories provided (homelessness, economic development, code enforcement, housing, infrastructure, and clearance/demolition needs).

The CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met on January 31, 2019 to review and score the proposals submitted. At this meeting, the CAC were presented a short workshop discussing results from public hearing that identified objectives for the 2019 Annual Action Plan. The committee was able to provide their input on the results of the surveys and ideas of how to achieve it.

On March 14, 2019, advertisement for *Notice of 30 Days Public Review and Comment Period* for the 2019 Annual Action Plan was published on the Jonesboro Newspaper. The last day for the public to submit comments was April 15, 2019. No requests to review the AP draft or comments were received.

The jurisdiction utilizes newspapers, printed material, website and social media to reach out to the community to encourage citizen participation. The Citizen Advisory Committee is notified for upcoming activities to encourage involvement.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community Non-Profit Organization	Non-profit organizations accessed application (RFP) on City website. Four (4) organizations submitted proposals for projects servicing LMI persons.	No public comment received.	Not applicable, no public comments received.	
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Citizens, Citizens Advisory Committee members, and non-profit organizations attended on January 9, 2019 two separate meetings.	Dept. staff made presentation of all activities and organizations proposals accepted. Attendees filled out a short survey identifying priority community needs.	15 individuals attended the public hearings. Only 12 surveys were completed and were they identified the community needs as priority: 4/12 identified Housing and 6/12 identified Code Enforcement and Infrastructure as priority needs, and the second highest (those ranks second or 5) identified Homelessness needs.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	2019 Annual Action Plan draft displayed for review and open for 30 days public comment period.	No comments received during public comment period.	No comments received.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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	Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Facilities Public Services	604,085	0	0	604,085	\$525,066.78	Annual allocation amount is \$604,085

Table 5 - 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

FY2019 will be the third year of the Consolidated Plan. The City will continue to utilize the CDBG funds for the improvement of the community with infrastructure projects, assisting LMI citizens with housing assistance, and funding nonprofit and business to

promote sustainability.

In effort to increase the positive impact CDBG funds, the jurisdiction leverage CDBG funds with additional state and local funds. This program year, an additional \$110,000 CDBG funds are leveraged with the City's budget for Patrick St. Sidewalks of approximately \$540,000 and including \$110,000 CDBG funds from FY2018 that will significantly increase the coverage area for this project.

Additionally, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) awarded the City of Jonesboro \$1,058,925 from the National Housing Trust Fund Program to construct the transitional housing for veterans (Veteran Village), the grant will construct the housing units, however, the "community center"—common recreational space and offices for resource personnel is not included. In FY2018, \$50,000 in CDBG funds were allocated for equipping the community center in the village, an additional \$80,000 in FY2019 were allocated to assist with the construction of the community center.

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

Not Applicable.

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: Establish a City Land Bank	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range	CDBG: \$0,000	Homeowner Housing Added: Acquire properties in dilapidated – slum/blighted areas to demolish and redevelop housing, and/or rehabilitate housing for LMI citizens to purchase. Facilitating affordable housing.
2	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: \$110,000	Public Improvement: Funding for Patrick St. sidewalks to increase accessibility in LMI area.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro North Jonesboro - Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$85,937 + \$15,000	Housing services: Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance to LMI homeowner-occupied. Approximately 20 homeowners will benefit from the grant; additionally it helps improve their quality of life. Demolition and Clearance Assistance to LMI homeowner, approximately 5 homeowners will benefit from the grant. Or LMI neighborhoods to prevent/eliminate slum and blight.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro North Jonesboro - Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$20,000	Public Facility Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 155 children diagnosed with mental and physical disabilities will benefit from the Natural Park Project where they will have access to a new environment.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit	2017	2021	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	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted in transportation through JETS.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board	2017	2018	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0	Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with 8 members. The members have received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. This fiscal year the board will meet to determine their role with the community and establish procedures.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	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: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$0	Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with 8 members. The members have received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. This fiscal year the board will meet to determine their role with the community and establish procedures.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement	2017	2019	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Private Discrimination AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0	Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with 8 members. The members have received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. This fiscal year the board will meet to determine their role with the community and establish procedures.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
9	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Private Discrimination AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing	CDBG: \$21,000	Homeownership Assistance will benefit 6 LMI First-time homebuyers with down payment/closing cost assistance.

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, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Private Discrimination AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$80,000	Homeless Prevention for Transition Housing for Veterans (Veteran Village) will benefit approximately 200 individuals and households to have access to housing and services.

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	AFH: Establish a City Land Bank
	Goal Description	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.
2	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.
3	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.
4	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.
5	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.

6	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.
7	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge
	Goal Description	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. 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. 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.
8	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Awareness & Enforcement
	Goal Description	Increasing awareness and enforcement of fair housing among publicly assisted families.

9	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice
	Goal Description	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded \$604,085 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the City of Jonesboro to achieve the set goals of activities listed in the 2019 Action Plan.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
2	Homeownership Assistance
3	Demolition & Clearance Assistance
4	Neighborhood Revitalization Program
5	HSP: Transitional Housing for Veterans (Veterans Village)
6	PI: Patrick St. Sidewalk
7	PF: The Learning Center
8	PS: Hispanic Community Services, Inc.
9	PS: West End Neighborhood Association
10	PS: HUB Homeless Resource Center, Inc.
11	ED: Microenterprise Business Accelerator (MBA)
12	CDBG Program Planning & Administration

Table 7 - Project Information

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

CDBG funds will benefit low-and moderate-income individuals all throughout the city of Jonesboro.

The Housing Services: Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance; Homeownership Assistance; Demolition & Clearance Assistance, which are direct service by grantee, are citywide service for qualified LMI applicants. These services are a priority for the city due to the high number of applicants having homes near dilapidation due to the years of being unattended by homeowner for various reasons, one being limited income. Many of the rehabilitation assistance is awarded for emergency projects, such as sewer or plumbing, roofing and electrical issues. Demolition assistance for preventing and eliminating slum and blight in LMI neighborhoods. Additionally, assisting LMI individuals that are unable to afford demolishing their houses after a fire or

beyond decayed. Assisting first-time homebuyers with closing cost/down payment provides accessibility to affordable housing.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program will assist the Land Bank indirectly to beautify/rehabilitate homeowner-occupied houses near the areas of new development to increase community and economic development.

The prevention and elimination of homelessness is one of the city's top priority. Finding ways to provide housing and services to the homeless has been a focus for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Last program year and this program year, funds have been allocated for the Transitional Housing for Veterans—Veterans Village. The Veterans Village will provide transitional housing to approximately 100 veterans and their families, additionally providing services to over 100 veterans. There are currently 2,500 vets in Craighead County and 2,000 in Jonesboro alone. The village will have nine housing units, a pavilion and a shared resource recreational center (community center). Beck PRIDE will have a satellite office in the community center to provide services to the veterans. In addition, to the City's goal to addressing homelessness serviced, this year the public service project for The HUB will consist in providing additional resources and services to the general homeless population in Jonesboro.

This program year, funds were allocated to address a public improvement project in north Jonesboro that will significantly impact residents and commuters. Patrick Street Sidewalks project will address issues and concerns of citizens that have requested the City to address multiple times in public hearings, community meetings, and city council. The Patrick St. sidewalk project will be phase two following FY2018 allocation, and leveraging CDBG funds to make a greater impact with city funds.

Continuing the City's effort to assist local nonprofit organizations to provide services to the LMI individual, this program year funds have been allocated to one public facility and three public service projects. The public facility project with The Learning Center will benefit children diagnosed and treated for mental and physical disabilities. The project will consist in assisting the organization with preparing the land area for building the park (i.e. flattening land, concrete lay, and bridge. Provide accessibility to the area assigned for the park). The Natural Playground for sensory integration is for the kids to received and reinforce their therapy and encourage them to connect with nature. The three public services program subrecipients will provide services to a youth leadership program, homelessness resources and services, and safety neighborhood initiative to install security cameras to a park. All nonprofit organizations

receiving CDBG funds will be addressing needs for LMI individuals and neighborhoods.

FY2018 the jurisdiction launched their first of its kind economic development program. The Microenterprise Business Accelerator (MBA) Program was established to fund startups and Microenterprises to promote economic development, increase jobs, and promote sustainability for small businesses. For the 2019 program year, the City will continue to address economic development by increasing CDBG funding allocation to this program. This is in response to the citizens' request to have more economic development opportunities, especially assisting small businesses.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range
	Funding	CDBG: \$71,357
	Description	The City will rehabilitate single-family houses for low-and moderate-income homeowner-occupant to provide decent and standardized housing for those whom are unable to fund the repairs of their housing units.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City will repair approximately 5+ housing units for qualified LMI homeowner-occupants.
	Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	It may include replacement, repair, and installations of roof, heat and air units, plumbing, electrical, foundation, windows, doors and many more. Sewer connection may be included.	
2	Project Name	Homeownership Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Establish a City Land Bank
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range
	Funding	CDBG: \$21,000
	Description	Assist qualified LMI first-time homebuyers with closing-cost/down-payment.
	Target Date	6/30/2020

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City will assist 6 LMI first-time homebuyers.
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Grant assistance for 4 LMI first-time homebuyers with closing-cost/down-payment.
3	Project Name	Demolition & Clearance Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,000
	Description	Assist qualified LMI homeowner with the demolition of their vacant houses. Clearance and demolition of other structures to eliminate and prevent slum and blight.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City will provide assistance for 3– 5 demolition or clearance projects. Approximately 3 LMI households will benefit from the program.
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The jurisdiction will assist four low- to moderate- income neighborhoods with the removal of blighted and deteriorated structures that are public safety issues and increase the revitalization efforts within those neighborhoods.
4	Project Name	Neighborhood Revitalization Program
	Target Area	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability

	Needs Addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range
	Funding	CDBG: \$60,000
	Description	The Neighborhood Revitalization Program will assist the Land Bank indirectly to beautify/rehabilitate homeowner-occupied properties near the areas of new development to increase community and economic development.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 3 LMI households—homeowners will benefit from the funds.
	Location Description	North Jonesboro Jonesboro – Low Income Areas
	Planned Activities	Repair, rehabilitate, and beautify homeowner-occupied properties.
5	Project Name	HSP: Transitional Housing for Veterans—Veteran Village
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$80,000
	Description	The Veterans Village will provide homeless veterans housing and services. The village will have nine housing units, a pavilion and a shared resource recreational center (community center). CDBG funds will be utilized as leverage to assist with the cost of building the shared resource recreational center.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 100 LMI veterans and their family will benefit with the housing and an additional 100 LMI veterans will benefit from receiving support services by BECK Pride.

	Location Description	Jonesboro. Project boundaries: Aggie Road, Patrick Street, Allis Street, and Chalky Street.
	Planned Activities	The City will construct the Veteran Village using ADFA funding. Additionally, CDBG funds will be used to assist to build the community center for veterans to share and receive services.
6	Project Name	PI: Patrick Street Sidewalks
	Target Area	North Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings
	Funding	CDBG: \$110,000
	Description	Public Improvement Project. Patrick Street construction the extension of new sidewalks, phase 2. The street has had an increase of vehicle and foot traffic in the past few years and there are no sidewalks for pedestrians.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Over 5000 residents and commuter drivers will be directly benefitting of the public improvements. Sidewalks will benefit drivers and pedestrians to avoid danger of hitting pedestrians walking on the road.
	Location Description	Jonesboro residential area. On Patrick Street north of Johnson Ave. up to Lost Creek Road.
Planned Activities	Construction of new sidewalks and extension/phase 2. The street has had an increase of vehicle and foot traffic in the past few years and there are no sidewalks for pedestrians.	
7	Project Name	PF: The Learning Center – Natural Park Project
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000

	Description	The project will consist in assisting the organization with preparing the land area for building the park (i.e. flattening land, concrete lay, and bridge. Provide accessibility to the area assigned for the park). The Natural Playground for sensory integration is for the kids to received and reinforce their therapy and encourage them to connect with nature.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The public facility project with The Learning Center will benefit over 100 children diagnosed and treated for mental and physical disabilities.
	Location Description	2808 Fox Meadow Ln., Jonesboro
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used to prepare land area (i.e. flattening land, concrete lay, and bridge. Provide accessibility to the area assigned for the park).
8	Project Name	PS: Hispanic Community Services, Inc.
	Target Area	Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Public Services Project. El Centro Hispano - The Hispanic Center serves the Hispanic community in Jonesboro and providing services to LMI residents. The HELP - Hispanic Emerging Leaders Program (expansion program) was established to assist Hispanic/Latino students with leadership skills, options to attend college and/or learn trade skills. Students are exposed to civic community in Jonesboro and visit multiple local businesses where they may intern and or work.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 LMI Hispanic high school students.
	Location Description	211 Vandyne St., Jonesboro

	Planned Activities	Funds will be utilized for administrative cost to pay a portion of the program coordinator for HELP and 20 scholarships.
9	Project Name	PS: West End Neighborhood Association
	Target Area	Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$15,911
	Description	Public Services Project. West End Neighborhood Association project for the expansion of Park Safety Initiative Location 2. Installation of security cameras to a second location and unlocking the school playground (Micro Society Magnet School).
	Target Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The program will directly benefit 6,800 persons within the targeted neighborhood. Of those 6,800 persons, there are 1,700 households with 60% families w/children, 20% female head of households and 20% single households. These households have elderly, physically and mentally disabled, youth and some homeless populations.
	Location Description	1110 West Washington Ave, Jonesboro
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used for the purchase and installation of security cameras at Micro Society Magnet School, in addition to service payment of an off-duty police officer to unlock and lock playground daily for a total of 36 weeks.
10	Project Name	PS: The HUB Homeless Resource Center, Inc.
	Target Area	Jonesboro Jonesboro Homeless Population
	Goals Supported	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000

	Description	The HUB provides resources and services to the homeless persons in Jonesboro seeking services such as assistance to attain birth certificates, state identification, social security cards, be a local resource for food pantries, shelters, and DHS (assist to fill out applications for SNAP/Medicaid, etc.). Their expanding program includes additional services to provide daily skills and mattresses to those individuals completing the 90-Day program. Participants complete the program when they can maintain employment, secure housing, and successfully complete the skill training.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 25 to 40 homeless individuals seek assistance at the center monthly. 450 homeless individuals will be serviced and benefit directly.
	Location Description	711 Union St., Jonesboro
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used to administrative cost to cover a portion of the executive director’s salary, program operation cost includes office materials and supplies, bus passes, and mattresses/box springs.
11	Project Name	ED: Microenterprise Business Accelerator (MBA)
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Private Investments
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Economic Development Project. The Microenterprise Business Accelerator Program (MBA) assists small business/start-ups to promote creation and retention of job opportunities for LMI persons.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately four small business/start-ups will benefit. Depending on the amount granted to the businesses, approximately 4-6 jobs for LMI employees will be created or retained.
	Location Description	Jonesboro
	Planned Activities	Funding will vary according to businesses proposals and requests, and it may including rent and payroll assistance.

13	Project Name	CDBG Program Planning & Administration
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$120,817
	Description	CDBG administration costs necessary for planning, project management, implementation and compliance reporting. Planned activities include managing CDBG funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Program management will directly/indirectly have a positive effect on thousands of low-to moderate-income individuals throughout the program year.
	Location Description	City of Jonesboro 300 S. Church St. Jonesboro, AR 72401
	Planned Activities	Planned activities include managing CDBG funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

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

City of Jonesboro – data shows multiple low-and moderate-income sectors citywide.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Jonesboro	100
North Jonesboro	
Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

It is the City's priority to fund projects and activities that benefit LMI individuals. A portion of the funds will be utilize to fund activities in North Jonesboro, where a large number of LMI households reside. Most of the public services organizations being funded this fiscal year provide services to LMI individual. Funds for housing services are awarded to qualified LMI individuals citywide; however, there is a large number of applicants from North Jonesboro for the rehabilitation assistance program.

Discussion

Funds will benefit low-and moderate-income individuals all throughout the city of Jonesboro, through direct and or indirect service.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

In FY2017 the jurisdiction were granted Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) funds to assist with providing services to homeless or at-risk to be homeless individuals. Services included rapid rehousing, rent and utility payment assistance. The program was completed at the end of FY2018 and the City will not be receiving this funding for FY2019.

FY2018 funds are being awarded to four first-time homebuyers for the Homeownership Assistance Program. These funds are awarded to qualified LMI individuals to assist with closing cost and down payment.

Currently, the jurisdiction is working on funding housing services from 2017 CDBG funds. Approximately 10+ houses will be completed for the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program; funds to rehabilitate homeowner-occupied properties to bring them up to code, clean and safe environment to live. With this program, homeowners in very dilapidated housing will be able to stay in their property that they can afford as oppose to relocating in case their home becomes condemned—unlivable conditions.

In addition, the Transitional Housing for Veterans—Veterans Village will be assisting approximately 100 veterans and their families with affordable housing.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	100
Non-Homeless	23
Special-Needs	8
Total	131

Table 9 - 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	9
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	19

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

All direct and indirect services are provided for LMI individuals, including homeless or at-risk of being homeless veterans.

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 available to residents for community service credits. Residents may 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 tackling the ever-increasing issue of homelessness. As more and more people find themselves without shelter, the jurisdiction deems necessary to address this issue and allocate funds for services that aim to prevent or eliminate homelessness in the city. 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. There have also been an increase in veterans being homeless or in danger to becoming homeless, as a result, the City is working to construct a Veterans Village and since FY2018 and FY2019, \$130,000 CDBG funds will be to assist the advancement of this project.

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 jurisdiction is aiming to address the homelessness issue by proving funding to two activities this fiscal year. One activity is a public services project for fund The HUB to advance their services to the homelessness population. The other activity/project is the Veterans Village to provide housing and services to veterans as a transitional home. Collaborating with other veteran service organizations to provide services, job preparedness, and to assist individuals to be able to achieve permanent housing and employment. These collaborations will also benefit individuals with disabilities that struggle to transition into permanent housing.

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

The jurisdiction will continue working with 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.

In addition, the City is invested to see the Transitional Housing for Veterans—Veterans Village completed to begin servicing homeless or at-risk of being homeless veterans and their families.

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

The City through funding public services projects and activities such as the Veterans Village that address the needs of those that are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless aims to help low-income individual and their families. The jurisdiction 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 low-income individuals. 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.

In the recent years, there have been an increase in multifamily housing development throughout the city and especially in the impoverished area; however, being new building or duplexes may not be affordable.

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 jurisdiction 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.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Jonesboro's Department of Grants & Community Development has implemented a citywide community engagement strategy that includes residents, churches, stakeholders and non-profit organizations that serve our lowest income residents. It is the jurisdiction'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 2019.

There continues to be many community stakeholders willing to further our efforts to address the needs of their individual neighborhoods. Through the 2019 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 individuals.

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 the City address the quality of life issues.

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

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.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

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(l)(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(l)(1)

Projects planned with 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	5
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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.

100%