



Annual Action Plan

Community Development Block Grant

2021 Program Year

(July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

City of Jonesboro
Department of Grants & Community Development
300 South Church Street, Suite 402
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

Annual Action Plan
2021

2021 Annual Action Plan

(July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022)

City Council Members

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Community Development Block Grant Program
2020 Program Year Funds \$663,554

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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 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 services and economic development within the following core activities - programs:

- Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
- Homeownership Assistance;
- Demolition & Clearance Assistance;
- Public Services Program;
- Public Facilities and Improvements Program;
- Neighborhood Revitalization Program; and
- Homeless Prevention and Services

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

HUD FY 2021 appropriations were released on February 25, 2021. The City of Jonesboro received \$663,554 in CDBG allocation to carryout allowable activities listed herein. These funds will be used to provide assistance to the Veterans Village to construct the Outreach Resource Center; a Homeless Shelter in the City of Jonesboro; Disaster Preparedness; Public Services; Homeowner Rehabilitation; First time Homeownership; Neighborhood Park Revitalization, and Public Facilities and infrastructure improvements.

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-Profit Organizations, 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 with the citizen participation process has identified objectives and outcomes to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities benefitting low- and moderate-income persons in areas within city limits of Jonesboro.

Programs and FY 2021 CDBG allocations are as follows:

- First Time Homeownership Assistance grant to LMI first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing costs. Allocated \$50,000 to assist 10 qualified individuals at \$5,000 per applicant
- Demolition and Clearance Assistance to demolish qualified homeowner properties and other dilapidated structures in LMI areas. Allocated \$10,000
- Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance to LMI qualified homeowners allocation of \$14,000 to assist two homeowners with rehabilitation projects
- Public Services Program provides nonprofit organizations with funding for programs benefitting LMI persons and or areas. A total of \$61,707.20 is allocated to nonprofit organizations.
- Other activities funded include the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Homeless Prevention and Services. The NRP is community driven and revitalization focused, \$90,000 to address neighborhood issues. The Veterans Village Outreach Center (formally referred as Business Center), phase three of the construction project. Funds, \$50,000, will assist with the cost to complete construction of the outreach center. The Center will be the hub of the Veterans Village housing community to provide onsite housing and supportive services to veterans suffering homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless. The ongoing preparation for a suitable homeless shelter is allocated \$50,000
- Public Facilities/Infrastructure needs to be addressed include updating the Stotts Park for \$60,000 and allocating an additional \$100,000 for match to address the connectivity between S. Church Street and Marion Berry Parkway.

The City of Jonesboro is currently in the process of developing the first phase of a connectivity trail to support and encourage quality of life through outdoor activity on the Northside of the city. This trail will connect downtown Jonesboro all the way to ASTATE

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 (COJ) continues addressing housing services as one of the priorities for the Department. Providing low-and moderate-income persons with decent housing and a suitable living environment is a continuing goal. 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 and having limited access to affordable housing.

The Rehab grant provides qualified homeowners the opportunity to complete needed home repairs; the grant is very sought after. Most applicants are elderly with low fixed incomes and low-income female-headed households. Due to Rehab being the activity where residuals from program year funded activities are transferred, the FY 2020 Rehab activity has not exhausted the money available for projects. As of now, for FY 2021, by the time this plan becomes official, there will be approximately 8 projects underway; averaging four projects per applications cycle. It is evident that this program is needed; however, not having enough contractors to complete as many projects as possible and the increased potential for fraud is a limitation that hinders the amount of projects that can be completed at a time. Nonetheless, due to having FY 2020 funding still available, it was determined that FY 2021 would be lower funded than usual. This will enable the usage of those funds to other projects otherwise funded lower amount.

The First Time Homeownership Grant program funded three homeowners in FY2020. In an effort to grow the program interest, we are allocating \$50,000 in FY2021 to assist more applicants fulfill their dream of owning a home. For 2021, we plan to increase the grant awards to \$5,000 in an effort to assist 10 eligible First Time Homeowners.

Aiding in the prevention and elimination of homelessness keeps being a priority for the jurisdiction. In previous years, CDBG funding has been awarded to organizations providing services to the homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless through facility rehab projects, administrative expenses, and or program related costs. In FY 2021, \$50,000 of CDBG funds are allocated to aid in the construction/ rehabilitation of a homeless shelter in the city of Jonesboro. We also have allocated an additional \$50,000 towards the Veterans Village Outreach Center by covering the cost of the completion of the outreach resource center.

Moreover, the Public Services Program is a great way to assist nonprofit organizations with administrative and program expenses for services they provide to their LMI clients and residents. The

Hispanic Community Services, Inc. is an organization providing several programs and services to the Hispanic community in Jonesboro and the outskirts of the city. This year, CDBG will fund them for the afterschool program, La Escuelita, to provide resources including bilingual tutoring and much more to K-8 school age children attending the program as well as any child needing services. West End Neighborhood Association has created multiple projects to assist and improve their neighborhood within their association boundaries. West End Neighborhood Association will use FY21 CDBG funding to increase the safety and overall experience of the CWL Blazing to Fitness trail for the families and youth in the neighborhood. They are installing lighting along the back fence area of the new trail, a water fountain, and two benches. Hope Found of Northeast Arkansas is a new recipient of the program. They will use their funding to implement community education and awareness programs for victims of human trafficking. Project Hope is an expansion of outreach services provided by the Hope Found to victims of human trafficking in the Jonesboro and surrounding area. Another new recipient is the Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASA. The organization provides a vital service to the community and ensures that voices of the abused and neglected children are heard. This program will recruit, train and support volunteer advocacy for every child in foster care in the City of Jonesboro.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The jurisdiction follows the citizen participation plan process 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 and social media platforms.

On December 2, 2020 a public notice was posted in the Jonesboro Sun and on the city of Jonesboro's website and social media platforms inviting citizens to attend a public hearing held on December 17, 2020 at 10:00 am and 5:30 pm. The public hearings were held one in the morning and one in the evening to facilitate participation and convenience for citizens to attend. No participants were in attendance at either of the public hearings. Likely due to the high positivity rate related to Coronavirus across the state and specifically in the city limits of Jonesboro.

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 April 20, 2021. A copy of the plan was available in the office for review. The last day for the public to submit comments was May 20, 2021.

The public is also encouraged to participate in the public comments during the Finance and Administrative Council meetings and City Council meeting when CDBG resolutions are going through internal approval process.

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.

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

7. Summary

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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(I)

1. Introduction

As part of the consolidated planning process, the City of Jonesboro (COJ) 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 Program 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 2021 Annual Action Plan, the City consulted with the community, COJ 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, Food Bank of NEA, 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(I))

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. COJ is a member of the Northeast Arkansas Continuum of Care Coalition, part of the Arkansas Balance of State CoC. The Jurisdiction plans to apply for the CoC grant in FY2021. The City maintains its goal of addressing the needs of homeless persons and continues to work diligently collaborating on a future site for a shelter, if the citizens wish to move forward in that direction.

Being part of the NEA AR CoC Coalition has facilitated the COJ with working together with other organizations and agencies that provide services to the homeless population in Craighead, Green, and Poinsett Counties. During the planning process, the jurisdiction has collaborated with Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC), Hispanic Community Services, Inc. (HCSI); Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission (N.A.R.T.C.P), East Arkansas Planning and Development District

(EAPDD), Craighead County Veterans Services, HUB Homeless Resource Center, 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. Earlier this year, the PIT count was conducted in 46 counties and data was collected by surveying homeless individuals in 46 counties in Arkansas. The reported numbers categorized as unsheltered in those 46 counties was 527. The numbers have not been broken down and reported by County. The City of Jonesboro is awaiting those specific numbers.

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 continue to be invited to the table during the planning process as well as throughout the year. This yearlong 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	CITY OF JONESBORO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Jonesboro Department of Grants and Community Development has collaborated with all City departments through the year process for the annual action plan. The purpose to collaborate is to find ways to leverage CDBG funds with other local, state, federal, and private funding for project to benefit LMI areas and individual. Projects such sidewalk and street improvements, parks improvements and playground equipment, economic development, in conjunction with assisting with City's Master Plan to provide connectivity to LMI neighborhoods to access to stores, health services, and more.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Regional 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 N.A.R.T.P.C partnership with the Grants and Community Development Department to enable input to pedestrian safety issues and improvements needed in areas of town, especially in north Jonesboro. One current project underway is to add pedestrian crossing and street marking in a high vehicle and pedestrian traffic that is deemed hazardous for pedestrian crossing the streets.

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

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

In the efforts to broaden citizen participation the City advertises all notices in the local newspaper, COJ website and social media pages, flyers are created and posted in community centers, and mass emails are sent out from all staff of the department.

The citizen participation process began with publishing the *Notice of Public Hearing* on December 2, 2020 in the local newspaper, flyers posted on COJ's social media and website announcing two separate hearings. On December 17, 2020, the public hearings were held one in the morning and one in the evening to facilitate participation and convenience for citizens to attend. Surveys were prepared and available alongside the sign in sheets for the publicized hearings. Due to the high positivity of COVID 19 during this time, there was no participation.

The *Notice of Funding Availability* and *Notice of Request for Proposal* was published on December 2, 2020 in the local newspaper, COJ website and social media accounts. 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 10, 2020.

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 April 21, 2021. A copy of the plan was available in the office for review. The last day for the public to submit comments was May 21, 2021.

Citizen Participation Outreach

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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)
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1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community Non-Profit Organization	<p>Notice of Public Hearing - Non-profit organizations and residents contact the office for more questions about public hearings time and location.</p> <p>Notice of Funding Availability and RFP - citizens and organizations contact the office to inquire about the grants available, qualifications, and requirements. Six proposals were received. Noticed of 30-Day and 5-Day</p>	No public comment received.	Not applicable, no public comments received.	
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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)
			Public Review and Comment Period - no comments received.			

2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>Citizens, Citizens Advisory Committee members, and non-profit organizations were invited to attend the public hearing on December 11, 2019. A total of 8 citizens attended the two meetings and filled out a survey identifying community priority needs.</p>	<p>Dept. staff made presentation of all activities and organizations proposals accepted. Attendees filled out a short survey identifying priority community needs. Identifying infrastructure as a community priority, following with housing, homelessness and clearance or demolition, code enforcement,</p>	All comments were accepted.	
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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)
				and economic development.		
3	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	No applicable.	No comments received.	No comments received.	https://www.jonesboro.org/DocumentCenter/View/6707/2020-CDBG-Action-Plan-DRAFT

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The 2021 CDBG allocation of \$663,554 will be utilized for the program year to fund multiple projects and activities to benefit LMI persons directly or indirectly.

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	663,554	0	0	663,554	581,763.30	2021 CDBG allocation received is \$663,554. The expected amount of \$581,763.30 CDBG funds is the remainder of the Consolidated Plan (2017 - 2021). The amount includes encumbered amounts of multiple activities that will completed before 2021 program year begins.

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:

FY 2021 is the fifth year of the Consolidated Plan. The jurisdiction 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 organization to provide services vital for the Low to Moderate Income community. In effort to increase the positive impact CDBG funds, the jurisdiction leverage CDBG funds with additional state, local, and private funds.

One of the projects in which CDBG funds are leveraged is the Veterans Village Outreach Center. The Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) awarded the City of Jonesboro \$1,058,925 from the National Housing Trust Fund Program to construct the affordable housing for veterans (Veterans Village of Jonesboro); the grant covers the costs of building the housing units. CDBG funds are going towards the construction of the Outreach Center located in the Veterans Village premises. Having a center will enable to provide onsite housing and supportive services to the veterans being housed in the village and those in the community seeking these services. In FY 2020 \$50,000 was allocated to assist with the construction of the center, specifically, to cover the cost of plumbing. For FY 2021, \$50,000 allotted funds will cover the costs to complete the project. The Veterans Village project is an example of leveraging federal, state, local, and private funds to complete a project such this one of this magnitude. It is necessary to be noted that no CDBG funds are going towards the housing aspect of the project; all funds allocated are for the Outreach 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

One of the priority of the jurisdiction is to aid in the prevention and eradication of homelessness. They City is currently working with appointed coalition members, other COJ departments, and key stakeholders to find location for a homeless shelter. Additionally, the Veterans Village and the Outreach Center are in city-owned property.

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Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

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Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board	2017	2018	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	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: Private Discrimination AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range	CDBG: \$0	
2	AFH: Develop a Community	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	North Jonesboro Jonesboro -	AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Location and	CDBG: \$533,347	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing

	Revitalization Strategy				Low Income Areas	Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public		Benefit: 5000 Persons Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3500 Persons Assisted Businesses assisted: 36 Businesses Assisted
3	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions	CDBG: \$0	JURHA provides AFH information to the public through outreach and video delivery for the city of Jonesboro.

						AFH: Private Discrimination AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range		
4	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled	2017	2021	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$50,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
5	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice	2017	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$50,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 5 Households Assisted
6	Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies	CDBG: \$24,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 2 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 1 Buildings

7	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless	2017	2021	Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public	CDBG: \$50,000	Homelessness Prevention: 100 Persons Assisted
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Goals Summary Information

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board
	Goal Description	Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with eight members. The members have received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. Several members have attended training and conferences hosted by the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. The goal for 2021 is for the board to focus on the role and actions to take as leaders of the community to establish procedures. It must be determined whether the board will hear citizens' concerns and reports or if it will maintain in their informative and advocate role.
2	Goal Name	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Goal Description	<p>The goal of developing a community revitalization strategy or plan is to encourage economic development by funding projects and activities that will improve LMI neighborhoods and provide economic growth and stability to LMI persons.</p> <p>The purpose of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds community driven, neighborhood revitalization and beautification focused projects to benefit LMI areas. (\$30,000) CDBG funds were allocated with the goal to cover the cost of projects selected by City Council and Neighborhood Beautification Committee members. The project consists in an LMI neighborhood beautification project.</p> <p>Public Services allocation for funding projects is \$45,000 for FY 2021. These activities include assisting Non-Profit agencies with programming projects to help Low-Moderate Income families and individuals for FY2021.</p>

3	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge
	Goal Description	Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with eight members. The members have received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. Several members have attended training and conferences hosted by the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. The goal for 2021 is for the board and JURHA to focus on the role and actions to take as leaders of the community to establish procedures through education programming. It must be determined whether the board will hear citizens' concerns and reports or if it will maintain in their informative and advocate role.
4	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled
	Goal Description	Public Improvement Program (\$50,000) project construct ADA Street sidewalks, in LMI neighborhoods The purpose of the project is to increase accessibility to sidewalks for citizens, including ADA accessible sidewalks in this LMI area. Over 5,000 residents and commuter drivers will benefit. This has already been counted in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies goal, identified prior. The Homeowner Rehabilitation projects may also include ADA accessibility improvements for elderly disabled applicants.
5	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice
	Goal Description	Homeownership Assistance will benefit four (10) LMI First-time homebuyers with \$5,000 down payment and or closing cost assistance.

6	Goal Name	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Goal Description	<p>To create attractive neighborhoods the City will continue to focus on funding housing services.</p> <p>Housing services: Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance (\$14,000) to LMI homeowner-occupied. Approximately five (2) homeowners will benefit from the grant; additionally it helps improve their quality of life. Demolition and Clearance Assistance (\$10,000) to LMI homeowner, approximately 1-2 homeowners will benefit from the grant. LMI neighborhoods to prevent/eliminate slum and blight will benefit.</p> <p>Many of the activities funded this fiscal year will be to address neighborhood revitalization, specifically through public facilities and improvements.</p> <p>Additionally, creating attractive neighborhood livability is part of the City aiming to develop a community revitalization strategy with the goal to in the next two years to conduct a professional neighborhood assessment. The assessment will enable the City to design better strategies to target specific and identified neighborhoods in need.</p>
7	Goal Name	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Goal Description	<p>It is the jurisdiction goal to continue prioritizing and aiding in the prevention and eradication of homelessness in the city. CDBG funding utilized will assist with the cost of building the Veterans Village Outreach Center to benefit homeless veterans or those at-risk to becoming homeless with supportive services. The purpose of the center is to provide a place where organizations and other agencies can provide onsite housing and supportive services needed to those veterans and their families housed in the Veterans Village and community at large seeking these services. The center will provide services to assist with the veteran housing village. Additionally, funding for the construction of the Veterans Village Outreach Center (\$50,000) to finalize the project. Organizations and services being provided in the Outreach Center will benefit 9 households per year housed in the village, including others experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless that are seeking these services. After the recent coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the jurisdiction assigned the center as future shelter in case of any natural disaster or national emergency were to occur when citizens need shelter.</p>

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated \$663,554 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the City of Jonesboro to achieve the set goals of activities listed in the 2021 Action Plan.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
2	Homeownership Assistance
3	Demolition & Clearance Assistance
4	Neighborhood Revitalization Program
5	Veterans Village Outreach Center/Homeless Shelter
6	Public Infrastructure and Connectivity trail-Match
7	Hope Found of NEA-PS
8	Hispanic Community Services, Inc
9	West End Neighborhood Association, LLC
10	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Change A Child's Life- PS
11	CDBG Program Planning & Administration

Table 7 - Project Information

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

CDBG funds benefit LMI individuals throughout the city of Jonesboro. Housing Services: Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance; Homeownership Assistance; Demolition & Clearance Assistance, are citywide service for qualified LMI applicants and direct services manage by the City staff. It is a priority for the city to provide these services, the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance where the program benefits mainly individuals at 51 percent and below of HUD income guidelines. These services are a priority due to the high number of applicants having homes near dilapidation caused by the years of being unattended by homeowner for various reasons, one being limited income. Demolition assistance for preventing and eliminating slum and blight in LMI neighborhoods. Furthermore, 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 (NRP) was designed to revitalize and beautify LMI neighborhoods. Projects selected may include park rehabilitation, community beautification by planting trees, creating green spaces in empty lots, painting murals, neighborhood cleanup events, and many

more projects.

Aiding in 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. Veterans Village of Jonesboro—affordable veterans housing is one of the ways COJ has been working in this priority. In addition, CDBG funding is assisting with the cost of building the Veterans Village Outreach Center to provide a place where housing and supportive services can be provided to the veterans housed at the village and those in the community seeking these services. One of the goals to addressing homelessness is to find a location for a homeless shelter. The new administration is working with the Taskforce tasked with finding a location for the shelter, potential funding, and partnerships. One of the obstacles identified with finding a shelter location is community opposition. After the recent coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the jurisdiction assigned the center as future shelter in case of any natural and or national disaster.

This program year, funds will be allocated to address Public Services Program needs.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

DRAFT

.1	Project Name	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Rehabilitated Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$14,000
	Description	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance for qualified homeowner-occupied properties for minor and major home repairs. Repair, replacements, and or installations plumbing, roof, electric up to code, windows, foundation and many more. It may include energy efficiency improvements
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 2 projects will be completed for qualified LMI applicants. Most grant recipients are elderly with fix incomes below the 50 percent HUD income limits.
	Location Description	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.
2	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will cover the cost of Rehab projects that may be comprised in replacement, repair, and installation of roof; windows, plumbing, electrical, air and heat units, sewer lines, and it may include sewer connection.
	Project Name	Homeownership Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Increase Acceptability of Housing Choice
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a Range
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Homeownership Assistance program provides qualified first-time homebuyers a \$5,000 grant for down payment and closing cost assistance. Most applicants are within the 80 percent of HUD income limits.
	Target Date	6/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Ten LMI households will benefit directly from this grant.
	Location Description	Citywide qualified applicants.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized for COJ to award a \$5,000 grant to ten qualified LMI persons purchasing their first home to cover the closing costs and or down payment.
3	Project Name	Demolition & Clearance Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The demolition assistance grant benefits LMI homeowners to demolish their dilapidated properties. It may include the demolition of privately owned buildings aiming to address slum and blight in LMI areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	One or two homeowners will benefit directly from receiving the grant to demolish their dilapidated homes.
	Location Description	Citywide qualified applicants, most in identified LMI areas, especially north Jonesboro.
	Planned Activities	Qualified applicants will receive grant to demolish dilapidated homes. CDBG funds will cover the cost of demolition and tipping fees.
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: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public

	Funding	CDBG: \$90,000
	Description	Program will fund the cost of projects addressing revitalization and beautification of LMI neighborhoods. This program year, funds will fund the Neighborhood Beautification Commission and City Council will identify potential projects. Potential projects may be neighborhood cleanup events, tree planting, painting or murals, street lighting, curbside appeals, playground rehabilitation and much more. Neighborhood Park improvement at Stott's park will revitalize the existing park and improve the neighborhood livability.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Residents of LMI neighborhoods will directly benefit from neighborhood revitalization and beautification projects.
	Location Description	Jonesboro LMI areas.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will cover the purchase and or rental costs of neighborhood cleanup events.
5	Project Name	Veterans Village Outreach Center/Homeless Shelter
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	Housing and Services Opportunities to the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000

	Description	CDBG funds will cover the cost of completion of the Outreach Center. Once the construction of the Outreach Center is complete, a vast amount of housing and supportive services will be provided by organizations and agencies collaborating with COJ. Services provided at the Veterans Village Outreach Center will benefit veterans housed at the Veterans Village that have previously experienced homelessness, are chronic homeless, or at-risk of becoming homeless. Services will also be provided to those veterans seeking services in the community. Primarily, those benefiting from the construction of the Outreach Center and the housing and supportive services that will be provided are those housed at the village. The Veterans Village will housed 9 households of veterans that were experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, services will be provided to the community at large seeking these services. Approximately 100 veterans and their families will be assisted.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Primarily, those benefiting from the construction of the Outreach Center and the housing and supportive services that will be provided are those housed at the village. The Veterans Village will housed 9 households of veterans that were experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, services will be provided to veterans in the community seeking for services. Approximately 100 veterans and their families will be assisted.
	Location Description	Administration of the construction project will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grants and Community Development Department. The Veterans Village Outreach Center will be located in Jonesboro at boundaries of Aggie Road, Patrick Street, Allis Street, and Chalky Street.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will cover the costs of finalizing the completion of the Veterans Village Outreach Center.
6	Project Name	Public Infrastructure and Connectivity
	Target Area	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings, Walking Trails and recreation
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	Public Improvements- ADA Sidewalk connectivity Walking Path

	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The sidewalk and walking path improvements will benefit over 5,000 LMI persons in the identified area where over 51 percent are LMI.
	Location Description	On S. Church Street to Marion Berry Parkway; Stott's Park on Hope Avenue in Jonesboro, AR
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of construction and ADA Accessible improvements to sidewalks and walking path on S. Church Street to Marion Berry Parkway as Phase 1 of the Jonesboro Connectivity Project. Funds will also be used to renovate and improve Stott's Park.
7	Project Name	Hope Found of Northeast AR (HFNEA)-PS
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	Bring awareness to and safety for victims of Human Trafficking in NEA
	Needs Addressed	To provide services and to implement community education and awareness programs for human trafficking victims.
	Funding	CDBG: \$19,791
	Description	Public Services Program – Project Hope will increase the awareness of trafficking and its perils among high-risk groups, minors, and the general public through aggressive and intentional information dissemination campaigns. HFNEA has a 24 hour helpline for victims to call for immediate assistance and it is important people are aware of this information.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 50 victims from ages 12-60 years old by July 2022.
	Location Description	Administration of project will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grant and Community Development Department. Location of Recovery, Inc. facility is 2901 W. Washington Avenue, Jonesboro, Arkansas.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of supplies, printing, materials, office space and training.

8	Project Name	Hispanic Community Services, Inc. expansion of HCSI's After School Bilingual Program- La Esculita.
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	To assist Low Income children who have difficulties in school and are experiencing higher levels of poverty and face disparities in education and access to extracurricular activities.
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Public Services Program - The Hispanic Community Services, Inc., also known as El Centro Hispano are expanding their after-school program, La Escuelita, where bilingual tutoring and other services and resourced will be provided to school age children grades K-8 of LMI households.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	75 students benefit directly from La Escuelita. Over 51 percent of the K-8 students are from LMI households.
	Location Description	Program administration will be conducted at Municipal Center by the Grants and Community Development Department. Services will be provided at El Centro Hispano at 211 Vandyne Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401
9	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the after-school program expenses for 75 students.
	Project Name	West End Neighborhood Association – CWL Blazing to Fitness Trail
	Target Area	Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Needs Addressed	AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$11,716.20
	Description	Public Services Program - The West End Neighborhood Association project aims to decrease crime in key LMI areas of the West End Neighborhoods Association boundaries by installing over 100 streetlights to benefit approximately 1,700 households.
	Target Date	6/30/2022

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 6800 individuals (1700 households) residing in the West End Neighborhood Association boundaries will benefit with the neighborhood initiative.
	Location Description	Program administration will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grants and Community Development Department. Project activity will be in key crime reported areas within the neighborhood boundaries of the association.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the expenses incurred with the installation of extra lighting in the back, a water fountain and two benches. This is a new service to the park.
10	Project Name	Change a Child's Story- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
	Target Area	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Lack of Services and amenities-Public
	Needs Addressed	AFH AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,200
	Description	To recruit, train and support volunteer advocacy for every child in foster care in the City of Jonesboro.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Citywide outreach and services, specifically 160 will be served directly by this grant including 64 households.
	Location Description	Municipal Center at 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.
11	Project Name	CDBG-Program Planning & Administration
	Target Area	Jonesboro, North Jonesboro, Jonesboro-Low Income Areas

	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge through JURHA AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled AFH: Increase Acceptability for Housing Choice AFH: Create Attractive Neighborhood Livability AFH: Housing and Services Opportunities for the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment-Transit AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Availability , type, frequency & reliability AFH: Community Opposition AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Private Discrimination AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a range AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities-Public
	Funding	CDBG-: \$132,710 Administration Cost
	Description	CDBG administration expenses necessary for planning, project management, implementation and compliance reporting. Planned activities include managing 2021 CDBG funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Program management will directly/indirectly have a positive effect on thousands of low-to-moderate income individuals throughout the program year. Planned activities include managing CDGB funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Meeting the 20 percent cap.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Citywide outreach and services, specifically to LMI residents.

	Location Description	Municipal Center at 300 S. Church St., Jonesboro, Arkansas 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. There are multiple pockets of low-income and minority concentrations throughout the city. Three key areas in the city have the highest LMI population and with neighborhoods needed rehabilitation, revitalization, and beautification strategies. These areas are north Jonesboro (NRSA), Fairview at the east of city limits, and West Ends adjacent to downtown in the west side of town. North Jonesboro has approximately 74.8 percent of LMI population in Census Tract 6.01 Block Group 3, 6.02 Block Group 1 and 2. Fairview has approximately 70 percent of LMI population in Census Tract 4.01 Block Group 1 and 3, 4.02 Block Group 3, and 5.02 in Block Group 1 and 3. West End overall census tract data shows that approximately 55 percent of the population is LMI; however, the area of focus are in Census Tract 1.01 Block Group 1 and 3, and 2 Block Group 3 indicating that 75.9 percent are LMI.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Jonesboro	24
North Jonesboro	31
Jonesboro - Low Income Areas	46

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 and areas; subsequently, to comply with §91.220(f), the City dedicates over 70% of funds to benefit LMI persons and areas. 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.

Geographic distribution is as follow: Jonesboro (citywide) 23.4 percent, LMI areas 45.6 percent, north Jonesboro 30.9 percent. Program Planning and Administration amount allocated was divided evenly among the three areas of focus for a balanced distribution.

Discussion

Funds will benefit low-and moderate-income individuals all throughout the city of Jonesboro. More than 50,000 individuals will benefit through direct and or indirect service.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

In FY 2021 funds are being awarded to eight first-time homebuyers for the Homeownership Assistance Program. These funds are awarded to qualified LMI individuals to assist with closing cost and down payment. FY 2019 funds for this activity has not been utilized due to FY 2018 being available and applications not submitted during the winter months.

Currently, the jurisdiction is working on funding housing services from 2020 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 Veterans Village of Jonesboro will be assisting approximately 100 veterans and their families with affordable housing. CDBG funds allotted are to assist with the construction of the Veterans Village Outreach Center.

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	0
Rehab of Existing Units	15
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	15

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

The jurisdiction does not own or manage any public housing. The City of Jonesboro collaborates with Jonesboro Housing Authority (JURHA) who is over public housing. 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 Urban Renewal 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

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 at-risk of becoming homeless, as a result, the City is working to construct a Veterans Village affordable housing. CDBG funds have been allocated in FY 2019 and FY 2020, and FY2021 to assist with the construction of the Veterans Village Outreach Center. The Center will be the hub for organizations and other agencies to provide housing and supportive services to the veterans and their families housed at the village and other veterans seeking these services.

COJ has allotted CDBG funds for ADA Accessible sidewalks, parking, and facility entrance modifications to comply with ADA Accessible regulations. Additionally, through the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program, funds are utilized to make ADA accessible bathrooms, doorways, ramps, and other modification for qualified LMI applicants with disabilities.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

The jurisdiction is working collaboratively with several entities within the city limits of Jonesboro on identifying a permanent location for a homeless shelter. Discussions are ongoing.

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

The jurisdiction is aiming to address the homelessness issue by providing funding to two activities this fiscal year. One activity is the Veterans Village of Jonesboro for affordable housing for veterans. Approximately 100 individuals (and their households) will have access to housing and services. 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. With an entirely new administration in the City of Jonesboro, collaborations continue with The HUB, CRDC, JURHA and the faith based community in an effort to identify a suitable location that does not meet community opposition for the free standing homeless shelter.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Jonesboro has an entirely new administration in place. We are working as a team

exhausting all avenues of finding solutions to the city's shortage of emergency shelters and transitional housing to assist homeless persons. The jurisdiction is in collaboration with other private and public entities to open a new emergency shelter and or transitional housing for homeless individuals. Within the city limits of Jonesboro, there are not many shelters, for instance, the Salvation Army has approximately 20 beds and 2 being family rooms, other organizations and churches have expanded their services to the homeless by assisting homeless seeking for shelter with vouchers for motel stays.

The previous administration appointed a Homeless Task Force made up of service providers, churches, and key stakeholders to find a location for a shelter, funding opportunities, and partnerships. Communications are still ongoing.

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 in the Veterans Village of Jonesboro for affordable housing to provide services and housing for homeless or at-risk of being homeless veterans (and their families). The Veterans Village Outreach Center will be the hub of organizations and agencies to provide housing and supportive services to the veterans to provide skills and transition them into self-sufficiency with being employed, paying rent, and cover all necessities. The Outreach Center can also be used as a temporary emergency shelter if the need prevails.

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.

As mentioned herein the plan, the jurisdiction has the Veterans Village project for affordable housing to

veterans and their families. The Veterans Village Outreach Center will be constructed to have other homeless services providers, organizations and agencies, to provide onsite housing and supportive services. Focusing on providing key services for participants to become self-sufficient and avoid the risks of becoming homeless or chronically homeless. The City through funding projects and activities such as the Veterans Village Outreach Center 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.

Finding solutions to establish a homeless shelter that meets demand is a priority.

One of the core CDBG programs for the City is the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance that provides housing repairs to those who own their home and need assistance to bring their homes up to codes. Most of the applicants are elderly on fixed income and single parent head of household that without receiving the grant for needed housing repairs may run the risk of losing their homes or their homes becoming beyond repair that may be condemned.

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 better 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, these new building or duplexes may not be affordable to low-income individual seeking for affordable housing.

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. Obstacles the City continues to face is the current rising cost of materials and labor for rehabilitation projects in the community due to the impact of COVID causing an severe disruption of the supply chain for materials and the negative impact of that escalation on the existing program limits. The city currently administers minor and major 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 Homeownership Assistance program to eligible first-time homebuyers. These programs continue to be very successful and in demand. The Homeowner Rehabilitation program, specifically, is a great resource and tool for qualified homeowners to apply for the grant and have their homes repair to avoid fines or losing their homes for becoming dilapidated or inhabitable.

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.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Jonesboro continues to place major emphasis on HUD's priority to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. COJ's goals of housing, and improving the quality of life for LMI residents through the provision of needed public services, public improvements, and housing assistance programs. 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. Providing grant opportunities for the underserved LMI and minority groups, fund services through public services programs, working on finding a suitable location to open a homeless shelter, and follow lead-based paint regulations are all efforts to assure the most disadvantaged residents have access to these programs and opportunities.

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 2021.

The FY2021 program year includes multiple projects that will benefit the LMI and minority persons in the city. Every year through the planning process of the plan, the City focusses on identifying community needs through its citizen's participation plan. Those comments, concerns, and community needs identified take priority in developing projects to be funded through CDBG. This year, funding nonprofit organizations through public services that serve primarily minorities and LMI individuals is of importance to the City. Furthermore, the housing programs grants available to LMI individuals is a great way of servicing and providing opportunities to those underserved and with financial difficulty. The city is working towards strengthening our neighborhood revitalization efforts to improve accessibility and livability in LMI areas. Thus far, the City has not faced any obstacles to meeting the needs of residents being served within the programs mentioned herein.

Nonetheless, the obstacles of finding a place to open a shelter has been found to be challenging due to community opposition to having a homeless shelter in their neighborhood. The City and the Homeless Task Force is working together with key community leaders to overcome this obstacle and finding

better ways and solution to opening a homeless shelter within the city limits of Jonesboro.

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. When the Rehab project scope includes paint disturbance or touching paint, the RRP Certified contractor will test the paint surface for lead and if lead is found then the contractor follows Lead-Based Paint Safety Work Practices. All properties with built date unknown are assumed to have lead and SWP must be followed to avoid lead-based paint hazards.

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 Department of Grants and Community Development is responsible for implementation of

the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans. Providing LMI individuals multiple of services and opportunities for grants enables the jurisdiction to decrease the number of poverty-level families in the city.

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.

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, through the Jonesboro Urban Renewal Housing Authority. JURHA 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, affordable housing needs and continues to work with CRDC regarding rapid rehousing of our homeless individuals and families.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

The City of Jonesboro Department of Grants & Community Development administer the CDBG funds. Annually, the assessment of how to use funds involve the citizens' participation. It is the goal of the City to use CDBG to fund programs, projects, and services that benefit LMI individuals within the city limits of Jonesboro.