



City of Cincinnati 2018 Annual Action Plan

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Cincinnati's 2018 Annual Action Plan presents a series of initiatives to be accomplished between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, which corresponds to the City's Fiscal Year 2018 (January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018) and Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018). The purpose of the Action Plan is to ensure that public services, economic development, and housing services are delivered in an efficient and effective manner. The Annual Action Plan identifies various programs administered and subsidized with the use of federal funds. Most importantly, the Annual Action Plan reflects the annual goals and objectives set-forth in the Five-Year 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan.

The Annual Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and constitutes an application for funds under the following federal entitlement grants:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The Annual Action Plan is a comprehensive plan that identifies key initiatives that will significantly improve the quality of life and/or financial stability of Cincinnati residents. The plan is derived from the goals established in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and is formulated in a collaborative manner with the assistance of Cincinnati staff across various departments. In addition, the plan

is integrated with contributions from public forums and the Community Development Advisory Board discussions.

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's Five-Year Goals, Objectives and Related Outcomes are outlined in 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan and were based on grant funding at 2014 levels initially. Both the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan documents are adjusted as the annual entitlement grants are awarded.

These goals, objectives and outcomes were selected based on community priorities, prior years' performance evaluation, the needs assessment, the housing market analysis and **Plan Cincinnati**, which is the City's comprehensive plan adopted in 2012. Top priorities for each grant are highlighted below:

- CDBG programs:
 - Neighborhood business district development
 - Reducing poverty through employment training programs
 - Housing redevelopment projects
 - Housing repairs for low to moderate income homeowners
- HOME programs:
 - Development of affordable multi-family housing
 - Strategic investment by neighborhood for rental and homeownership programs
 - Operating support for non-profits creating affordable housing
- Both ESG and HOPWA programs are evaluated by cooperative processes managed by the Continuum of Care, Strategies to End Homelessness (STEh). A consortium meets to review programs and services and recommend funding levels for each respective Annual Action Plan as well.
 - ESG Programs:
 - \$550,000 is set aside for shelter and related supportive services and operation
 - Homeless prevention services receive the balance of the funding
 - Street outreach is conducted by three local organizations – Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, Lighthouse Youth Services, and Downtown Cincinnati Incorporated – and is funded through other sources
 - Priorities for HOPWA-funded programs:

- Operating support for housing facilities for persons with HIV/AIDS
- Housing assistance through Short-Term Rent Mortgage and Utility (STRMU) payments, Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and permanent housing placement
- Supportive services including case management
- Emergency shelter and medical care for homeless persons with HIV/AIDS

The Consolidated Plan priorities factored in the following items: Citizen Ranking, Community Development Advisory Board Input, staff input, Needs Analysis, Market Analysis, effectiveness of programs, leverage of funds, and City Council policy direction.

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

Accomplishment data for Calendar Year 2017 of the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan’s goals and objectives were reported in the 2017 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which was submitted to HUD on March 30, 2018.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process – *Summary from citizen participation section of plan.*

The City of Cincinnati’s Department of Community and Economic Development manages the development and implementation for the CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA programs and provides guidance to all City departments and subrecipients receiving project funding. In November of 2017, managing departments and organizations presented requests for resources to the City’s Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB). The City’s CDAB provides program priorities for funding and a general public citizen participation event collected priority community needs. Requests were compiled and provided for public review.

After the entitlement grants were awarded on May 1, 2018, the recommended budget is distributed to the departments and subrecipients for input. The City Manager submitted a Recommended Annual Action Plan Budget to City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee for deliberation and approval on June 18, 2018. The Annual Action Plan budget was passed by Cincinnati Council on June 20, 2018. The City Council approval process includes another opportunity for public input.

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.*

A public participation event was held on June 8, 2017, at the City of Cincinnati’s Fountain Square, located in the heart of the downtown district. The public was provided comment cards to select

the top community needs. Information regarding each program in CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA was provided. City staff attended the event to answer questions from the public as well as provide information regarding specific programs. The survey was also available on-line until September 30, 2017. A total of 431 individuals completed the survey.

The City's advisory board for the Consolidated Plan / Annual Action Plan process, the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB), held public meetings on November 14 and November 16, 2017 to discuss the 2018 funding priority recommendations. Each CDBG and HOME-funded program has a representative present their respective program. The CDAB consists of a 17-member volunteer group appointed by the Mayor with City Council approval consisting of 13 diverse community leaders and 4 City representatives. The following is the diverse community leader composition of the CDAB according to Cincinnati Municipal Code: community council members (3), lending institutions (1), small business advocate (1), human services (1), trades / labor representation (1), low income advocate (1), housing authority (1), real estate community (1), developer (1), corporate community (1), community development corporation representative (1), and City of Cincinnati staff representation (4).

The City's recommended CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA budgets were presented before the City of Cincinnati's Budget and Finance Committee on June 18, 2018. The funding recommendations were based on a tiered approach based on CDAB and citizen priorities. Cincinnati Council passed the entitlement ordinances on June 20, 2018.

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

The City of Cincinnati implemented the majority of the public and staff comments received while determining the funding for the programs. A comment not implemented was regarding funding the HOME Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program. While the specific PSH program was not funded in the HOME budget, eligible PSH projects may be funded under the Strategic Housing Initiatives Program. Another comment not accepted was feedback regarding the City's TBRA program for our disabled population. The TBRA was administered by Hamilton County Community Development who decided to cancel administering the program. The City of Cincinnati's Department of Community and Economic Development worked with Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority to replace the assistance with housing vouchers. Comments concerning issues not addressed by the established programs were also not included. Several comments included issues around transportation which is a need not addressed by the Consolidated Plan.

7. Summary

City Council made final appropriation decisions for the 2018 Annual Action Plan Budget and took the public comments into consideration. The citizen participation process included engagement from a variety of residents and community leaders. The comments provided were thoroughly analyzed and considered in the development of this Annual Action Plan. A summary of the comments received is included as an attachment to the Action Plan.

PR-05 Lead and 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	City of Cincinnati	Department of Community and Economic Development
HOME Administrator	City of Cincinnati	Department of Community and Economic Development
ESG Administrator	City of Cincinnati	Department of Community and Economic Development
HOPWA-C Administrator	City of Cincinnati	Department of Community and Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic Development administers the Consolidated Plan entitlement grants and the majority of the individual projects. A few projects are administered by three other city departments, including the City of Cincinnati Department of Buildings and Inspections Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Division, Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and the Cincinnati Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

The City of Cincinnati contracts with Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH) as a subrecipient to facilitate the administration, implementation, and monitoring of programs related to the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the Homeless, the Emergency Solutions Grant program and Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV/AIDS.

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 Cincinnati worked with a wide array of organizations and existing networks to develop the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan. Each year, relationships are maintained and fostered with these organizations to establish the Annual Action Plans and to coordinate services.

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 City works with the United Way of Greater Cincinnati to award human services funds to outside agencies. These services are funded by the City’s General Operating Fund at approximately \$3 million per year.
- The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Hamilton County Department of Community Development, and the City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic Development worked collaboratively on the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan.
- The City partners with its Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) to enhance coordination of the Annual Action Plans and citizen participation. This volunteer citizen group provides Consolidated Plan funding recommendations to the City Manager and the members represent the following sectors: community councils, human services agencies, organized labor, low-income advocates, small business, corporate entities, lenders, developers, real estate, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and City Administration.
- The local Continuum of Care collaborative applicant, Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH), coordinates the efforts of organizations which provide services to the homeless and other special populations for ESG programs and coordinates groups that serve the HIV/AIDS population with HOPWA funding.

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.

Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH) serves as our local Continuum of Care (OH-500) and is under contract with the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County as a subrecipient to facilitate the work of the community related to homelessness, including:

- Shelter diversion

- Street outreach
- Emergency shelter programs for singles and families
- Transitional housing programs
- Permanent housing, including
 - Rapid Re-housing programs
 - Service-enriched permanent supportive housing programs, including legacy Shelter Plus Care programs
- Specialized services-only programs.

The local Continuum of Care (CoC) process involves all agencies and programs who receive funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and completes the following:

- Assesses capacity and identifies gaps
- Evaluates outcomes achieved by funded programs, in comparison to both local and national benchmarks
- Proactively develops improvements and solutions to systemic issues
- Works to implement HUD priorities, to increase the likelihood of the community continuing to receive funds
- Facilitates the allocation of funding to these agencies
- Serves as an inclusive vehicle to promote best practices
- Facilitates access to mainstream resources and services for the homeless
- Works to develop policies and procedures to assist homeless persons directly.

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.

STEH facilitates the annual “Prince of Peace” process to allocate ESG shelter operation funding, an allocation based upon program performance. Higher performing projects, as determined by HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data, are recommended for a higher level of funding. The allocation process is based on established performance measures developed in collaboration with the ESG recipients and sub recipients. The process includes baseline funding for each agency that has applied for the funding, based on each facility’s outcome data in comparison to the other local facilities. Then, during the annual Price of Peace meeting, each agency provides a brief program description and requests changes to the proposed allocation

based on facility needs in the coming year. A consensus is reached regarding the final allocation for each agency and the allocation is submitted to the City and County for inclusion in their respective Annual Action Plans. If issues arise with any ESG funded emergency shelter, issues are brought to the attention of Strategies to End Homelessness, and the Homeless Clearinghouse, the CoC Board.

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

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Development Advisory Board
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	<p>Housing</p> <p>Public Housing Authority</p> <p>Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Services-homeless</p> <p>Other government - Local</p> <p>Business Leaders</p> <p>Civic Leaders</p> <p>Community Councils</p> <p>Neighborhood Organization</p> <p>Private Sector Banking / Financing</p>
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Annual Action Plan
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	<p>The Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) is a group of citizens appointed by the Mayor with Cincinnati Council approval to provide the City with feedback and recommendation on the CDBG and HOME programs. Specifically, the CDAB provides guidance to the City on how resources should be allocated as part of the Annual Action Plan and throughout the year. In making appointments to the CDAB, the City attempts to attract a broad base of representatives from banking, real estate, housing, economic development, social services providers, and citizens at large.</p>

2	Agency/Group/Organization	Cincinnati – Hamilton County Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Health Agency Child Welfare Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Other government - County Other government - Local Business Leaders Foundation Private Sector Banking / Financing

<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Action Plan</p>
<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>As described above, STEH is the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Continuum of Care that provides guidance on homeless programs, including ESG and HOPWA.</p>

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

The City of Cincinnati consults a variety of agencies in the Annual Action Plan process.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Plan Cincinnati	City of Cincinnati Department of City Planning	The 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan was prepared in part by building on the data, needs analysis, community engagement and strategies in the City’s most recent comprehensive plan called Plan Cincinnati (November 2012).
The Homeless to Homes Plan	Strategies to End Homelessness (Continuum of Care)	The Homeless to Homes Plan (February 2010) was developed with input from non-profit organizations, the business community, faith-based organizations, local government, funders, and non-profit organizations. Then, the homeless population goals and objectives were developed with input from The Homeless to Homes Plan and the City of Cincinnati Administration. The Hamilton County Commission, as well as the County’s Department of Community Development, was also consulted during the development of the recommendations in order to ensure that a consistent plan is being implemented across both jurisdictions.

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

The City re-established the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) in 2011. The CDBG and HOME program requests were reviewed by the CDAB members. The CDAB members provided the City Administration with feedback on the level of priority that should be given to each program.

The following priorities and values were determined by the CDAB to be taken into consideration with the 2018 funding of programs within the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (HOME).

Priorities of the CDAB:

- Decent Housing
 - Access to affordable Housing
 - Fair Housing
- Suitable Living Environment
 - Eliminating Slum and Blight
 - Enhance of Quality of Life
 - Transformative Community Change
- Expanded Economic Opportunity
 - Aided the Underserved
 - Workforce Development

CDAB's Essential Values:

- Larger Impact
 - Fund fewer programs at a higher level
- Leverage City's CDBG and HOME Funding
 - Programs should have a diverse funding base
- Non-Duplication of Programs / Services
- Competitive Process
- Collaboration
- Measurable Results/Results Driven
 - Program Evaluation

Each project receiving CDBG and HOME funds submitted a one-page request with the annual funding request and a 250-word limit response on how the program aligns with CDAB priorities and how the program supports the CDAB values. City staff provided input to CDAB by ranking all programs. CDAB was able to utilize the information from the programs and City staff before providing the final recommendations.

A public event hosted by the City of Cincinnati was held at Fountain Square, an accessible facility, on June 8, 2017 to receive public comments regarding the Recommended 2018 Annual Action Plan Budget. Other accommodations for sight or hearing-impaired persons and for non-English speaking persons were available upon request. Notice of this Public Event was widely distributed. The notice of the event was posted on the City's website, in the City Bulletin, and via social media on Facebook, Next Door Neighbor, Evensi, and Twitter. Finally, notice of the public hearing was provided to a wide array of community and nonprofit organizations via e-mail.

In finalizing the 2018 Annual Action Plan Budget, the City accepted comments received from citizens at several public events. Citizen input is solicited year-round. The City's recommended CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA budgets were presented before the City of Cincinnati's Budget and Finance Committee on June 18, 2018. The funding recommendations were based on a tiered increase approach based on CDAB, citizen priorities, City staff recommendations, prior years resources, and program performance. Cincinnati Council passed the entitlement appropriation ordinances on June 20, 2018.

Citizen Participation Outreach	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
CDAB Meetings	Public Hearing	Community Development Advisory Board	November 14, and 16, 2017	CDAB provided consensus on the CDBG's funding priorities	CDAB provided recommendations regarding each program's priority for the community
Public Participation Event	Public Hearing	Non-targeted / broad community	June 8, 2017 – comment cards available for the public to submit to the City – a total of 431 responses were received	Support was provided for the improving neighborhood business districts, Homelessness Prevention, assistance for the elderly, and converting vacant lots into pocket parks and urban gardens	Comments regarding issues the Consolidated Plan does not address, such as transportation, litter, illegal activities, and substance abuse concerns.
City Council Meetings – Budget and Finance Committee Meetings	Public Hearing	Non-targeted / broad community	June 18, 2018 and June 20, 2018	Recommendations were made to increase funding for most programs due to the increase in entitlement allocation	
Newspaper Ad	Publication	Non-targeted / broad community	May 30, 2017, June 6, 2017, October 31, 2017	No comments received from the advertisement	

Citizen Participation Outreach	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
Social Media	Publication	Non-targeted / broad community	431 comments received		
Departmental Meetings	Meetings	City staff	Several throughout the year	All program funding requests were taken into consideration	All programs requests were in amounts higher than the 2018 allocations

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

The CDAB determined the following program priorities (with 1 as the highest funding priority):

Project Title	CDAB Priority 2018
Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program	1
Hand Up Initiative	2
Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE)	3
Strategic Housing Initiatives Program	4
Housing Repair Services	5
Concentrated Code Enforcement	6
Hazard Abatement Program	7
Lead Hazard Testing Program	8
Small Business Services	9
Urban Homesteading	10
Code Enforcement Relocation	11
Operating Support for Community Development Corporations	12
Historic Stabilization of Structures	13
Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment	14
Vacant Lot Reutilization	15
Groundwork Cincinnati – Mill Creek Restoration	16
Findlay Market – Nonprofit Capacity Building	17
Public Services	
Summer Youth Employment Program	1
Emergency Mortgage Assistance	2
Tenant Representation	3
Blueprint For Success	4
Fair Housing Services	5
Housing Choice Mobility Program	6

The public participation event showed the following top community priorities from the 431 responses. The comment cards requested option information, including age, race, gender, whether the individual was a renter or a home owner, and zip code. Of those who completed the optional request for ethnicity information, 34.4% identified as Caucasian, 58% African American, 2.1% Asian, and 5.5% Other; 76% renters and 29% home owners; 42% male and 58% female.

2018 Rank	Community Priority	Federally Funded Program
1	Improving neighborhood business districts	Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program
2	Homelessness prevention and assistance	Emergency Solutions Grant
3	Assistance for the elderly and/or disabled	Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly
4	Converting vacant lots into pocket parks or urban gardens	Vacant Lot Reutilization
5	Historic building preservation	Historic Stabilization of Structures
6	Youth job training programs	Summer Youth Employment Program
7	Homeowner repair assistance for the very low- income individuals	Housing Repair Services
8	Employment training programs for the under- and non-employed	Hand Up Initiative
9	Rehab, new construction of affordable housing	Strategic Housing Initiatives Program
10	Demolishing and barricading vacant buildings	Hazard Abatement Program
11	Lower concentrations of poverty in your community	Housing Choice Mobility Program
12	Small business assistance	Small Business Services
13	Childhood lead poisoning prevention	Lead Hazard Testing Program
14	Building code violation enforcement	Concentrated Code Enforcement
15	Environmental remediation of contaminated sites	Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment
16	On-the-job training programs in construction	Blueprint For Success
17	Non-profit organizations assistance with affordable housing	Operating Support for Community Development Corporations (CDCs)

18	Mill Creek watershed improvement	Groundwork Cincinnati - Mill Creek Restoration
19	Legal assistance for tenants	Tenant Representation
20	Assisting dilapidated subsidized housing	Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund (CHIF)
21	Findlay Market assistance and expansion	Findlay Market Capacity Building
22	Relocation assistance from dilapidated housing	Code Enforcement Relocation
23	Dollar home program	Urban Homesteading
24	Down payment assistance for home buyers	Down Payment Assistance
25	Housing discrimination assistance	Fair Housing
26	Emergency mortgage payment assistance and counseling	Emergency Mortgage Assistance

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan \$
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$	
CDBG	Federal	Acquisition, Administration, Economic and Housing Development, Public Improvements, Public Services	\$11,586,525	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$13,086,525	\$0
HOME	Federal	Acquisition, Homebuyer assistance, Homeowner rehab and new construction, Multifamily rental new construction and rehab, Permanence Supportive Housing	\$2,860,970	\$2,048,989.26	\$0	\$4,909,959.26	\$0
HOPWA	Federal	Permanent housing in facilities, Permanent housing placement, STRMU, Short term or transitional housing facilities, Supportive services, TBRA	\$896,793	\$0	\$0	\$896,793	\$0

ESG	Federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing, Financial Assistance, Overnight shelter, Rapid re-housing, Rental Assistance, Services, Transitional housing	\$960,301	\$0	\$0	\$960,301	\$0
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Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Cincinnati’s 2018 Entitlement Awards and program income amounts are listed above. HOME Investment Partnerships Program budgets 2018 allocation with 2017 program income to determine the total project amount available. CDBG budgeted with 2018 entitlement allocation. At the end of the calendar year, CDBG will be reconciled with the actual 2018 program income received to carry projects and activities through the first part of the next calendar year to avoid a disruption of services provided.

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

CDBG funds are used to leverage other public and private funds. The programs which leverage funds are the Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP); Strategic Housing Initiatives Program; Operating Support for Community Development Corporations (CDCs); Small Business Services; Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment; Historic Stabilization of Structures; Groundwork Cincinnati – Millcreek Restoration; Findlay Market Capacity Building; and Vacant Lot Reutilization. Construction projects are funded as gap financing and are not the only source of funding for these projects.

HOME funds are also utilized to leverage other public and private funds, and generate matching funds as required by HUD. These programs include: Single Family Homeownership Development; Strategic Housing Initiatives Program; Operating Support for Community Development Housing Organizations (CHDOs); CHDO Development Projects; and the Down Payment Assistance Initiative Program. All eligible projects receive the City's Community Reinvestment Area Residential or Commercial Tax Abatement. The City of Cincinnati offers a residential and commercial tax abatement program for new properties and renovations. The abatement allows the owners to pay property taxes primarily on the pre-improvement value. The abatement can last 10 to 15 years, depending on the type of project. The savings from the tax abatement is utilized as the City's local match requirement.

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

The City of Cincinnati owns vacant buildings and vacant lots in most of its fifty-two neighborhoods. Programs in the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan to address the use of publicly owned land – Strategic Housing Initiatives Program and the Vacant Lot Reutilization Program. The City has implemented an internal working team to compile an inventory on the City owned parcels and discuss ways to work together to connect programs and development. The City has strategically assembled land in some neighborhoods, such as Madisonville and College Hill, for large redevelopment projects. Redevelopment projects will be selected using participatory and competitive processes.

Discussion

The City of Cincinnati operates a program titled Cincinnati Land Reutilization Program (CLRP) to address non-productive publicly owned land or property. The purpose of the CLRP is to return the non-productive property into productive uses, including homeownership, multi-income housing development, commercial and industrial redevelopment, parks and recreation,

institutional or public use, infrastructure, community gardens, urban agriculture, and side-lot, vacant lot purchase. This program utilizes City funds and these properties may be eligible for federally funded redevelopment.

Annual Goals and Objectives

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

Goals Summary Information

#	Goal Name	Programs	Grant	Amount	Unit of Measure	Expected 2018
1	Promote Homeowner Housing	Strategic Housing Initiatives	CDBG	\$130,110	Household Housing Unit	5
		West Price Hill Area	CDBG	\$1,900,000	Household Housing Unit	10
		CHDO Development Projects	HOME	\$331,422.32	Household Housing Unit	3
		Strategic Housing Initiatives	HOME	\$1,617,585.71	Household Housing Unit	1
		Down Payment Assistance	HOME	\$100,000	Households Assisted	25
		Single Family Homeownership Development	HOME	\$200,000	Household Housing Unit	1
2	Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners	Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly	CDBG	\$155,000	Household Housing Unit	12
		Emergency Mortgage Assistance Homeowner Rehab Loan Program	CDBG	\$113,000	Households Assisted	125
			CDBG	\$30,000	Households Assisted	300
		Housing Repair Services	CDBG	\$1,552,000	Household Housing Unit	1,100
3	Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing	Strategic Housing Initiatives	CDBG	\$130,110	Household Housing Unit	4
		Cincinnati Housing Improvement	CDBG	\$1,500,000	Household Housing Unit	50
		City of Cincinnati 2018 Annual Action Plan				25

	CHDO Development Projects	HOME	\$331,422.32	Household Housing Unit	5
	Strategic Housing Initiatives	HOME	\$1,617,585.70	Household Housing Unit	1
4	Provide Supportive Services for Renters	CDBG	\$0	Households Assisted	1
	Tenant Representation	CDBG	\$150,000	Households Assisted	200
	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	HOME	\$0	Households Assisted	70
5	Promote Fair Housing	CDBG	\$140,000	Households Assisted	1,000
6	Promote Commercial and Industrial Development	CDBG	\$218,000	Businesses Assisted	2
7	Promote Business Development	CDBG	\$842,000	Business Building Rehab	40
	Small Business Services	CDBG	\$100,000	Businesses Assisted	20
8	Increase Economic Opportunities Through Public Services	CDBG	\$100,000	Persons Assisted	25
	Hand Up Initiative	CDBG	\$1,256,000	Persons Assisted	500
	Youth and Young Adult Employment	CDBG	\$675,000	Persons Assisted	450
9	Improve Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight	CDBG	\$524,000	Household Housing Unit	4,000

	Historic Stabilization of Structures	CDBG	\$158,000	Household Housing Unit	3
	Groundwork Cincinnati - Mill Creek Restoration	CDBG	\$50,000	Persons Assisted	25,000
	Vacant Lot Reutilization	CDBG	\$30,000	Persons Assisted	1
	Hazard Abatement	CDBG	\$691,000	Buildings	250
	Lead Hazard Testing Program	CDBG	\$300,000	Household Housing Unit	200
10	Provide Operating Support for Nonprofits	CDBG	\$267,000	Other	10
	Findlay Market Capacity Building	CDBG	\$125,000	Other	1
	Operating Support for CHDOs	HOME	\$220,948.21	Other	4
11	Support Homeless Shelters & Other Homeless Housing	ESG	\$550,000	Number of emergency beds	4,900
	Permanent Supportive Housing	HOME	\$0	Household Housing Unit	1
12	Prevent Homelessness	CDBG	\$0	Households Assisted	30
	Rapid Re-Housing	ESG	\$338,279	Persons Assisted	135
13	Provide Operating Support for HIV/AIDS Housing Facilities	HOPWA	\$217,472.50	Household Housing Unit	2

14	Provide Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS	Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS.	HOPWA	\$217,472.50	Household Housing Unit	125
15	Provide Housing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS	Housing Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS	HOPWA	\$217,472.50	Household Housing Unit	200
		Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	HOPWA	\$217,472.50	Households Assisted	25

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

The 2018 Annual Action Plan includes 29 funded programs in the four entitlement grant programs – CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA.

1	Goal Name	Promote Homeownership Housing
	Goal Description	This goal promotes the development of new homeownership housing as well as the preservation of existing homeownership housing. The programs that support this goal include: Strategic Housing Initiatives Program, CHDO Development Projects, Down Payment Assistance Program, Single Family Homeownership Development, and West Price Hill Area Development.
2	Goal Name	Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners
	Goal Description	This goal provides financial assistance to current homeowners. The programs that support this goal are: Housing Repair Services, Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE), Emergency Mortgage Assistance, and Homeowner Rehab Loan Program.
3	Goal Name	Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing
	Goal Description	This goal promotes the rehabilitation of rental housing for low to moderate income residents. The programs that support this goal are: Strategic Housing Initiatives Program, Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund, and CHDO Development Projects.

4	Goal Name	Provide Supportive Services for Renters
	Goal Description	This goal provides services and financial assistance to renters. The programs that support this goal are: Housing Choice Mobility Program, Tenant Representation, and Tenant Based Rental Assistance.
5	Goal Name	Promote Fair Housing
	Goal Description	This goal promotes and supports fair housing practices in the city. The program that supports this goal is Fair Housing Services.
6	Goal Name	Promote Commercial and Industrial Development
	Goal Description	This goal promotes commercial and industrial development and redevelopment in the city's neighborhoods. The program through which this goal is met is the Commercial and Industrial Development Program.
7	Goal Name	Promote Business Development Opportunities
	Goal Description	This goal promotes the development of businesses and other organizations that improve economic opportunities in the City. The programs that support this goal are: Small Business Services, and Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program.
8	Goal Name	Increase Economic Opportunities Through Public Services
	Goal Description	This goal provides opportunities for low to moderate income individuals to receive job training. The programs that support this goal are: Blueprint for Success, Hand Up Initiative, and the Summer Youth Employment Program.
9	Goal Name	Improving the Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight
	Goal Description	This goal promotes sustainable neighborhoods by eliminating blighting influences. The programs that support this goal are: Concentrated Code Enforcement, Groundwork Cincinnati – Mill Creek Restoration, Lead Hazard Testing Program, Hazard Abatement Program, Historic Stabilization of Structures, and Vacant Lot Reutilization.

10	Goal Name	Provide Operating Support for Non-profits
	Goal Description	This goal supports housing units developed by area non-profit organizations and Community Development Corporations that will benefit low to moderate income households, as well as promoting and expanding economic opportunities. The programs that support this goal are: Operating Support for CDCs, Findlay Market Capacity Building, and Operating Support for CHDOs.
11	Goal Name	Support Homeless Shelters & Other Homeless Housing
	Goal Description	This goal supports emergency shelter operations and essential supportive services for shelter residents, as well as the development of supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals. The programs that support this goal are: ESG Homeless Shelters and Supportive Services, and Permanent Supportive Housing.
12	Goal Name	Prevent Homelessness
	Goal Description	This goal supports a shelter diversion program that will serve individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. The projects that support this goal are: ESG Homelessness Prevention, and Code Enforcement Relocation.
13	Goal Name	Provide Operating Support for HIV/AIDS Housing Facilities
	Goal Description	This goal is accomplished by providing support to the operation of Caracole's housing facility for homeless persons with HIV/AIDS. Caracole is a subrecipient of the HOPWA funds.
14	Goal Name	Provide Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Goal Description	This goal supports services for homeless HIV/AIDS persons including temporary housing with medical support, outreach services and case management. Funding is provided to the HOPWA subrecipients, Caracole, the Cincinnati Center for Respite Care, and the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District.
15	Goal Name	Provide Housing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Goal Description	Assistance is provided in the form of short-term rent/mortgage and utility assistance as well as longer term tenant based rental assistance. Funding is provided to Caracole and the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District.

Table 7 – Goal Descriptions

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b):

The City utilizes HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds for affordable housing projects. Below list the estimates of the number of individuals by income category the City will provide affordable housing. The estimates are based on the results in the HOME Summary of Accomplishments report in the 2015 through 2017 CAPER.

Income Category	2015 CAPER Accomplishment	2016 CAPER Accomplishment	2017 CAPER	2018 Goals
0 – 30% AMI	128 (60%)	26 (34%)	41 (68%)	77 (46%)
31% - 60% AMI	42 (19%)	26 (34%)	15 (25%)	43 (26%)
61% - 80% AMI	46 (21%)	24 (32%)	4 (7%)	48 (28%)
TOTAL	216	76	60	168

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
1	CDBG	Blueprint for Success	The Blueprint for Success Program is based on the Youth Build model, assisting ex-offenders and at-risk young adults ages 18-30 in obtaining marketable construction skills while following a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curriculum. Participants will undergo OSHA training, Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting certification, and will subsequently be trained in all aspects of residential construction through the rehabilitation of Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE), a CDBG funded program, homes as well as new construction projects, including participation in Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati builds in the region.
2	CDBG	Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund (CHIF)	The City received payment from The Community Builders, Inc. (TCB) in the amount of \$1,500,000 from a HUD Settlement Agreement. The CHIF funds will prioritize funding subsidized blighted housing. These funds will be available through the annual Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA). At minimum, \$1,000,000 will be only for projects located in the targeted neighborhoods of Avondale, Walnut Hills, and Over-the-Rhine with the remaining funds, at minimum \$500,000, available citywide for eligible projects. At minimum, 51% of all units assisted through the CHIF program must be made available to occupants at or below 80% AMI. This is a new program as of 2018.
3	CDBG	Code Enforcement Relocation	This project allows the City of Cincinnati to pay the first month's rent, security deposit, and moving expenses for persons moving to decent, safe and sanitary housing who have been displaced by code enforcement and/or the hazards of lead-based paint. City staff takes applications and provides vacancy and management company lists to clients.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
4	CDBG	Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment Program	The Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment Program facilitates catalytic redevelopment of abandoned, vacant, or underutilized industrial and commercial sites throughout the City. The program focuses on addressing environmental contamination and obstacles preventing development of blighted areas, specifically in areas with imminent threats to human health and the environment. The funds are utilized for environmental assessments, contamination remediation, public improvements, and other related activities to facilitate redevelopment.
5	CDBG	Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE)	The CARE program provides grants to low income, elderly and/or disabled homeowners to correct code violations issued pursuant to an exterior property condition inspection and code enforcement action. The assistance includes correcting emergency exterior code violations such as leaking roofs, dilapidated porches, unsafe stairs, exterior wall repair, and painting. The program provides the CDBG funded job training program, Blueprint for Success, training for the students.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
6	CDBG	Concentrated Code Enforcement	Inspections of homes and businesses are conducted in low to moderate census tracts throughout the city by the City of Cincinnati Department of Buildings and Inspections' code enforcement inspectors. Corrections achieved through Concentrated Code Enforcement (CCE) include repairing porches, roofs, windows, and siding, painting, and removal of dilapidated garages, fences and sheds. Owners receiving orders are informed of funding availability through the Department of Community and Economic Development to correct violations. The CCE program compliments the City's Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). NEP is a collaborative effort between City departments, neighborhood residents and community organizations focused on concentrated City service delivery and community redevelopment efforts. Targeted areas are identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls, drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds. Integrated services include: concentrating building code enforcement, identifying crime hot spots, cleaning up streets, sidewalks, and vacant lots, beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public right of way, and engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood.
7	CDBG	Emergency Mortgage Assistance	The Emergency Mortgage Assistance program provides in-depth foreclosure prevention counseling, negotiations with mortgage companies, legal assistance and case management to prevent foreclosure. When homeowners are facing foreclosure due to job loss, illness, death of the primary wage earner, or other circumstances beyond their control, the program may provide up to three months of mortgage payments to bring their loans current.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
8	CDBG	Fair Housing Services	Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.), the area's local fair housing agency, administers this program to promote equal housing opportunities for all home seekers regardless of race, sex, color, nationality, religion, handicap, Appalachian status, marital status, sexual orientation, or familial status and to reduce unlawful discrimination in housing and increase integration throughout Cincinnati's neighborhoods. The program does complaint intake, investigation, counseling, and files legal complaints against persons, firms, or organizations suspected of discrimination in housing.
9	CDBG	Findlay Market Capacity Building	Project funds increase the Corporation for Findlay Market's capacity to carry out revitalization and economic development activities both at the Market and in the surrounding area. Included in this are costs related to supporting market promotion and events to increase the vibrancy of the market. Findlay Market is located in a low to moderate income area in the City's urban core.
10	CDBG	Groundwork Cincinnati – Millcreek Restoration	The long-range goal of the project is to develop at least 14-18 miles of Greenway Trails along Mill Creek and West Fork Creek to transform blighted properties within the river corridors, to build community capacity, to support revitalization of Mill Creek neighborhoods, to promote healthy living, and to improve the health of natural resources within the Lower Mill Creek Watershed in Cincinnati.
11	CDBG	Hand Up Initiative	The Hand Up Initiative provides job readiness and job training to transition mn500 Cincinnatians annually out of poverty. The program focuses on residents in Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs) and the Empowerment Zone. The Hand Up Initiative partners are tasked with providing individuals with wrap-around services for the purpose of removing barriers to employment. Those services include, but are not limited to, transportation, childcare, and employment counseling. Following completion of the Hand Up curriculum, participants receive employment counseling and coaching to facilitate appropriate job placement.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
12	CDBG	Hazard Abatement Program	The mission of the Hazard Abatement Program is to preserve public health, safety, and welfare through demolition or barricading of blighted buildings. The program demolishes condemned buildings after normal code enforcement activities have been exhausted. The program also secures vacant abandoned buildings against entry by trespassers.
13	CDBG	Historic Stabilization of Structures	The Historic Stabilization of Structures Program abates public nuisance conditions and stabilizes historic properties. Under Ohio Law if there is a historic building that is deemed a public nuisance, the City has the right to abate the public nuisance conditions without taking ownership of the property. The City uses this right to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare while at the same time preserving the historic structures for potential future rehabilitation.
14	CDBG	Homeowner Rehab Loan Servicing	This program provides funding to service prior year redevelopment loans. This program covers the cost of servicing approximately 300 past loans with an outside vendor.
15	CDBG	Housing Choice Mobility Program	The Housing Choice Mobility Program promotes mixed-income neighborhoods, providing Housing Choice Voucher holders living in high poverty areas access to new neighborhoods. The program also provides outreach services to increase landlord participation in lower-poverty areas.
16	CDBG	Housing Repair Services	The Housing Repair Services Program provides grants for emergency and critical repairs to very low-income homeowners. Emergency services are limited to two emergencies per household per year and have a maximum of \$2,500. Critical repairs are those needed for the safety of the client and have a maximum of \$10,000. This program also provides grants to low income homeowners to correct code violations. In addition to addressing housing repairs for homeowners, this program addresses the mobility needs of disabled and elderly renters and owner-occupied units.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
17	CDBG	Lead Hazard Testing Program	The Cincinnati Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides lead testing of children under the age of six and the homes where lead poisoned children reside or frequent. CDBG funds are utilized for the code enforcement activities in eligible census tracts. Lead poisoning reduces IQ, increases tendencies of violence and delinquent behavior, affects a child's ability to learn, and is directly related to lower educational achievement. Children with lead poisoning have reduced lifetime earning potential and are more likely to live in poverty. Properties with Board of Health orders for lead hazard remediation are referred to the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant program.
18	CDBG	Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program	The Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program enhances the business environment in 34 City's neighborhood business districts (there are 52 City neighborhoods in total) by constructing streetscape, public improvements, infrastructure, and façade improvements, or other development activities. The projects are awarded on a competitive annual application process. The applications are peer reviewed by the Cincinnati Neighborhood Business District United, a group with representatives from Community Development Corporations, community councils, and area business associations.
19	CDBG	Operating Support for Community Development Corporations (CDCs)	This program provides operating support to build and strengthen capacity of eligible Community Development Corporations (CDCs). CDCs rehabilitate affordable housing units that will benefit low-income to moderate-income households.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
20	CDBG	Small Business Services	The Small Business Services Program includes technical assistance for start-ups and growth needs of micro-enterprises and small businesses. Areas of assistance include: capacity development, business education and coaching, entrepreneurial training, incubation and technical assistance, loan packaging, accounting services, legal services, appraisals, environmental assessments, and inventory control audits. The program includes a revolving loan program to fill financing gaps for small to mid-sized businesses that create and/or retain jobs for low to moderate-income individuals as well as funds for redevelopment activities. The program also includes grants for start-up small businesses in temporary storefronts.
21	CDBG HOME	Strategic Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP)	SHIP provides gap financing for construction and renovation of multifamily units and single-family development, permanent supportive housing, emergency stabilization, infrastructure, and urban homesteading projects. Applicants can apply under the competitive Housing Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) that the City issues at least once a year. Applications must meet underwriting and subsidy layering requirements to be considered. Strategic Housing is an opportunity for the City to spur transformative housing development by leveraging resources to revitalize City neighborhoods, creating long-term livability benefits.
22	CDBG	Tenant Representation	The Tenant Representation Program provides legal representation for low to moderate-income tenants through Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati. The program prevents homelessness by stopping unlawful evictions, corrects illegal lockouts and utility shutoffs, and requires landlords to complete repairs to make rental units decent, safe, and sanitary. The project also prevents retaliation against tenants who contact the City about code violations.
23	CDBG	Vacant Lot Reutilization	The Vacant Lot Reutilization program funds the reuse of vacant and blighted lots in eligible census tracts into community gardens and pocket parks.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
24	CDBG	West Price Hill Area Development	The West Price Hill Area Development Program will develop residential and commercial properties in sections of the Price Hill neighborhoods located within the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs). Over half (51%) of the residential units renovated annually will be made available to low to moderate income qualified buyers at or below 80% of the Area Medium Income limits.
25	CDBG	Youth and Young Adult Employment Program	The Youth and Young Adult Employment Program trains youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 in the areas of work place etiquette and basic work skills by utilizing workshops, presentations, and on-the-job experiences. The program provides recipients with opportunities to explore their interests and career options in public, nonprofit, and private organizations.
26	HOME	CHDO Development Projects	HUD requires that at least 15% of the federal HOME allocation be used in development projects in partnership with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds will be used for both rental and homeowner projects, new construction and renovations, with certified CHDOs. CHDOs are required to re-certify their designation annually.
27	HOME	Down Payment Assistance Initiative	The Down Payment Assistance Initiative, named the American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI) program, funds down payment assistance for the purchase of single family owner-occupied housing by first-time, eligible low to moderate income homebuyers. By providing home ownership possibilities, this program helps to increase and/or maintain the City's tax base and leverages a 15:1 private to public investment. ADDI funds are not to exceed \$5,000 or a range of 4-5% of the purchase price of the home, whichever is less. ADDI funds are awarded as a five-year non-interest bearing deferred loan payment with a five-year residency requirement. All or a portion of the funds will be recaptured in the event a homeowner moves from the residence, sells or transfers ownership during the five-year residency period. All ADDI recipients are required to take a HUD-approved homebuyer counseling course in advance of receiving this assistance.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
28	HOME	Operating Support for Community Development Housing Organizations (CHDOs)	HUD requires that at least 5% of the federal HOME allocation be used in operating support for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds will be used to cover staff time, rent charges, and any other operating costs of the CHDOs.
29	HOME	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	The Permanent Supportive Housing Program will provide partial financing for the construction or rehabilitation of new transitional housing units and new permanent supportive housing units as outlined in the Homeless to Homes Plan for the City of Cincinnati. The program has not been funded due to the time and availability of PSH projects. PSH projects are eligible for funding through the Strategic Housing Initiatives Program.
30	HOME	Single Family Homeownership Development	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati builds and rehabs homes for low-income first-time homebuyers. The program provides on average \$20,000 per unit as a construction subsidy and up to \$2,000 per unit for homebuyer assistance. Eligible costs include infrastructure and construction costs for newly constructed or rehabilitated units, demolition costs, construction alterations to blend units with existing neighborhood styles, and accessibility modifications.
31	HOME	Tenant Based Rental Assistance	The HOME funded TBRA program was operated by the Hamilton County Department of Community Development and provides rental assistance to households with one or more persons with disabilities. HOME funded TBRA covered a portion of household rent payments over a 12-month period and serviced about 70 households. The County no longer administers this program. All previous assisted residences secured housing choice vouchers.
32	ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant	ESG funds the operation of emergency shelter facilities as well as essential services for the residences. ESG Rapid Re-Housing activities include a shelter diversion program that will serve individuals and families at risk of homelessness by providing Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services as well as long-term Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), security deposits, and utilities.

#	Grant	Program Name	Project Description
33	HOPWA	HOPWA Services and Support	HOPWA funds will provide housing assistance through Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance (STRMU), Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), and permanent housing placement. HOPWA-funded TBRA services approximately 25 households of individuals with HIV/AIDS that require assistance with rent or mortgage expenses. HOPWA funds will also be used to support the operation of Caracole's two transitional living facilities for 30 persons displaced by HIV/AIDS. Costs will include utilities, phone, insurance, regular maintenance, supplies and residential operating staff. In addition, HOPWA funding will be used to support the cost of nursing and personal care, case management, and meals for HIV/AIDS clients. All three providers, Center for Respite Care, Northern Kentucky Health Independent District, and Caracole, provide these services.
34	CDBG	Section 108 Loan Debt Service	This covers debt service on existing CDBG Section 108 loans for Avondale Towne Center, Laurel Homes, Broadway Square, Anna Louise Inn and the Men's Shelter projects.

Table 8 – Project Information

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

The City allocated resources based upon community needs, the success of a program at addressing those needs, input from citizens through the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) and the public hearing process. The CDAB is a volunteer citizen group appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. The CDAB advises the City Manager on the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, related resource allocations, and other matters related to the administration of the Consolidated Plan. The major obstacle in addressing the City of Cincinnati needs is a lack of funding. The CDAB, the public, and City staff ranked each project in the CDBG and HOME grant program. All projects that were recommended was approved for funding in CY 2018.

A substantial amendment to the City of Cincinnati's Consolidated Plan Budget requires public notice in the City Bulletin with a 30-day opportunity to comment and approval from the Community Development Advisory Board. A substantial amendment is defined to include the following situations: major budget adjustments related to final resources, reallocation of program dollars exceeding 10%, a proposed change in the allocation or selection criteria for generic programs such as loan programs or competitive development programs, proposed uses of HUD 108 Loan Authority or CDBG Float loans, and the addition or removal of any programs.

A public hearing before the City Council may be held, if necessary, to consider the amendment to the Consolidated Plan related to the allocation of final resources. In addition, a public hearing may be held at any other time during the year concerning any substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan.

During 2016, three non-performing programs were removed from CDBG: Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach, Financial and Credit Union Services, and Future Blooms. The City added new programs to CDBG titled Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund (CHIF) and West Price Hill Area Development Program. Also, the City has expanded the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas to include eligible census tracts within the neighborhoods of North and South Fairmount, English Woods, Bond Hill, Roselawn, East Price Hill, West Price Hill, Sedamsville, Riverside, Mt. Airy, Villages at Roll Hill, East End, Linwood, Winton Hills, Spring Grove Village, and Camp Washington.

The Community Builders, Inc. (TCB) executed a Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on November 10, 2016. Several of TCB's residential properties receiving HUD Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) were found to have unsatisfactory Real Estate Assessment Center (REACT) scores. REACT scores provide a method of determining whether housing is in safe and decent conditions. As a result, HUD and TCB reached a settlement agreement to resolve the deficiencies and other actions HUD has imposed on TCB.

TCB was a grant recipient of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2), a competitive grant awarded in 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Settlement Agreement ordered TCB to provide the City with \$1,500,000 of their NSP2 funds, naming the program the Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund (CHIF). Eligible use of NSP2 funds includes acquisition and renovation of foreclosed or abandoned residential properties. Of the \$1,500,000, the Settlement Agreement also specifies \$1,000,000 be spent in the neighborhoods of Walnut Hills, Avondale, and Over-the-Rhine on eligible projects. The remaining \$500,000 may be spent citywide on eligible projects. In order to allow the City to administer these funds without TCB as the lead administrator, the NSP2 program income has been receipted to CDBG as program income. The City is projecting producing at minimum 50 units with this program.

In 2017, the City added a CDBG-funded program entitled West Price Hill Area Development Program. The West Price Hill Area Development Program will provide \$1,900,000 of unappropriated 2017 CDBG surplus for residential and commercial development of sections of the Price Hill neighborhoods located within the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs). Over half (51%) of the residential units renovated annually will be made available to low to moderate income qualified buyers at or below 80% of the Area Medium Income limits.

This program is not being funded in 2018. The target residential production for this program is 10 units.

The HOME funded TBRA program was previously administered by the Hamilton County Department of Community Development. The County has ended the HOME funded TBRA program and will no longer administer this program on behalf of the City. The City has worked with CMHA to replace the assistance with housing choice vouchers. This program will no longer be funded throughout the remainder of the City of Cincinnati's 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan.

Housing Opportunities Made Equal, the City's local fair housing agency, is the subrecipient to the CDBG funded programs, Fair Housing Services and Housing Choice Mobility Services. Funding for both programs, each subject to the 15% public service cap, has seen dramatic decreases. Housing Opportunities Made Equal was allocated \$20,000 in 2017 to operate the Housing Choice Mobility Services Program. This program was not funded by the City in 2015 or 2016. The Hamilton County Department of Community Development also funded this program out of their CDBG entitlement grant. As of April 2017, the County no longer funded this program. With these diminished resources, Housing Opportunities Made Equal has requested these funds be redirected to their Fair Housing Services program.

The programs Affordable Multi Family Rental Program, Core 4 Strategic Housing Program, Urban Homesteading, and Permanent Supportive Housing are being consolidated into one program titled Strategic Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP). Eligible activities include construction and renovation of multifamily units and single-family development, permanent supportive housing, emergency stabilization, infrastructure, and urban homesteading projects. Consolidating the housing programs will assist with reporting and tracking and provide the flexibility to conduct a multitude of housing activities. SHIP will be funded with both CDBG and HOME funds.

The CDBG-funded Summer Youth Employment Program has expanded to a year-round program and has also expanded to age range of youth serviced. The program is now the Youth and Young Adult Employment Program and will train 400 individuals annually.

The CDBG-funded program Code Enforcement Relocation did not receive an allocation for 2018 due to the availability of prior years' resources.

Projects

AP-38 Projects Summary Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Blueprint for Success '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Increase Economic Opportunities through Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services and Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	The Blueprint for Success Program is based on the Youth Build model, to assist ex-offenders and at-risk young adults ages 18-30 in obtaining marketable construction skills while following a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curriculum.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	25 individuals
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Participants will undergo OSHA training, Lead Renovate, Repair, and Painting (RRP) training, and will subsequently be trained in all aspects of residential construction through the rehabilitation of Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE) homes, a CDBG funded program, as well as new construction projects including but not limited to participation in Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati builds in the region.

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2	Project Name	Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund
	Target Area	City-wide, Avondale, Walnut Hills, and Over-the-Rhine
	Goals Supported	Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing
	Needs Addressed	Rehabilitation of Multi Family Rental Housing Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,500,000
	Description	TCB has provided the City with \$1,500,000 of their NSP2 program income, naming the program the Cincinnati Housing Improvement Fund (CHIF). The HUD Settlement Agreement specifies that these funds must be utilized for affordable rental housing with the focus on occupied, blighted subsidized properties.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50 housing units rehabbed
3	Location Description	City-wide, Avondale, Walnut Hills, and Over-the-Rhine
	Planned Activities	Eligible use of CHIF funds includes acquisition and renovation of foreclosed or abandoned residential properties. Of the \$1,500,000, \$1,000,000 is set aside for projects in the neighborhoods of Walnut Hills, Avondale, and Over-the-Rhine on eligible projects. The remaining \$500,000 may be spent citywide on eligible projects.
	Project Name	Code Enforcement Relocation
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Prevent Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Prevent Homelessness

	Funding	CDBG: \$0 – Program is utilizing prior year resources to carry out the activities for CY 2018.
	Description	This project allows the City of Cincinnati to pay the first month's rent or security deposit and eligible moving expenses for persons moving to decent, safe and sanitary housing who have been displaced by code enforcement and/or the hazards of lead-based paint. City staff processes applications and provides vacancy and management company lists to clients.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	30 households assisted
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Combined efforts and referrals for assistance are conducted with the cooperation of the City of Cincinnati's Department of Buildings and Inspections Division of Property Maintenance Code Enforcement, along with the Cincinnati Health Department inspectors.
	Project Name	Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment Program '18
4	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Promote Commercial and Industrial Development
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$218,000
	Description	The Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment Program facilitates the redevelopment of abandoned, vacant, or underutilized industrial and commercial sites throughout the City.
	Target Date	12/31/2018

5	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2 businesses or 5 acres
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	The funds provide property acquisition, remediate contamination, and construct public improvements, demolition, and related activities to facilitate redevelopment.
	Project Name	Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE) '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$155,000
	Description	The CARE program provides forgivable loans and grants to low-income, elderly homeowners to correct code violations issued pursuant to an exterior property condition inspection and code enforcement action. Owner occupants receive financial assistance in correcting common exterior code violations such as: leaking roofs, dilapidated porches, unsafe stairs, and siding and painting. The program uses Blueprint for Success students.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	12 housing units
	Location Description	City-wide

	Planned Activities	Owner occupants receive financial assistance in correcting common exterior code violations such as leaking roofs, dilapidated porches, unsafe stairs, siding and painting, etc. The program provides the CDBG funded job training program, Blueprint for Success, training for the students.
6	Project Name	Concentrated Code Enforcement '18
	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Improving the Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$524,000
	Description	Inspections of homes and businesses are conducted in low to moderate income census tracts throughout the city by the City of Cincinnati Department of Buildings and Inspections' Property Maintenance Code Enforcement inspectors. Corrections achieved through Concentrated Code Enforcement involve repairing porches, roofs, windows, and siding, painting, and removal of dilapidated garages, fences, and sheds. Owners receiving orders are informed of funding availability through the Department of Community and Economic Development to correct violations.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
7	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4,000 housing units
	Location Description	Low to Moderate Income Census tracts only
	Planned Activities	This program provides for complaint driven inspections in targeted areas.
	Project Name	Emergency Mortgage Assistance '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners

8	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$113,000
	Description	The Emergency Mortgage Assistance program provides in-depth foreclosure prevention counseling, negotiations with mortgage companies, legal assistance, and case management to prevent foreclosure.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	125 households
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	When the homeowners are facing temporary financial burdens, the program can provide up to three months of mortgage payments to bring their loans current.
	Project Name	Fair Housing Services '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Promote Fair Housing
	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$140,000
	Description	The City contracts with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.), the local fair housing agency, to promote equal housing opportunities for all home seekers regardless of race, sex, color, nationality, religion, handicap, marital status, Appalachian origin, sexual orientation, or familial status, reduce unlawful discrimination in housing, and, increase integration throughout Cincinnati's neighborhoods.
	Target Date	12/31/2018

9	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,000 individuals
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	The program does complaint intake, investigation, counseling, and files legal complaints against persons, firms, or organizations suspected of discrimination in housing.
	Project Name	Findlay Market Capacity Building '18
	Target Area	Over-the-Rhine neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Provide Support for Nonprofits
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development and Employment Training and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$125,000
	Description	Project funds increase the Corporation for Findlay Market's capacity to carry out revitalization and economic development activities.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 business
	Location Description	Empowerment Zone
	Planned Activities	Projects funds increase the Corporation for Findlay Market's capacity to carry out revitalization and economic development activities both at the Market and in the surrounding area. Included in this are costs related to supporting market promotion and events to increase the vibrancy of the market. Findlay Market is located in a low to moderate income area.

10	Project Name	Groundwork Cincinnati – Mill Creek Restoration '18
	Target Area	Strategic areas along Millcreek corridor in eligible census tracts
	Goals Supported	Improving the Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	The long-range goal of the program is to develop at least 14-18 miles of Greenway Trails along Mill Creek and West Fork Creek to transform the blighted area along the river corridors, to build community capacity, to support revitalization of Mill Creek neighborhoods, to promote healthy living, and to improve the health of natural resources within the Lower Mill Creek Watershed in Cincinnati.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	25,000 individuals (area benefit)
11	Location Description	Northside, South Cumminsville, Millvale, Spring Grove Village, North and South Fairmount, Lower Price Hill, Camp Washington, Roselawn, Bond Hill, Winton Hills, English Woods, Clifton, and Carthage
	Planned Activities	Strategic planning efforts are on-going
	Project Name	Hand Up Initiative '18
	Target Area	City's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs)
	Goals Supported	Increase Economic Opportunities through Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services and Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,256,000

12	Description	The Hand Up Initiative will reduce poverty by providing job readiness and job training to transition 500 Cincinnatians out of poverty annually. The program will focus on residents in the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs) and the Empowerment Zone.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	500 individuals
	Location Description	Empowerment Zone, Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs)
	Planned Activities	Program will provide job readiness, job training, transitional jobs and supportive services for low to moderate residents in NRSAs and the Empowerment Zone. The goal is a 70% placement rate.
	Project Name	Hazard Abatement Program '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Improving the Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$691,000
	Description	The mission of the Hazard Abatement Program is to preserve public health, safety, and welfare through demolition or barricading of blighted buildings, and includes site restoration after demolition.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	250 buildings
	Location Description	City-wide

	Planned Activities	The program demolishes condemned buildings after normal code enforcement activities have been exhausted. The program also secures vacant abandoned buildings against entry by trespassers.
13	Project Name	Historic Stabilization of Structures '18
	Target Area	Strategic historic areas
	Goals Supported	Improving the Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$158,000
	Description	The Historic Stabilization of Structures (SOS) Program abates public nuisance conditions and stabilizes historic properties.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	3 buildings
14	Location Description	Empowerment Zone, Historic Districts
	Planned Activities	Under Ohio Law if there is a historic building that is deemed a public nuisance, the City has the right to take action to abate the public nuisance conditions without taking ownership of the property. The City uses this right under the law to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare, while at the same time, preserve the historic structures for potential future rehabilitation.
	Project Name	Homeowner Rehab Loan Program '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000

15	Description	The Homeowner Rehab Loan program (HRLP) services past development loans. This program covers the cost of servicing approximately 300 past loans with an outside vendor.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	300 households
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Approximately 300 existing loans are serviced through an outside firm. The number of loans serviced will continue to decrease as loans are paid off.
	Project Name	Housing Choice Mobility Program
	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Renters
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$0
	Description	The Housing Choice Mobility Program assists Housing Choice Voucher holders living in highly concentrated poverty areas of the City with suitable housing options in lower concentrated poverty areas of the City. The program also provides outreach services to increase landlord participation in lower-poverty areas. This provides residents with access to neighborhoods with a lower concentration of poverty and related issues.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 household

	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Housing Opportunities Made Equal, the City's local fair housing agency, administers this program. As of April 2017, the County removed their funds from this program. With the diminished resources, Housing Opportunities Made Equal has requested this program be eliminated as there are not enough funds to properly administer a successful mobility program at this level.
16	Project Name	Housing Repair Services '18
	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,552,000
	Description	Housing Repair Services provides grants for emergency and critical repairs to very low-income homeowners. Emergency Services are limited to two emergencies per household per year and have a maximum of \$2,500. Critical repairs are those needed for the safety of the client and have a maximum of \$10,000. This program also provides forgivable loans and grants to low to moderate income homeowners to correct code violations issued pursuant to Neighborhood Enhancement Program exterior inspections. In addition to addressing housing repairs for homeowners, this program addresses the mobility needs of disabled renters and owner-occupied units. Handicapped-accessible ramps are installed on buildings that are referred to the program by organizations advocating for the needs of the elderly and disabled populations in the community.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,100 housing units
	Location Description	City-wide

	Planned Activities	Homeowner housing emergency and critical repair services are provided through this program, with a focus on at-risk populations.
17	Project Name	Lead Hazard Testing Program '18
	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Increase Economic Opportunities through Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	The program provides lead testing of the homes where lead poisoned children reside and issues orders for the abatement of lead-based paint hazards. Lead poisoning reduces IQ, increases tendencies of violence and delinquent behavior, affects a child's ability to learn, and is directly related to lower educational achievement. Children with lead poisoning have reduced lifetime earning potential and are more likely to live in poverty.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	200 household housing units
	Location Description	Low to Moderate Income Census tracts only
	Planned Activities	The Cincinnati Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides lead testing of the homes where lead poisoned children reside in eligible census tract areas and issues code orders for abatement of any found hazards. The program also provides case management of lead-poisoned children and outreach materials for public education with the use of City General funds. Grant funds are available for eligible units to receive abatement through the City's HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant programs.
	Project Name	Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program '18

18	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Promote Business Development
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$842,000
	Description	The Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program enhances the business environment in 34 of the City's 52 neighborhoods by constructing streetscape public improvements, infrastructure improvements, property acquisition, or other development activities. Portions or all of 25 of these districts are in low to moderate income census tracts.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	40 businesses
19	Location Description	Strategic areas
	Planned Activities	Applications are accepted during the spring and are awarded on a competitive basis.
	Project Name	Operating Support for Community Development Corporations (CDCs) '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Support for Nonprofits
	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$267,000
	Description	This program provides operating support to build and strengthen capacity of eligible Community Development Corporations (CDCs).
	Target Date	12/31/2018

20	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	10 Community Development Corporations
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	CDCs rehabilitate affordable housing that will benefit low-income and moderate-income households.
	Project Name	Small Business Services '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Promote Business Development
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	The Small Business Services Program includes technical assistance for start-ups and growth needs of micro-enterprises and small businesses, including: capacity development, business education and coaching, entrepreneurial training, incubation and technical assistance, loan packaging, accounting services, legal services, appraisals, environmental assessments, and inventory control audits. The program includes a revolving loan program to fill financing gaps for small to mid-sized businesses that create and/or retain jobs for low to moderate-income individuals as well as funds for redevelopment activities. The program also includes grants for start-up small businesses in temporary storefronts.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 businesses
	Location Description	City-wide

	Planned Activities	In addition to the technical assistance provided, the funds also provide loans to small businesses in amounts up to \$35,000. It is used to encourage expansion by providing “gap” debt financing. Funding is available to successful growing or emerging small businesses that meet underwriting requirements and are located within the City of Cincinnati, are for-profit businesses with five or fewer employees that have adequate historic or projected cash flow. Loan proceeds may be used for any legitimate business purpose including permanent working capital, machinery and equipment, tenant improvements, construction/renovations, and acquisition of real estate.
21	Project Name	Strategic Housing Initiatives Program '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing, Promote Homeowner Housing
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$260,220 HOME: \$3,235,171.41
	Description	SHIP provides gap financing for construction and renovation of multifamily units and single-family development, permanent supportive housing, emergency stabilization, infrastructure, and urban homesteading projects. Development projects can apply under the competitive Housing Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) that the City issues at least once a year. Applications must meet underwriting and subsidy layering requirements to be considered. Strategic Housing is an opportunity for the City to spur transformative housing development by leveraging resources to revitalize City neighborhoods, creating long-term livability benefits.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 units renovated; 15 units constructed

	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Funds will be advertised for gap financing assistance of rehabilitation and new construction projects of single and multi-family units.
22	Project Name	Tenant Representation '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Renters
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	The Tenant Representation Program provides legal representation for low and moderate-income tenants in the City through the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati. The program prevents homelessness by stopping unlawful evictions, corrects illegal lockouts and utility shutoffs, and requires landlords to complete repairs to make rental units decent, safe, and sanitary. The project also prevents retaliation against tenants who contact the City about code violations.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
23	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	200 individuals
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Qualified individuals receive legal representation with regards to tenant concerns.
	Project Name	Vacant Lot Reutilization '18
	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Improving the Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
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24	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	The program transforms vacant lots after demolition occurs into an urban gardens or pocket parks.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 person assisted (area benefit)
	Location Description	Low to Moderate Income Census tracts only
	Planned Activities	The program has partnered with the City's Urban Agriculture Farm program to assist vacant and/or blighted lots be transformed into community gardens to address food deserts in the City.
	Project Name	West Price Hill Area Development Program
	Target Area	East, West, and Lower Price Hill NRSA areas
	Goals Supported	Promote Homeowner Housing Promote Commercial and Industrial Development
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$0 (Program established in 2018 with 2017 unappropriated CDBG program income)
	Description	The West Price Hill Area Development Program will develop residential and commercial properties in sections of the Price Hill neighborhoods located within the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs). Over half (51%) of the residential units renovated annually will be made available to low to moderate income qualified buyers at or below 80% of the Area Medium Income limits.
	Target Date	12/31/2018

25	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	10 units
	Location Description	East, West, and Lower Price Hill NRSA's
	Planned Activities	Commercial and residential redevelopment project in the Price Hill neighborhood.
	Project Name	Youth and Young Adult Employment Program '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Increase Economic Opportunities through Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services and Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$675,000
	Description	The Youth and Young Adult Employment Program trains youth in the areas of work place etiquette and basic work skills by utilizing workshops, presentations, and on the job experiences. The program provides youth with opportunities to explore their interests and career options in public, nonprofit and private organizations.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	400 individuals
	Location Description	City-wide

	Planned Activities	Youth will be employed by City departments, nonprofit organizations through the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, Art Opportunities, and private employers. City departments involved in the Summer Youth Program include the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Park Board, Cincinnati Fire Department, Cincinnati Police, Cincinnati Health Department, and Department of Community and Economic Development. Art Opportunities administers a summer mural program. This program has expanded from a summer program to a year-long program.
26	Project Name	CHDO Development Projects '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Promote Homeowner Housing Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development Rehabilitation of Multi Family Rental Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$662,844.64
	Description	HUD requires that at least 15% of the HOME grant be used in development projects in partnership with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds will be used for both rental and homeowner projects with certified CHDOs.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	8 household housing units (4 renovations, 4 home ownership)
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	CHDO redevelopment projects will be supported. Applications are received through the City's Housing NOFA issued at minimally once a year.
	Project Name	Down Payment Assistance Initiative '18

27	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Promote Homeowner Housing
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	HOME: \$100,000
	Description	The Down Payment Assistance Initiative program funds down payment assistance for the purchase of single family housing by low- to moderate-income owner-occupant families who are first-time homebuyers. Eligible project costs include down payment and closing costs as well as costs associated with homebuyer counseling. By providing home ownership possibilities, this program helps to increase and/or maintain the City's tax base and leverages a 15:1 private to public investment.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	5 households assisted
28	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Education services are provided to the public and real estate agencies to promote the program.
	Project Name	Operating Support for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) '18
	Target Area	Strategic areas
	Goals Supported	Provide Support for Nonprofit Capacity Building
	Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services
	Funding	HOME: \$220,948.21
	Description	HUD requires that at least 5% of the HOME grant be used in operating support for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These funds will be used to cover staff time, rent charges, and any other operating costs of the CHDOs.

29	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4 CHDOs
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Operating support and outreach will be provided to certified CHDOs. There are currently four certified CHDOs: Working In Neighborhoods, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, Price Hill Will, and Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation.
	Project Name	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Support Homeless Shelters & Other Homeless Housing
	Needs Addressed	Prevent Homelessness
	Funding	HOME: \$0
	Description	The Permanent Supportive Housing Program provides partial financing for the construction or rehabilitation of new transitional housing units and new permanent supportive housing units as outlined in the Homeless to Homes Plan for the City of Cincinnati.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Because of the sensitivity of these projects and the time it may take to fund a PSH project, eligible projects will be funded under the Strategic Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) and may apply under the Housing NOFA process.
	Location Description	City-wide

	Planned Activities	Support for the planning of new transitional and permanent supportive housing units will continue. These projects are funded under the AMFR Program.
30	Project Name	Single Family Homeownership Development '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Promote Homeowner Housing
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	HOME: \$200,000
	Description	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati builds and rehabs homes for low income, working-family, first time homebuyers. The program provides on average \$20,000 per unit as a construction subsidy and up to \$2,000 per unit for homebuyer assistance. Eligible costs include: certain infrastructure and construction costs for newly constructed or rehabilitated units, demolition costs, and construction modifications to blend units with existing neighborhood styles or address accessibility issues, and homebuyer assistance. Other eligible expenses include water and sewer tap fees, reimbursement of building permit fees, water permit fees, remote meter fees, a developer fee, and other approved fees under the HOME program related to the construction/rehabilitation of eligible new single-family dwellings.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 household housing unit
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati builds and rehabs homes for low income, working-family, first time homebuyers.
	Project Name	Tenant Based Rental Assistance

31	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Provide Supportive Services for Renters
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	HOME: \$0
	Description	The HOME funded TBRA program was administered by the Hamilton County Department of Community Development and provided rental assistance to households with one or more persons with disabilities. HOME funded TBRA covered a portion of household rent payments over a 12-month period and currently serviced about 70 households.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	60 household housing units assisted
32	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	TBRA covered a portion of household rent payments over a 12-month period. The County will no longer be administering this program. The County transferred eligible TBRA recipients to the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher program. The City has not continued funding for this program.
	Project Name	Emergency Solutions Grants '18
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Prevent Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Prevent Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$888,279

	Description	ESG activities (Homeless Shelters and Other Homeless Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Homelessness Prevention) funds the operation of emergency shelter facilities as well as essential services for the residents. ESG includes the funding of a shelter diversion program that serves individuals and families at risk of homelessness by providing Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services, as well as Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA).
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4,900 emergency beds 135 persons assisted beds
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	The operation of emergency shelter facilities as well as essential services for the residents is supported. Collaborative meetings are convened to address the needs of the residents.
	Project Name	Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS Services and Support '18
	Target Area	Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area
33	Goals Supported	Provide Housing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS Provide Operating Support for HIV/AIDS Housing Facilities Provide Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS
	Needs Addressed	Prevent Homelessness
	Funding	HOPWA: \$869,890

	Description	HOPWA funds will provide housing assistance through Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance (STRMU), Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), and permanent housing placement. HOPWA-funded TBRA services approximately 25 households of individuals with HIV/AIDS that require assistance with rent or mortgage expenses. HOWPA funds will be used to support the operation of Carocole's two transitional living facilities for 30 persons displaced by HIV/AIDS. Costs will include utilities, phone, insurance, regular maintenance, supplies, and residential operating staff. HOPWA funding will also be used to support the cost of nursing and personal care, case management, and meals for HIV/AIDS clients.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	225 individuals – Housing Assistance 2 facilities – Operating Support 125 household housing units – Supportive Services
	Location Description	Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area
	Planned Activities	HOPWA funds will provide housing assistance through Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance (STRMU), Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), and permanent housing placement for persons with HIV/AIDS. The funds will be used to support the operation of Carocole's two transitional living facilities for 30 persons displaced by HIV/AIDS. All three providers, Center for Respite Care, Northern Kentucky Health Independent District, and Carocole provide these services.
	Project Name	Section 108 Loan Debt Service
	Target Area	City-wide
34	Goals Supported	Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing Promote Business Development
	Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Focused Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$975,000

	Description	This covers the CDBG Section 108 debt service on existing loans for Avondale Towne Center, Laurel Homes, Broadway Square, Anna Louise Inn and the Men's Shelter.
	Target Date	12/31/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Debt servicing on previously completed projects
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	Debt service is paid to existing loans for the projects: Avondale Towne Center, Laurel Homes, Broadway Square, Anna Louise Inn and the Men's Shelter.
	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	City-wide
35		

Goals Supported	Promote Homeowner Housing Provide Supportive Services for Homeowners Rehab Affordable Multi Family Rental Housing Provide Supportive Services for Renters Promote Fair Housing Promote Commercial and Industrial Development Promote Business Development Increase Economic Opportunities Through Public Services Improve Quality of Life by Eliminating Slum and Blight Provide Operating Support for Nonprofits Support Homeless Shelters & Other Homeless Housing Prevent Homelessness Provide Operating Support for HIV/AIDS Housing Facilities Provide Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS Provide Housing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS
Needs Addressed	Employment Training and Supportive Services Rehabilitation of Multi Family Rental Housing Prevent Homelessness Neighborhood Focused Development
Funding	CDBG: \$2,317,305 HOME: \$490,995 ESG: \$72,022 HOPWA: \$26,903
Description	Funds used for the managing of CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds. ESG Administration is included in the ESG project as IDIS only allows one activity for all ESG programs.
Target Date	12/31/2018

	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	All projects, programs, goals, and objectives are covered.

Table 9 – Project Summary

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

There are two types of neighborhood boundaries that presently exist in the City of Cincinnati: (1) The 52 Neighborhood Boundaries drawn by neighborhood community councils and reflected in the Community Councils' by-laws and (2) The 51 Statistical Neighborhoods Areas (SNAs) which are delineated by census tracts.

Generally, CDBG, HOME and ESG programs serve the entire City of Cincinnati in accordance with the program requirements of each grant. The HOPWA program serves the Cincinnati Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA), which covers fifteen counties in the area. Although the three agencies that currently receive HOPWA funding are located in the Greater Cincinnati area, collectively they offer HOPWA assistance to persons throughout the EMSA, southwest Ohio, northern Kentucky, and southeast Indiana, including Brown County, Ohio, Butler County, Ohio, Clermont County, Ohio, Clinton County, Ohio, Hamilton County, Ohio, Warren County, Ohio, Boone County, Kentucky, Bracken County, Kentucky, Campbell County, Kentucky, Gallatin County, Kentucky, Grant County, Kentucky, Kenton County, Kentucky, Mason County, Kentucky, Pendleton County, Kentucky, Dearborn County, Indiana, Franklin County, Indiana, and Ohio County, Indiana. The HOPWA Advisory Committee allocates funding based on statistical information on number of cases of HIV/AIDS by county and state to ensure that each geographic area is receiving funding commensurate with need.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City-wide	65
Local Target Area – Tier One Neighborhoods (excluding NRSA neighborhoods)	20
Strategy Areas – Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs)	15

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

For the CDBG program, the City of Cincinnati currently has seventeen active Neighborhood Reinvestment Strategy Areas (NRSA). These are residential portions of the following neighborhoods: Avondale; Bond Hill; Camp Washington; College Hill; East and West Price Hill;

Empowerment Zone; English Woods; Lincoln Court and Laurel Homes; Lower Price Hill; Madisonville; Mount Airy; North Fairmount; Roselawn; South Cumminsville / Millvale; South Fairmount; Walnut Hills; and Winton Hills. The Empowerment Zone area encompasses several neighborhoods, including portions of Avondale, Evanston, Corryville, Mt. Auburn, Over-the-Rhine, West End, CUF, Downtown Business District, and Queensgate.

The City of Cincinnati will be submitting for consideration by HUD expanding the NRSA areas to include eligible residential census tracts located within the following neighborhoods: Sedamsville, Riverside, Villages at Roll Hill, East End, Linwood, Spring Grove Village, and Saylor Park.

Of the 15% overall planned percentage of allocation targeted for investment in the NRSAs, the following table outlines the proposed allocation break-down by NRSA. Because there are projects that will have multiple NRSA recipients from different areas, these will be reported in the IDIS activity under Empowerment Zone or City-wide. A thorough break-down of recipients by NRSA will be tracked throughout the calendar year.

Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas

NRSA Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Avondale NRSA	20	NRSA approved 1/13/2006
Bond Hill NRSA	10	NRSA approved 11/1/2016
Camp Washington NRSA	1	NRSA approved 8/18/2016
College Hill NRSA	3	NRSA approved 8/31/2004
East and West Price Hill NRSA	5	NRSA approved 8/18/2016
Empowerment Zone	15	NRSA approved 3/1/1997
English Woods NRSA	1	NRSA approved 4/29/2016
Laurel Hills and Lincoln Court	1	NRSA approved 1/30/2002
Lower Price Hill NRSA	1	NRSA approved 5/1/2015
Madisonville NRSA	5	NRSA approved 1/17/2008
Mt. Airy NRSA	2	NRSA approved 8/18/2016
North Fairmount NRSA	1	NRSA approved 4/29/2016
Roselawn NRSA	5	NRSA approved 2/24/2017
South Cumminsville / Millvale NRSA	10	NRSA approved 5/1/2015
South Fairmount NRSA	5	NRSA approved 4/29/2016
Walnut Hills NRSA	10	NRSA approved 8/31/2004
Winton Hills NRSA	5	NRSA approved 2/24/2017

Table 11 - Geographic Distribution - NRSAs

The geographic priorities were determined based on the following initiatives and factors:

- Hamilton County Land Reutilization Corporation Focus Area
- Place Matters
- HUD Choice Grant
- Focus 52 Neighborhoods
- Community Development Corporations
- Community Learning Centers
- Core 4 Strategic Housing Neighborhoods
- Plan Cincinnati Neighborhood Centers

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

While there are focus neighborhoods and strategy areas, there are HUD programs not allocated to specific areas and serve the entire population of the City. This is due to program design and general need throughout most city neighborhoods.

Based on the neighborhood needs described in the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis sections of the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan, the City of Cincinnati has divided neighborhoods into three tiers. The top tier neighborhoods are those that are focus areas in many of the initiatives below and also have the highest level of needs. Top tier neighborhoods will receive highest consideration when funding decisions are made. Lower tier neighborhoods are eligible for funding, but will receive less priority. The Tier 1, 2, and 3 geographic priorities are listed by neighborhood:

Aggregate Geographic Priorities

<u>Tier 1</u> <u>Neighborhoods</u>	<u>Tier 2</u> <u>Neighborhoods</u>	<u>Tier 3</u> <u>Neighborhoods</u>
East Price Hill	Carthage	Camp Washington
Avondale	Corryville	Clifton
West Price Hill	East End	Villages at Roll Hill
Westwood	Hartwell	Hyde Park
Lower Price Hill	Kennedy Hts.	Mt. Lookout
Walnut Hills	Mt. Washington	North Avondale
College Hill	Sayler Park	Paddock Hills
Madisonville	South Fairmount	Roselawn
Bond Hill	CUF	California
Evanston	Northside	Downtown
Over-the-Rhine	Oakley	Columbia Tusculum

South		
Cumminsville/Millvale	Pleasant Ridge	English Woods
West End	Riverside	Linwood
	Sedamsville	Mt. Adams
	Winton Hills	Mt. Airy
		Mt. Auburn
		N. Fairmount
		Pendleton
		Spring Grove Village
		East Walnut Hills
		East Westwood
		Queensgate

The City has defined the local strategy area “Tier One Neighborhoods” which is comprised of thirteen neighborhoods based on a matrix of initiatives currently underway and/or recently completed and described in detail below. The Tier One Neighborhoods are: East Price Hill (an NRSA), Avondale (which is an NRSA and part of which is in the Empowerment Zone), West Price Hill (an NRSA), Westwood, Lower Price Hill (an NRSA), Walnut Hills (which is an NRSA and part of which is in the Empowerment Zone), College Hill (an NRSA), Madisonville (an NRSA), Bond Hill (an NRSA and part of which is in the Empowerment Zone), Evanston (part of which is in the Empowerment Zone), Over-the-Rhine (part of which is in the Empowerment Zone), Millvale/South Cumminsville (an NRSA), and the West End (part of which is in the Empowerment Zone).

Six of Tier One Neighborhoods are comprised of at least 80% African American residents: Avondale (91%), Bond Hill (94%), Millvale (94%), South Cumminsville (95%), Walnut Hills (81%), and West End (89%).

The City will focus services and programs in the NRSAs, the Empowerment Zone, and Tier One Neighborhoods, to make the greatest impact and to help the City align HUD dollars with existing investment while simultaneously addressing neighborhoods with the most severe needs.

The Strategic Housing Initiatives Program provides priority points for housing development applications received during the annual Housing Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the City of Cincinnati for a focused neighborhood project. Eight neighborhoods have been selected to align funds with ongoing neighborhood development plans and efforts from public and private partners. The eight neighborhoods are Evanston, Avondale, West Price Hill, Walnut Hills Northside, Madisonville, College Hill, and Westwood. All neighborhoods except one (Northside) are listed as Tier 1 Neighborhoods.

Discussion

The City is requesting that HUD approve the existing Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs) including the Empowerment Zone listed in Table 11. Eligible residential census tracts that will be included in forthcoming NRSA requests to HUD include the neighborhoods: East Westwood, Villages at Roll Hill, Spring Grove Village, Linwood, East End, Saylor Park, Sedamsville, and Riverside.

The Hand Up Initiative is a program that provides job readiness, job training, job transition, and supportive services, such as transportation assistance for eligible recipients. The City will be utilizing the public services cap exemption to implement this program by doing the following: targeting the program to low and moderate income residents in the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs) and Empowerment Zone (which qualifies as an NRSA) areas; and are directing the program with an Advisory Board made up of representatives from Community Based Development Organizations (CBDOs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), other community organizations, and City staff. Expanding the NRSAs has allowed this program to reach as many individuals as possible. The programs offered through the Hand Up Initiative are intended to address the multiple concerns and needs of job seekers and employers. By addressing these concerns and reaching as many individuals as possible, the Hand Up Initiative will eliminate barriers to attaining long-term employment and ultimately lead to economic self-sufficiency while reducing poverty in the City of Cincinnati. The annual goal for this program is training at least 500 individuals with a 70% job placement goal.

This is a new program as of 2015. Funded agencies include Freestore Food Bank (Cincinnati Cooks – food preparation), Cincinnati Works (job readiness), Urban League (SOAR program – job readiness and construction skills), Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) (Commercial Driver's License - CDL), IKRON (job readiness), Mercy Neighborhood Ministries (home health visits), and Easter Seals (addresses work barriers). Organizations were selected through an annual Request for Proposal process. Although the program participants are restricted by their area of residency and income, the organization may be teaching outside this area.

The Hand Up Initiative Steering Committee includes representatives from the following active community based housing and community development organizations and meets monthly to review the program and its progress: Evanston Community Council, Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, Partners for a Competitive Workforce, Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Greater Cincinnati, City Link, Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation, Working In Neighborhoods, and community individuals. City staff from the City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic

Development and the City of Cincinnati Mayor's Office attend the steering committee meetings also.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Number of homeless to be provided affordable housing units (Homelessness Prevention, Permanent Supportive Housing)	30
Number of non-homeless households to be provided affordable housing units (Down Payment Assistance, Strategic Housing Initiatives Program, CHDO Development Projects, Single Family Homeownership Development)	35
Number of special-needs households to be provided affordable housing units (HOPWA Programs)	200
Total	265

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Number of households supported for rental assistance (Tenant Based Rental Assistance, Code Enforcement Relocation, Tenant Representation, Housing Choice Mobility)	290
Number of households supported through the production of new units (Core 4 Strategic Housing, Single Family Homeownership Development)	10
Number of households supported through the rehabilitation of existing units (Housing Repair Services, Affordable Multi-Family Rental Program, CHDO Development, Core 4 Strategic Housing, Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly, Historic Stabilization of Structures)	1,150
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	1,450

Table 13 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The City has developed these goals in the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan based on actual outcomes from the 2010 – 2014 Consolidated Plan, the needs analysis, community surveys, and market analysis. The goals listed are conservative to account for any unforeseen issues with the programs. The City anticipates exceeding all goals listed.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) assists 11,639 families through administration of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. CMHA also owns and manages a portfolio of 5,309 public housing units with a total budget of approximately \$34.7 million, which includes both the operating and capital subsidies as well as rental income. There is a current wait list of over 1,000 families, the majority of which are <30% AMI, for Section 8 Vouchers and a wait list of over 6,000 families for public housing availability.

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

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) currently has approximately 2% of its vouchers invested in Project-Based Vouchers throughout Hamilton County. The goal over the next 5 years is to increase that number up to 10%. CMHA will use the conversion of Housing Choice Vouchers to Project-Based Vouchers to meet the housing needs of special-needs populations through financially supporting the collaboration of private and non-profit partnerships that result in specific and comprehensive housing and service provisions.

The additional Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) will provide avenues for partnership with the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to support the preservation of vital housing communities that are pivotal to the local jurisdictional area and/or the submarket of the community's locality. Further, this transition to PBV's could have a decidedly positive impact on the de-concentration of extremely low-income housing (incomes less than 30% of AMI) in Hamilton County. Such households comprise more than half of housing units in seven City of Cincinnati neighborhoods. The expansion of Project-Based Vouchers will continue to promote the expansion of quality affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families.

CMHA will continue to develop affordable units over the next several years, consistent with: CHMA's strategic goal of developing affordable housing units, cooperation agreements with Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati, CMHA's long term viability assessment of public housing units, and CMHA's strategic plan and the Voluntary Compliance Agreement between CMHA and HUD. In development of the units, CMHA will adhere to the following principles: assessment of quality and condition of units for replacement with new construction to meet housing needs; provision of marketable amenities and encouragement of neighborhood amenities; provision of choice and opportunity; leveraging of resources, tying into community planning and partnerships where possible; provision of comprehensive plan / solution for community / site revitalization which includes people, housing, and neighborhoods and partners

where possible; provision of housing opportunities and choice for income tiers of 0 – 120% AMI for seniors, families, and other populations; and creation of synergistic economic development and economic inclusion with and within communities.

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

The City's HOME-funded Down Payment Assistance Program is available to all income-qualified residents, including public housing residents, to encourage homeownership.

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

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority is not designated as a troubled PHA.

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

Introduction

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

Strategies to End Homelessness (STEh) is a local non-profit organization that partners with the City of Cincinnati and leads the coordinated community effort to end homelessness in Greater Cincinnati. STEh implemented a Coordinated Entry system in 2016 that prioritizes homeless clients for housing. All homeless people on the streets and in shelter will be assessed to determine which type of housing is most appropriate. Client referrals to Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing, and Transitional Housing will be made based on the assessment. This system will also enable the community to see where the housing gaps are and enable STEh and partners to better serve the homeless population. Coordinated entry, matched with the shelter and housing options available, will move the city towards ending homelessness in Cincinnati.

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

The Homeless Outreach Group is a group of street outreach providers who meet monthly to discuss best practices and progress in engaging unsheltered homeless people in services. Representatives from all street outreach programs, other programs that serve unsheltered homeless people, the Cincinnati Police, and the Hamilton County Sheriff's departments attend. Currently there are four agencies administering five programs, providing outreach services to those who are living on the street:

- Lighthouse Youth Services – targets homeless youth
- Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health's Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Team – targets the homeless suffering from mental illness
- Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health's PATHs to Recovery Team – targets homeless chronic public inebriates
- Block-by-Block – works specifically with the homeless living in downtown Cincinnati
- Cincinnati Union Bethel's Off the Streets Program – targets women engaged in prostitution.

In addition to the coordinated entry system as described above, the Continuum of Care (CoC), STEh, started two new Permanent Supportive Housing projects in 2015 and applied for additional Permanent Housing units in the FY2015 CoC application. All Permanent Housing projects follow a "Housing First" model which means there are very few barriers that would exclude someone

from being entered into a program as well as a high threshold of intervention prior to terminating a client from a program. The housing first model allows clients to address issues that may have led to homelessness while they are stably housed instead of trying to correct all the barriers before entering housing.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

All the following actions are being taken to improve services to people currently on the streets and in shelters, particularly the chronically homeless and homeless families.

1. Homeless To Homes Shelter Collaborative (HTHSC): The 2008 Homeless to Homes Plan called for a reconfiguration of shelter beds for homeless individuals in our emergency shelter system. The HTHSC is a group of four shelter providers who collaborated to raise capital funds to build five new facilities and operating funds to provide improved case management and day services. Lighthouse opened the Sheakley Center for Youth to provide 28 beds of emergency shelter to homeless youth ages 18 – 24. Talbert House opened the Parkway Center with 60 beds to serve homeless men with substance abuse barriers. City Gospel Mission increased their capacity to 74 beds in their new building to serve homeless men in a faith based facility. And Shelterhouse (formerly known as the Drop Inn Center) separated their one homeless facility into two facilities, separating the men and women. The final shelter opening happened in October of 2015 and all the programs provide a vast array of services specific to the homeless population that they serve. The new shelter configuration, paired with Coordinated Entry, should enable the community to see a decline in the length of time clients are residing in emergency shelters.
2. Indigent Care Levy: STEH, on behalf of the HTHSC, submitted a Request For Proposals (RFP) in 2015 to receive an increase in funding for Homeless Medical Healthcare Services via the Hamilton County Indigent Care Levy. Operating funds were awarded to the HTHSC for 2015 – 2017. Levy funding is used to cover costs associated with increase case management and day services, which include substantial changes to the medical services provided in emergency shelters. All of the facilities receiving this funding provide a wide range of medical services including a community health clinic, a full time registered nurse on staff, and a medical kiosk where clients can virtually talk with doctors.
3. Family Homelessness Study: The Solutions for Family Homelessness Plan for Cincinnati and Hamilton County was published in October of 2015. Strategies to End Homelessness (STEh), the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Family Housing Partnership (Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, The Salvation Army, and the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati), led the development of the Plan to identify how the

community can proactively address the needs of families experiencing homelessness. The recommendations in the plan are focused in four key areas: Prevention, Capacity Building, Policy Change, and Housing. The implementation schedule is currently being developed.

4. Winter Shelter: For the last four years, local organizations have partnered to add seasonal winter shelter beds to the local emergency shelter system to ensure that anyone who is homeless and on the streets, has access to a safe, warm place to sleep during the coldest months of the year – normally mid-December through February. Prior to 2011, seasonal shelter was provided to homeless people only on nights when the temperature dipped below 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Since 2011, winter shelter capacity has been reliable and adequate, making improvements to assist people out of homelessness, not just warehouse them in homelessness. Previously, the additional shelter capacity was located at a church. For this season and moving forward, the winter shelter is now located in the basement of Shelterhouse's Barron Center for Men. This space was specifically designed to serve this seasonal capacity and can sleep up to 200 people. The winter shelter has a separate entrance from the main emergency shelter but because of the close proximity, as well as the fact that the winter shelter is staffed with trained Shelterhouse staff, winter shelter clients have easy access to receive case management services.
5. Cross-systems Collaboration: In order to reduce and then end homelessness locally, it is necessary to continue to strengthen collaborations between the homeless services system and systems working with mental health, development disabilities, immigrants and undocumented persons, persons with limited English proficiency, persons exiting the justice system, substance abuse treatment, foster care, and LGBTQ households, as self-identified.

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

1. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a nationally recognized best practice for quickly ending episodes of homelessness in a cost efficient and effective way. RRH has become a high priority in the community: 15 RRH programs funded by the Continuum of Care, State of Ohio Housing Crisis Response Program (HCRP), and ESG, support RRH for families and individuals. Talbert House and Goodwill Industries are receiving Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) funding to implement programs that rapidly transition veterans and their families experiencing homelessness back into permanent housing.

2. Permanent Supportive Housing: PSH is a nationally recognized best-practice for meeting the needs of disabled homeless people. With 84% of the local homeless population having at least one disabling condition the continued expansion of PSH options will continue to be necessary. The CoC has defined PSH prioritization in alignment with Section III.A HUD's notice CPD 14-012 for prioritizing the Chronically Homelessness. The CoC continues to add PSH housing stock to the community with two new PSH projects opening in December 2015, as well as including four new PSH projects in the FY15 CoC application.
3. Coordination of Housing Resources: The following are all high-priority strategies geared toward making better, more strategic use of housing resources: 1) Coordinated Assessment: In 2016, the CoC began implementation of a Coordinated Entry system that ensures that homeless individuals and families are referred to the housing program that best meets their needs and can quickly become stably housed. Housing the chronically homeless remains a high priority in the community. 2) Affordable housing: Available resources and funding are used to incentivize the development and preservation of high-quality, accessible, low-income housing and ensuring individuals do not return to homelessness. For the first time in our community, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Association (CMHA) has set-aside a preference for homeless individuals and families in the Housing Choice Voucher program. Strategies To End Homelessness and the CoC Permanent Supportive Housing workgroup are leading the process to ensure that appropriate referrals are made to CMHA. The top priority for CMHA referrals are clients who are currently in a CoC funded Permanent Supportive Housing program who need a long-term housing subsidy but are stabilized in services.

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.

Prior to 2009, homelessness prevention resources were largely absent in the community due to a lack of availability of funding for such activities. However, under the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA), stimulus funding was made available for homelessness prevention. While such stimulus funding expired in 2012, the following activities are ongoing:

1. Shelter Diversion: ESG and United Way funding are being used to divert households at imminent risk of entering a shelter back into housing and services. The Shelter Diversion

program is being run in partnership between the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Strategies to End Homelessness, and 7 of its partner agencies. Risk factors considered for inclusion in this program include a prior history of homelessness, if a household has already lost its own housing and is relying on others for a place to stay (doubled-up), and immediacy of need for shelter placement.

2. Supportive Services for Homeless Veterans and their Families (SSVF): Talbert House and Goodwill Industries have been awarded SSVF funding to implement programming which prevents homelessness for veterans and their families.
3. Youth Aging out of Foster Care: A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funded effort is currently underway, led by Lighthouse Youth Services, targeted toward preventing homelessness among youth who have been in the Foster Care system. This effort will support enhanced identification, data collection and services to youth formerly in the foster care system. One-third of youth aging out of foster care experience homelessness. National studies have also shown that between 21-53% of homeless youth have a history of placement in foster care. A recent HMIS revision includes gathering data about past and current foster care placements as risk factors to homelessness and reconnecting to prior custodial agencies, such as, Hamilton County Job and Family Services, Foster Care Agency, or Independent Living Program, for possible aftercare intervention. The initial planning phase of the grant is over and Lighthouse has moved into the implementation around creating a system of care that bests serves these at-risk youths. Data sharing agreements have been secured with main partners and new evidenced based programming is in the middle of planning and the startup phase. Additionally, there was significant involvement in advocacy around the Foster Care to 21 Initiative. As of June 2016, Ohio has extended foster care to extend to the age of 21. In 2016, CMHA reserved 30 housing choice vouchers specifically for youth 18 – 24 who have been emancipated from the foster care system.
4. LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative: Cincinnati/Hamilton County is one of only two communities in the country selected to participate in a national technical assistance initiative which will plan and implement strategies for preventing LGBTQ youth from becoming homeless. This initiative is being led locally by Lighthouse Youth Services and Strategies to End Homelessness, and being conducted in cooperation with HUD, HHS, Department of Justice, Department of Education, and United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

AP-70 HOPWA Goals – 91.220 (I)(3)

One-year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	80
Tenant-based rental assistance	30
Units provided in housing facilities (transitional or permanent) that are being developed, leased, or operated	20
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	130

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

Introduction

The City of Cincinnati partnered with Hamilton County and Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.), our local fair housing agency, to prepare the 2015 – 2019 Analysis to Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing. H.O.M.E. facilitated nine focus groups to gather information on fair housing impediments from different perspectives. A total of 74 individuals participated in the following group discussions:

- Hispanic immigrants and agencies serving them (conducted in Spanish)
- Hamilton County employees (including the Director of the Regional Planning Commission, Director of Community Development, and the Director of the Department of Health)
- City of Cincinnati employees (including the Director of Community and Economic Development and Buildings and Inspections Division Manager of Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement)
- Affordable Housing Advocates (a coalition of housing nonprofits and civic groups)
- Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority management staff (including the Executive Director)
- Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (including the Executive Director)
- Representatives of various agencies serving people with mental and physical disabilities
- Rental property managers, owners and developers (including large companies and small investors)
- Realtors (including the presidents of two large real estate companies and minority agents)

In addition to these small group facilitated discussions, H.O.M.E. conducted individual interviews with people with Housing Choice Vouchers who had moved within the last couple of years. Based on comments made in several of the focus groups, H.O.M.E. also conducted an individual interview with the Executive Director of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation Authority, which operates the public transportation system in the county.

H.O.M.E. also collected data on fair housing complaints and cases in the county. The analysis reviewed recent fair housing activities including actions taken in response to the recommendations of the 2009 Analysis of Impediments. Based on all the collected data and information, current impediments were identified and recommendations developed on actions needed to address the impediments.

All Consolidated Plan programs follow HUD's requirements for affirmative marketing and accessibility requirements. For HOME Investment Partnerships programs, developers and real estate agencies reach out to the broad community to rent and sell HOME funded housing units.

The City requires an accounting of sales and outreach including details on open houses held; Multiple Listing Service (MLS) listings published; electronic outreach completed (Facebook, Twitter, emails, etc.); and formal advertising online or in the newspaper. Additionally, H.O.M.E. specifically advertises in media outlets which reach minority audiences.

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

The AI was completed in 2014 and seven recommendations were made to respond to the issues of 1) Lack of public transportation in opportunity areas, 2) Zoning and building code barriers, 3) Affordable housing is concentrated in racially segregated areas, 4) Barriers to mobility of families with vouchers, 5) Barriers for immigrant populations, 6) Barriers to African American Homeownership, and 7) Barriers to housing choice for people with disabilities. The City and County have established a working group made up of staff from the Department of City Planning, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Hamilton County Department of Community Development, to address the report and its recommendations. A Fair Housing Committee was formed to address progress towards addressing the identified barriers.

Discussion

Over the course of the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan, the City, County, CMHA and H.O.M.E. will continue to meet periodically to address these impediments with concrete strategies and actions. Additional agencies, such as Center for Independent Living Options and the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), will be included as appropriate.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

The continued obstacle for the City of Cincinnati to appropriately address the underserved needs continues to be a lack of sufficient funding.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The need for housing, community development, and quality of life services to assist low- and moderate-income individuals, families, and neighborhoods, is tremendous. The greatest obstacle to meeting underserved needs is funding. While the City has programs to address the full range of underserved needs, the amount of funding available for those programs is insufficient to produce outcomes that ensure the basic statutory goals of providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities are met for all Cincinnati residents and businesses, especially those with the most need.

The lack of permanent supportive housing and funding to provide adequate services to move persons out of homelessness remain obstacles to meeting the needs of the underserved. Permanent supportive housing projects were a priority for funding projects in CY 2016 and CY 2017 and will be again for CY 2018.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City plans to accomplish affordable housing goals and objectives through the housing projects Strategic Housing Initiatives Program, Single Family Homeownership Development, Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly, and the Housing Repair Services Program. These programs are the primary way the City strives to foster and maintain decent affordable housing during the next year. Funds from closed HOME funded projects have been transferred to Strategic Housing Improvement Program, a program from the prior Consolidated Plan, to address additional affordable units.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Cincinnati administers a lead-based paint abatement grant program from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes –administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development in partnership with the Cincinnati Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CHD CLPPP). Since 2007, HUD has awarded the City \$19.4 million to address lead based paint hazards in more than 1,200 qualified units, including single and multifamily buildings, with a focus on lead poisoning prevention in children under the age of six. The grants average approximately \$9,000 per home, which is comparable to the average cost laid

out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Replacing windows is often the most expensive part of these renovations. The remainder of the grant covers administrative and educational costs, and the costs of training contractors for licensed lead clean-up efforts.

CDBG funding allocated to CHD CLPPP provides code enforcement for the issuing of orders on properties with lead hazards that are the primary or supplemental residences of children that tested with elevated blood lead levels. CHD CLPPP also provides nurse visits to families of lead poisoned children as well as case management. Primary prevention practices include community education and outreach services throughout the City, a vacuum cleaner loaner program, cleaning kits distributed to the homes, a Citizen Complaint Program, and free paint chip testing. The Greater Cincinnati Water Works will test the water at no cost for any property in the City.

The City's policies and procedures outline that all City funded pre-1978 housing rehabilitation projects include a lead-based paint analysis, pre-testing and post-testing, and remediation as necessary by appropriately trained workers.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Cincinnati has one of the highest childhood poverty rates in the United States with 50% of children under 18 living below the poverty level. Cincinnati City Council has adopted the following goals toward reducing the poverty rate of City families:

- Meeting basic needs and stabilizing living situations, including increasing access to affordable housing and to income supports
- Increasing earned income to livable wage levels
- Increasing and protecting asset accumulation and resident net worth
- Decreasing social isolation and increasing social capital.

In addition to the Consolidated Plan programs, City policies and programs directed towards this strategy include:

- The City consistently uses 15% of CDBG funds for public services including job training programs and emergency mortgage assistance.
- The City provides \$3 million in General funds annually for human services funding, which is administered by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. Funding is currently provided in three key areas: Promoting Self Sufficiency (which represents 40% of the funding), Emergency Social Needs (31% of funding), and Reducing Violence (29% of funding).

- Cincinnati Health Department services and programs are offered throughout the City for all residents and include very low co-payments.
- The City has a Living Wage Ordinance that requires all businesses contracting with the City to pay their employees a living wage.
- The City committed additional General Fund resources to the following programs that work to reduce poverty in the City:
 - \$250,000 annually for four years for BLOC ministries to implement a job creation and training program targeting Lower Price Hill residents.
 - \$250,000 for Cincinnati Works to build capacity to provide job readiness training.
 - \$500,000 for the Center for Closing the Health Gap for administering a program that provides health prevention information to low-income and minority groups. The group is noted for its annual health fair.

The City also relies on partnerships with nonprofit and other government agencies to provide services to families living in poverty. These include Cincinnati Public Schools, Hamilton County, and the State of Ohio.

One nonprofit that is working to reduce the City's poverty rates is a partnership of 21 churches and many nonprofit organizations called CityLink. The CityLink Center opened in late 2012 in the West End neighborhood of Cincinnati. The Center is easily accessible by bus routes and highway, and is in close proximity to the lowest income neighborhoods in Cincinnati, which are:

- Villages at Roll Hill
- Winton Hills
- Over-the-Rhine
- West End
- South Cumminsville/Millvale
- North Fairmont-English Woods
- Lower Price Hill
- Avondale
- Camp Washington

CityLink programs and services are designed to help the working poor, not at-risk individuals. CityLink exists to remove these barriers and help clients achieve self-sufficiency by leveraging the strengths of various social service agencies and co-locating with them in one place. CityLink currently has 1,000 active clients working to improve their lives and has provided services to 2,500 people since opening. They rely on 1,000 volunteers who serve in 28 distinct roles, such as auto repair, childcare, gardener and outreach coordinator.

The City's Consolidated Plan and related programs that reduce poverty are outlined below:

- Hand Up Initiative: Starting in 2015, the City has provided approximately \$1.3 million annually in CDBG funds to the Hand Up Initiative to combat poverty and joblessness in Cincinnati. The plan focuses on helping the long-term under and unemployed become self-sufficient through the attainment of permanent, full-time employment.
- The Small Business Technical Assistance and Small Business Loan Programs: City economic development staff work with the Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative to provide loans and technical assistance for low to moderate income entrepreneurs who want to move into business ownership. The program offers ongoing support to help them sustain their businesses. The program has also initiated a nominal grant program for small start-ups in temporary storefronts to assist with startup expenses.
- The Down Payment Assistance Initiative Program: The City offers down payment assistance to low-and moderate-income first-time homebuyers throughout the City; this program requires pre-counseling for homebuyers currently available through two HUD certified nonprofit providers.
- The Strategic Housing Initiatives Program: This program provides gap financing for housing development projects, including projects receiving Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and permanent supportive housing, to maximize resources for rehabilitation and new construction of affordable rental housing.
- Section 3 Program Compliance: The City complies with HUD's Section 3 program to increase employment opportunities for low-and very low-income residents.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Several organizations are involved in the development of the Annual Action Plan. In addition, the majority of Consolidated Plan programs are implemented by private organizations which use City funding (including the General Fund) to supplement programs that support Consolidated Plan objectives.

The City partners with a Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) which evaluates program requests and make recommendations in coordinating City programs with service providers. The CDAB is a volunteer citizen group appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The following is the composition of the CDAB according to Cincinnati Municipal

Code: community council members (3), lending institutions (1), small business advocate (1), human services (1), trades / labor representation (1), low income advocate (1), housing authority (1), real estate community (1), developer (1), corporate community (1), Community Development Corporation representative (1), and City of Cincinnati employees (4). The CDAB's role is to advise the City Manager on the Consolidated Plan Budget and other matters related to the administration of the City's Consolidated Plan.

Audits conducted by the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the City's HOME Program in 2007 and 2008 led the City to review its practices and procedures. The City formalized all processes and procedures and provides direction for basic processes in the administration of the Consolidated Plan programs for the following departments: Office of Budget and Evaluation, Finance Department, City Planning, Office of Economic Inclusion, Law Department, and Community and Economic Development.

HUD has expanded the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) for development of the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan, and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report processes. The City will continue to utilize these functions and will ensure the policies are coordinated within the City-wide processes and procedures. The City also formed an Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) monthly working group that focuses on the tracking activities, drawing of funds, and management of the system. The City will continue its efforts to increase overall training of staff, execute consistent and accurate written agreements, and have frequent and regular meetings on improving performance.

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

The City coordinates with public and private housing agencies and social service agencies through the citizen participation process, the Fair Housing Committee, and Continuum of Care (CoC), and the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB). Additionally, beneficiaries of the City's housing assistance are referred to the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) to investigate the availability of Section 8 Housing Vouchers. Fair marketing is conducted with assistance of the local fair housing agency, Housing Opportunities Made Equal.

The City partnered with Hamilton County Department of Community Development to update the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) study for the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan. A committee representing Hamilton County Community Development, City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic Development, City of Cincinnati Department of City Planning, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Housing Opportunities Made Equal, and the Center for Independent Living Options (CILO) will meet periodically to continue

work on the solutions to the findings.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is organized on a year-round basis to include a number of working groups whose role is to coordinate services and housing for their specific group of clients, improve access to mainstream resources and benefits, and facilitate improvements in systems needed by the homeless. Each of the working groups meets monthly. The working groups include the following: Family Homelessness Group, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Advisory Committee, Homeless Outreach Group, Permanent Supportive Housing Group, Transitional Housing Group, Rapid Rehousing Group, and Homeless Veteran's Group. A representative of each work group, along with representatives from the following entities are seated on the CoC Board: homeless education liaison, Healthcare for the Homeless, Veteran's Services, homeless coalition, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Victim Services Provider, ESG subrecipients, agency executive directors, City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, UFA/HMIS Lead agency, and at least one homeless or formerly homeless community member. The CoC Board meets monthly to oversee planning, coordinate efforts, and monitor progress on the goals of the consolidated plan.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction

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
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HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

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

The City of Cincinnati plans to continue to operate its HOME Investment Partnerships Program similar to previous years. As such, there are no other forms of investment planned as part of the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan other than those described in CFR § 92.205(b).

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

Throughout the 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan, the City will continue to assist homebuyers through HOME funded programs such as the Strategic Housing Initiatives Program, Single Family

Homeownership Development, Down Payment Assistance Initiative, CHDO Development Projects, and other specific projects/programs as opportunities present themselves. Resale or recapture provisions are stated in each contract and enforced through deed restrictions, homebuyer agreements, mortgages, and promissory notes. The City utilizes the recapture provision for all assistance to homebuyers. Included below is the recapture language used in contracts for the City's Homebuyer Assistance HOME programs, i.e., Strategic Housing Initiatives Program, Single Family Homeownership Development, CHDO Development Projects, and the Down Payment Initiative Program:

The loan shall be made subject to the following terms:

*Borrower acknowledges that the purpose of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan is to assist Borrower in purchasing a home that will be owned and occupied by Borrower as Borrower's principal place of residence for a period of no less than five (5) years following the date hereof (the "**Affordability Period**"). If Borrower consists of more than one person, the condition of residency shall be met only if both or all of such persons own and continuously occupy the Property throughout the Affordability Period.*

- (a) For each consecutive 12-month period following the date hereof that Borrower owns and occupies the Property as Borrower's principal place of residence, twenty percent (20%) of the original amount of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan shall be forgiven at the end of each such 12-month period.*
- (b) If Borrower ceases to own and continuously occupy the Property as Borrower's principal place of residence during the Affordability Period, then, on the date on which Borrower ceases to own and occupy the Property as Borrower's principal place of residence (a "**Recapture Event**"), Borrower shall immediately notify the City thereof in writing and shall pay the portion of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan that has not previously been forgiven, without interest, to the City. (For example, if Borrower owns and occupies the Property for 4 consecutive years, 80% of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan will be forgiven, and Borrower shall pay the City an amount equal to 20% of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan.) If Borrower sells or otherwise transfers title to the Property to a third party during the Affordability Period, the portion of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan not previously forgiven shall be due and payable on the date of closing of such sale or transfer. There shall be no proration of amounts forgiven for periods of less than 12 months. The repayment amount, if not paid in full at the time of the Recapture Event, shall bear interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum until fully paid. The City shall release the mortgage upon receipt of the entire repayment amount.*

(c) If Borrower continuously owns and occupies the Property as Borrower's principal place of residence throughout the Affordability Period, the entire amount of the Homebuyer Assistance Loan shall be forgiven upon the expiration of the Affordability Period. If there is no Recapture Event, Borrower shall, upon the expiration of the Affordability Period, send a written notice to the City requesting the City to release the mortgage. During the Affordability Period, the City shall have the right to conduct periodic inspections of the Property to determine whether or not a Recapture Event has occurred.

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

The City utilizes the resale provision for all HOME funded rental development program, Strategic Housing Initiatives Program. Developers and property owners who receive HOME funds for rental development are required to keep the assisted units available for occupancy by tenants meeting HOME income guidelines throughout the applicable affordability period. The Resale Restriction is enforced using a Restrictive Covenant which runs with the land and does not expire upon sale of the property. In addition to the Restrictive Covenant, the City requires all lien holders (including State or Federal agencies), to sign a Mortgagee Consent to the City's Restrictive Covenant. The Mortgagee Consent document is recorded along with the Restrictive Covenant and the purpose is for each lien holder to acknowledge the affordability restrictions outlined in the City's Restrictive Covenant and to grant this priority over their mortgage. This preserves the project's HOME affordability requirement in case of an adverse property transfer. The City added the Mortgagee Consent in June 2012 to strengthen the City's protection of the HOME affordability period. Subsequent purchasers of the property must fulfill the remaining time of the affordability period. A mortgage is also recorded on the parcel to ensure the HOME funds are protected. Special circumstances regarding enforcement of the Restrictive Covenant may exist in the event of a foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure.

The loan shall be made subject to the following terms:

Throughout the Affordability Period, Owner shall rent all HOME-assisted dwelling units at the Property to households with a household income (as defined in 24 CFR 5.609) that is below the applicable household income established from time to time by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("Tenant Income Guidelines"). Under the current Tenant Income Guidelines, (i) each HIGH HOME-assisted dwelling unit must be rented to a household with a household income below sixty percent (60%) of the median area household income for comparably sized households and (ii) each LOW HOME-assisted dwelling must be rented to a household with a household income below fifty percent (50%) of the median area household

income for comparably sized households. Owner shall determine the household income as of the time that the household initially occupies the Property, and Owner shall verify such income, using third party source documentation supplied by the applicant, at least once every six years during the Affordability Period. Additionally, Owner shall re-certify the household income at the time of lease renewal or changes in income as provided in the Federal Regulations. On an annual basis, Owner shall verify its continued compliance with the affordability terms of the Restrictive Covenant by certifying Project rents and verifying tenant eligibility by submitting to the City a Tenant Income and Rent Guidelines Worksheet and an Income Certification Form for all households occupying HOME-assisted units. The Income Certification Form must be signed by and certified by each tenant and indicate that the information is complete and accurate. In the event that a tenant's household income exceeds HUD's Low or High-income limits during a tenancy, the tenant who becomes over income after initial income certification will be allowed to stay in the unit. However, tenants who no longer qualify as low-income families and whose household income is in excess of eighty percent (80%) of Area Median Income (AMI) must pay as rent the lesser of the amount payable by the tenant under State or local law or thirty percent (30%) of the family's adjusted income, except that tenants of HOME-assisted units that have been allocated low-income housing tax credits must pay rent governed by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 42). If a household's current annual income exceeds the eligibility limit, the unit continues to qualify as a HOME and/or housing tax credit unit as long as Owner fills the next available unit with an eligible household. The next available unit would be one of similar or larger size than the one occupied by the over-income tenant. Owner shall complete a Rental Rehabilitation Program Occupancy Affidavit annually throughout the Affordability Period. Throughout the Affordability Period, Owner shall comply with, and shall cause each tenant to comply with, all other HUD verification and compliance reporting requirements. Information concerning the Tenant Income Guidelines is available from the City's Department of Community and Economic Development.

MORTGAGEE CONSENT TO RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

<<MORTGAGEE NAME>>, with an address of <<MORTGAGEE'S ADDRESS>> ("Mortgagee") for valuable consideration paid, hereby consents to the foregoing Restrictive Covenant ("Covenant") and waives and subordinates the priority of that certain Mortgage from <<MORTGAGOR>>, <<ENTITY STATUS>>, dated <<DATE MORTGAGE EXECUTED>>, and recorded <<DATE MORTGAGE RECORDED>> in Official Record _____, Page _____, Hamilton County, Ohio Records (the "Mortgage"), which is a lien upon the subject property, in favor of the Covenant, in the same manner and with the same effect as though the Covenant had been executed and recorded prior to the filing for record of the Mortgage, but without otherwise affecting the lien or priority of the Mortgage.

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

The City does not intend to use HOME funding to refinance existing debt during 2015 through 2019.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 91.220(l)(4)**

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

In order for emergency shelters to receive Emergency Solutions Grant funds, the shelter must be in compliance with the federal regulations outlined in 24 CFR 91 and 576. The City has mandated that participating shelters be monitored and in compliance with the Emergency Shelter Program, Operations, and Facility Accreditation Standards. Staff at Strategies to End Homelessness (STEh), the non-profit organization that administers the ESG program, monitors all emergency shelter agencies annually for compliance. A copy of the Shelter Standards and Shelter Diversion Manual are included as attachments.

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

Cincinnati and Hamilton County utilize the Central Access Point (CAP). CAP currently screens and schedules intakes for the four family shelters, a shelter for 18 – 24-year-old individuals, a single men's shelter, a single women's shelter, and a transitional housing program for single men with substance abuse issues. CAP also refers to a Shelter Diversion program, which provides case management to help individuals avoid entering shelter. Any individual who calls CAP is screened in the same manner to determine which program best suits the caller's needs. The caller is referred to the appropriate program and contacts the agency directly to complete their intake.

The Cincinnati and Hamilton County Continuum of Care has developed a Coordinated Entry System that has been running since January of 2016. Clients who are homeless as defined by HUD are assessed using the VI-SPDAT (Voluntary Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) survey and are placed on a community wide prioritization list maintained by Strategies to End Homelessness. Housing programs report to STEh when they have openings and the highest priority household on the prioritization list is matched with each opening, per the agency's eligibility criteria. The Coordinated Entry process ensures a consistent, low barrier to entry system for all homeless clients in our continuum, regardless of where they enter the system.

Cincinnati's Coordinated Entry system includes housing placement for families, individuals, youth, chronically homeless households, victims of domestic violence, and will soon include placements into veteran's programs (Supportive Services for Veteran Families and HUD VA Supportive Housing).

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

When the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Interim Rule took effect in 2012, the City of Cincinnati along with Hamilton County, the Continuum of Care Board, and Strategies to End Homelessness, decided that ESG funds would be used for emergency shelter expenses at a flat level (\$450,000) and the remainder of the funds would be used for a homelessness prevention program. The breakdown of funding is revisited annually to ensure that funds are being used in alignment with the needs of the community. For 2016 through 2018, this flat level is \$550,000.

The ESG shelter allocation process is an inclusive process of the ESG provider network. Strategies to End Homelessness prepares the annual Emergency Solutions Grant application for shelter funding, which is then sent via email to the prior year's providers and posted on the Strategies to End Homelessness website for any other applicants interested in applying. Agencies with interest in applying must be active in the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), VESTA® (Virtual Electronic Service Tracking Assistant) and have the prior year's data available before the allocation process begins. Providers then gather to review the needs within the community and to allocate funds through a process called Prince of Peace. The allocation is based on the previous year's outcomes and the needs determined by a discussion of those in attendance at Prince of Peace.

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

The requirement of 24 CFR 576.406(a) has been met. The City's Continuum of Care has a HUD-designated primary decision-making group and oversight board referred to as the Homeless Clearinghouse. This group is mandated to have at least one homeless/formerly homeless person as an active member. As the oversight board of the CoC, the Clearinghouse's responsibilities are:

1. Ensure that the CoC is meeting all of the responsibilities assigned to it by HUD regulations;
2. Represent the relevant organizations and projects serving homeless subpopulations;

3. Support homeless persons in their movement from homelessness to economic stability and affordable permanent housing within a supportive community;
4. To be inclusive of all the needs of all of Cincinnati's and Hamilton County's homeless population, including the special service and housing needs of homeless sub-populations;
5. Facilitate responses to issues and concerns that affect the agencies funded by the CoC that are beyond those addressed in the annual CoC application process.

Additionally, STEH monitors all ESG subrecipients annually and subrecipients are required to have a homeless or formerly homeless individual on their agency board.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Performance measures are included in the Prince of Peace allocation process for Emergency Solutions Grant shelter funding. Strategies to End Homelessness utilize data collected in VESTA® to determine a starting point allocation for each eligible provider. The starting point allocation divides the funding between shelters based on their number of bed nights and their previous year's outcomes related specifically to positive housing results, length of stay in shelter, and rate of returns to homelessness. Outcomes are compared to the community average for each measure and an agency's allocation increases or decreases based on how their individual outcomes compare to the community averages.