



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Thomas C. Henry, Mayor

City of Fort Wayne
Community Development
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Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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DRAFT

2023 Annual Action Plan

2023 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

April 19, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Allen County Public Library, Conference Room C

900 Library Plaza

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Or attend virtually via zoom:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87231482771?pwd=MzMyRlFTMUw1OUhMZWZlOTJLQ0dpQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 3148 2771 | Passcode: t3jn3L

Please note: this draft will undergo revisions and refinements over the 15 day comment period.

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Fort Wayne (City) is pleased to present this 2023 Annual Action Plan for the use of entitlement funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Included in this Annual Action Plan are programs and projects funded with the following HUD programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement funds. The City's 2023 program performance year will consist of twelve months. The City of Fort Wayne is presenting this 2023 Annual Action Plan covering a program performance period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The City of Fort Wayne's HUD-funded programs are administered by the City's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services (OHNS).

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

In alignment with the City of Fort Wayne's five-year Consolidated Plan (2021-2025) goals, the 2023 Annual Action Plan identifies the City's main focus areas, which include: preserving homeownership, increasing the viability of existing housing stock, and increase and preserve affordable housing for renters and for homeowners. Through strategic partnerships and a commitment to public participation and input in the setting of priorities and identification of gaps in our community, the City intends to achieve stronger results in both strengthening neighborhoods and in supporting individuals and families moving toward self-sufficiency.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Goal #1 Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing

The city focused a lot of attention and resources to increase and preserve affordable housing in our community. In the 2022 Program Year OHNS operated two direct housing repair programs. The first of these programs focused on providing accessibility modifications for homeowners with permanent disabilities that would allow them to more easily remain in their homes. This program operated with funding from the City's CDBG Entitlement allocation. This program was able to assist 12 homeowners with grants up to \$15,000 for accessibility improvements.

The next CDBG-funded direct housing program offered by OHNS focuses on replacing roofs in homeowner occupied single-family residences. During the 2022 Program Year a total of 13 homeowners were assisted with the removal and replacement of their aging and often failing roof system.

The City is anticipating opening the CDBG-funded HVAC replacement program in May of 2023.

In addition to programs to assist homeowners and landlords with single-family dwellings, the City also focused resources on assisting in the creation of new affordable homeownership opportunities. The City has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to construct new single-family homes on vacant lots in the Renaissance Pointe Neighborhood. The City transferred 40 vacant lots to Habitat for Humanity with the goal of developing 32 new single-family homes for homeownership.

Goal #2 Strengthening People and Families

By granting CDBG resources to local nonprofits, OHNS anticipates assisting over 18,500 individuals in our community. Programming focused on increasing self-sufficiency for residents include job training, youth programming, transportation, and domestic violence support. Emergency Solutions Grant funds were used to assist the community's most vulnerable residents through Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelter and Homelessness Prevention activities. Housing issues are a common problem for people struggling to rise above the cycle of poverty.

Goal #3: Enriching Neighborhoods

In partnership with Purdue Extension – Allen County, the Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services harvested and distributed more than 2,400 pounds of fruits and vegetables grown on-site at the Johnnie Mae Urban Farm. Throughout the season, the farm hosted YMCA youth summer camp programming, three series of adult cooking classes, eight sessions of 4-H gardening club for youth, monthly adult nutrition and cooking classes taught in Spanish, a four-part cooking and nutrition series for seniors and more.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The Citizen Participation Process implemented by the City of Fort Wayne is a collaborative development that involves interviews with stakeholders, focus groups with underserved populations, public input, and consultation with experts that assist in the determination of community priorities for the City. In an effort to ensure that our 2023 programs meet the needs of our community, the Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services distributed an electronic survey to community partners and non-profit agencies. Through these surveys, the City was able to gather input from ## citizens in our community (*number will be updated at the end of the public comment period*). The City of Fort Wayne has continued to be consistently involved in community discussions regarding the effects of the pandemic on our most

vulnerable populations, and has worked diligently to best address the barriers and challenges presented by our community partners.

Additional expert consultation meetings will be held with several non-profit agencies throughout the year to further foster stronger partnerships with community advocates. The information received from A Mother's Hope, St. Joseph Missions, Just Neighbors, the newly established Neighborhood Activation and Planning Group and the Fort Wayne Housing Authority was particularly instrumental in determining the City's focus on the case management capacity of our partner agencies to better serve families and individuals in crisis. The Community Input Survey emphasized the need to implement further homeowner repair programs to ensure that families are able to retain and maintain quality and decent housing options. The consultation with the City of Fort Wayne's Neighborhood Activation Group highlighted the need to focus on serving citizens on the neighborhood level to further garner neighborhood identity, pride of place, and neighborhood safety and stability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to create several barriers to our normal citizen participation process. To ensure that the City received key stakeholder input, many consultations had to be hosted virtually to accommodate the health and safety concerns of participants. The public comment period for the 2023 Annual Action Plan will be open from April 3rd to May 5th, 2023. During that time the City will hold a hybrid public hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 3:00 pm to present the proposed plan and gather additional public comment. Participants may attend the meeting virtually via Zoom or attend the in-person meeting at the Allen County Public Library, Conference Room C. The meeting will be open to the public and has been advertised via paid ad in the local newspaper and through an email notification that was sent out to our comprehensive listserv of partner agencies. Included in the email was an invitation to participate in the electronic Community Input Survey to provide insight on the needs that need to be addressed in our community. The recording of the public hearing will be posted on the Fort Wayne Community Development website during the public comment period. The virtual meeting diagnostics will be attached to this Annual Action Plan. Comments from the public input survey will be included in this final draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

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

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

All submitted comments are included in this plan.

7. Summary

The City of Fort Wayne makes it a priority to include citizens in as many of its meetings and discussions as possible. Through partner agencies the City listens to what priorities, gaps and needs are identified by

the various people who are, or could be, clients of our programs. Additionally, the City engages with community stakeholders and service providers to collaborate on needs of the community and how best to address them. As always, the City seeks to engage individuals in dialogue to help understand what gaps exist in services and how HUD funding can best be used effectively to meet the needs. Through the online survey, residents and social service providers identified several common gaps in services. Examples of these common service gaps include: transportation, childcare, employment training, and programs to enhance self-sufficiency.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	FORT WAYNE	
CDBG Administrator	FORT WAYNE	Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator	FORT WAYNE	Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services
ESG Administrator	FORT WAYNE	Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

City of Fort Wayne

Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services
 200 East Berry, Suite 320
 Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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

1. Introduction

The City of Fort Wayne is committed to collaborating with other agencies and organizations in working to bring resources to the underserved populations in our community. Through regular ongoing conversations, both formal and informal, with non-profits, other governmental agencies and private organizations, and by utilizing data collection and analysis, the City works to identify priorities and gaps in the current system. By identifying priorities, strengths, and shortcomings in the current system, the City hopes to improve its provision of services so that it is prepared for and responsive to the diverse needs of the community.

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

The City recognizes the importance of comprehensive coordination between services providers to best optimize the distribution of resources and financial support, and actively works in partnership with the regional housing authority, shelters, non-profits and service providers to assure that available resources are maximized to best serve the most at-risk populations in Fort Wayne. Through collaboration with other agencies and organizations, the City is committed in its work to bring resources to underserved populations. The City of Fort Wayne is a leader and active participant in the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness. The Council, formerly called the Continuum of Care, brings together representatives from the City, public housing, shelter, public schools, non-profit agencies, local government, the United Way, public health, healthcare, and mental health providers, private and faith-based organizations and others to help identify local priorities, challenges, and gaps for various populations. Quarterly meetings of the Council are open to the public and are utilized to communicate among the various members to keep the community focused on specific community needs and priorities. Monthly meetings of the steering committee of the Council allow for more in-depth discussion and planning for how to integrate State and federal expectations, coordinate the coordinated entry to the homeless system (described below), and share timely information about the community’s resources, not just for homeless individuals but for all low-and very low-income households.

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.

As active members of the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness, the City is committed to addressing the needs and barriers of homeless individuals and those that are precariously housed or at risk of experiencing homelessness. With the additional Emergency Solutions Grant funding that was allocated to our community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Fort Wayne, in conjunction with

the leadership of the Planning Council on Homelessness, has partnered with a consultant to develop a Homeless Strategic Plan to better address the needs of families and individuals that are experiencing homelessness in a more comprehensive, collaborative and efficient approach in our community. The finalized plan was released in early 2023 with a comprehensive summary of what homelessness looks like in the City of Fort Wayne followed by a list of action steps and recommendations developed on a local level to best address the needs of families and individuals currently living in crisis.

The City continues to work closely with the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness to create and enhance capacity amongst the members of the council in order to develop an institutional structure in the community that will provide increased and better communication, assist in breaking down barriers, and strengthen the projects of housing, health, and service providers. Going forward, the Planning Council will continue its efforts to implement work plans to address the following identified populations: Chronic Homelessness - No regular or stable place of residence, usually due to entrenched psychological, emotional, or financial barriers or challenges, Situational Homelessness- Individuals or families for whom a change in circumstances either leads to the loss of a stable residence or requires the acquisition of a stable residence. Examples include individuals released from jail, youth aging out of foster care, and individuals fleeing domestic violence, and Vulnerability to Homelessness Households who long-term sustainability is in doubt. Examples include individuals with unsteady or unstable employment and households under 30% AMI.

The goal of Coordinated Entry (CE) is to increase the efficiency of local response systems and improve fairness and ease of access to resources. Recognizing that efficient coordinated entry and case management is an essential component of a successful Coordinated Entry process to aid individuals in achieving self-sufficiency, the Planning Council on Homelessness has recently transitioned away from a concentrated coordinated entry process, and has established a new lead agency for Coordinated Entry to further enhance the process to best serve the homeless individuals in the City of Fort Wayne. Brightpoint is now currently serving as the lead agency for Coordinated Entry in Region 3, and all people experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness should be directed to call Brightpoint's Coordinated Entry Phone Line.

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

The City of Fort Wayne attends the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness, formerly known as the Region 3 Continuum of Care. The large Planning Council, made up of shelter providers and representatives of agencies, organizations and services serving the homeless and precariously housed population, meets quarterly while the smaller Planning Council Steering Committee meets monthly. At each meeting of the council, a portion of the agenda focuses on coordinated access and how best to utilize data to determine quality service and shelter. Region 3 has recently transitioned from a more

central approach to a more decentralized Coordinated Entry process that involves Brightpoint serving as the new lead agency, and a more stringent case management component for participating shelters in the community. The new process is currently in implementation, and requires that shelters input their own data into HMIS for their own clientele, or will depend on the lead agency or other partners to input the necessary data into HMIS if they are currently unable to do so.

The City of Fort Wayne has released a request for proposals to determine how to best allocate 2023 ESG funding in our community. Though the community conversation regarding ESG funding has typically focused on rapid re-housing endeavors, the 2023 ESG request for proposals has expanded the scope of services to include shelter operations, renovations, street outreach, rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention activities as eligible projects for funding. Members of the Planning Council Steering Committee will serve on the scoring committee to assess the application received for 2023 ESG funding, and will be able to advocate for proposals that will best serve the homeless population in the City of Fort Wayne with the limited ESG funding available. All ESG subrecipients receiving 2023 ESG funding will be required to use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to best track the services provided to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. ESG Subrecipients will also be expected to adhere to the proposed scope of work in their application, and will work closely with City staff to ensure that reporting covering performance standards and benchmarks are properly documented and submitted to the City on a consistent basis.

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

The City is currently meeting with focus groups, hosting special consultations and discussions with key partners to ensure that the City prioritizes 2023 funding to address the needs and gaps in services that are barriers to self-sufficiency in our community. An updated list of consultations and focus groups will be added to the finalized draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	
2	Agency/Group/Organization	
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	
3	Agency/Group/Organization	
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	
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4	Agency/Group/Organization	
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	
5	Agency/Group/Organization	
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	
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	Agency/Group/Organization Type	
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	

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

The City of Fort Wayne encourages public input and attempts to reach out to as many partners as possible. No group was intentionally excluded in our consultation efforts.

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Planning Council on Homelessness	The Planning Council charter focuses on reducing the number of new episodes of homelessness, reducing the length of homeless episodes and reducing the rate of return on homelessness, which align with our goal of strengthening families and individuals.
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	City of Fort Wayne	The Analysis of Impediments outlines goals to enhance, preserve, and stabilize the quality and affordability of Fort Wayne's housing stock which aligns with our goal to increase and preserve affordable housing options in our community.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The goals of the 2023 Annual Action Plan are based largely upon needs identified through consultations with service providers and community engagement and interaction. Citizen participation culminating in the creation of this plan included an engaging focus group with the women residents of St. Joseph Missions Women’s Shelter that are currently experiencing homelessness, a public survey, and a publicly advertised virtual community meeting to review the goals for the most current Annual Action Plan.

The Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services (OHNS) solicited general input through a community survey and received responses from 66 individuals. The input gathered included:

FOOD & GROCERY ACCESS

Multiple public input survey respondents discussed the need for ready access to healthy, nutritious and local food options. Many neighborhoods are still located in food deserts. With limited transportation options, many families are dependent on the food readily available in local gas stations and convenience stores. Increased costs of living have made many residents food insecure, with many families turning to food banks and charitable organizations for the first time.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The availability of the jurisdiction’s public transit was raised by several survey respondents. The main issues were related to route coverage and expanded hours of operation, along with the actual accessibility of the public transit system. They note the inability to use the public transit system for many shiftwork jobs due to the bus times only servicing one or neither of the positions start or end times. A few survey respondents stressed the importance of walkable communities to ensure all residents have easy access to local available services.

MENTAL HEALTH

Several respondents of the public input survey discussed the need for mental health services as more families fall into crisis due to increased rents, lack of affordable housing options, and the overall cost of living increases. Respondents discuss how mental health issues can lead to further issues of housing instability and homelessness, and that addressing mental health may prevent some cases of forced moves and homelessness.

AFFORDABLE AND DECENT HOUSING

Multiple public input survey respondents discussed the need for not only more affordable rental units, but also highlighted the overall lack of affordable housing options to purchase in the community. Many survey respondents expressed concern about out-of-town property developers that have been able to out-bid local investors, resulting in high rental rate increases for renters and ultimately limited to no purchasing options for potential homeowners. Many survey respondents also stressed the importance of cultivating landlord engagement and education to ensure that there are landlords that are willing and able to work with more at-risk renters and housing voucher holders.

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

Many public input survey respondents expressed the need for stronger neighborhoods and community building on a more localized level. With recommendations to focus on neighborhood park programming, neighborhood-scale development, cultivation of pride of place, and building stronger, more walkable communities, respondents believe that neighborhood will be more engaged in improving their community and families will feel safer and more connected to their local neighborhoods.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
2	Community Input Survey	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Input Survey will be open from April 10 to May 10, 2023. Participation data will be provided at the end of the comment period.	See participation attachment	All comments were accepted.	
3	Focus Group	Homeless Population	City of Fort Wayne staff will be hosting a focus group with women currently experiencing homelessness. Participation data will be provided in the final draft of the 2023 Annual Action Plan.	See participation attachment	All comments were accepted	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
4	Consultation	Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Fort Wayne Housing Authority Consultation - June 6, 2022. 15 FWHA staff participated in a consultation with OHNS staff to convey the needs and gaps in services that have impacted their residents.	See participation attachment	All comments were accepted	
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Public Hearing will be held on April 19, 2023. Attendees will be able to attend in person at the Allen County Public Library or take advantage of virtual access via Zoom.	See participation attachment	All comments were accepted	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The tables below outline the City's actual federal funding allocation amounts, reprogrammed prior year funding amounts, and anticipated program income for the 2023 program year. Prior year CDBG and HOME resources are available in the amount of \$444,767 and \$2,965 respectively.

OHNS estimates that \$170,000 in CDBG program income will be received during the 2023 program year. CDBG program income is almost solely comprised of loan payments and payoffs of previous homeowner repair projects. During the 2022 program year, OHNS received in \$69,345 in HOME program income from payments and payoffs of previous HOME-funded projects.

It is important to note that 2023 and Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan amounts are estimated and/or subject to revisions by HUD. All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual/revised allocation amounts, should they change. The City will continue its focus on identifying and securing new funding sources to meet its stated goals

and to address community needs.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	2,015,017	170,000	444,767	2,699,129	7,069,163	CDBG's main function is to ensure safe, decent, affordable housing in the City. We work in conjunction with many partners and with the input of stakeholders at various levels to ensure federal funds are used to reach their maximum effectiveness for making positive change in our community.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,175,636	69,345	2,965	1,247,946	3,737,908	HOME funds are utilized to improve the quality of housing and in conjunction with developers and partners to ensure the availability of safe, decent and affordable units for owners and renters.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	179,690	0	0	179,690	539,070	HESG funds are focused on assistance for families and individuals to move from homelessness or at risk of homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Leveraging HUD resources maximizes the impact of programs by bringing in local, state, and other resources to combine with federal financial resources. The following are either HUD or City-required matching requirements for the four federal housing and community development programs:

- In the HOME program, HUD requires entitlement cities to contribute, from non-federal resources, at least 25 percent of program disbursements. That is, \$1 of non-federal funds for every \$4 of federal funds.

- In the ESG program, there is a one-to-one match (that is, \$1 of non-federal funds for every \$1 of ESG funds).

City staff will continue to emphasize to developers and nonprofits requesting funding the need to leverage federal, state and local resources.

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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 will continue to explore opportunities to develop affordable housing and projects that provide community benefit on publicly owned lands and on land owned by Housing and Neighborhood Development Services, Inc. (HANDS). Both the City and HANDS prioritize the sales and donation of land by the following priorities:

1. Development of housing
2. Neighborhood or nonprofit use
3. Adjoining property owners
4. Other requests

Donation of land is considered for projects that meet priorities one or two.

City staff are currently identifying strategies to use City-owned scattered site properties to develop affordable housing units. Several lots in strategic areas have been identified as potential sites for redevelopment and conversations with nonprofit and for-profit developers will continue. In the 2022 program year, over 40 single-family residential sites and an additional 20 acres of city-owned land were donated for the development of affordable housing.

Discussion

The City will continue to focus on securing new funding sources to meet its stated goals and to address community needs.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing and Services for Homeless and At-Risk Housing and Services for People with Special Needs Housing Instability	CDBG: \$850,000 HOME: \$1,058,072 ESG: \$0	Rental units constructed: 10 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 4 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 52 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Strengthening People and Families	2021	2025	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Housing and Services for Homeless and At-Risk Housing and Services for People with Special Needs Lack of Essential Services Housing Instability	CDBG: \$302,253 HOME: \$0 ESG: \$166,213	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1100 Persons Assisted Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 10 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 10 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 50 Persons Assisted
3	Enriching Neighborhoods	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Southeast Strategy PACKARD Area Planning Alliance CDAP	Need for Enhanced Neighborhood Amenities	CDBG: \$367,215 HOME: \$0 ESG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Administration	2021	2025	Planning and Administration	Citywide	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing and Services for Homeless and At-Risk Housing and Services for People with Special Needs Lack of Essential Services Housing Instability Need for Enhanced Neighborhood Amenities	CDBG: \$403,003 HOME: \$117,564 ESG: \$13,477	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Increase the availability of quality affordable housing options in the City of Fort Wayne. This goal includes homeowner repair, accessibility improvements, lead-based paint hazard control, adaptive reuse, construction of new rental and homebuyer units, as well as down payment assistance. Fair housing and other wrap around services that may be provided via this goal.

2	Goal Name	Strengthening People and Families
	Goal Description	Due to a myriad of circumstances, some individuals within the community have bigger challenges than others in reaching and sustaining self-sufficiency. Persons with special needs include those with physical or mental disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS, persons with addictions or alcohol abuse, persons who are victims of domestic violence, illiterate adults due to lack of education or due to being a non-native, elderly or frail elderly individuals, or persons with a criminal conviction in their background which keeps them from being able to access more readily available housing, employment and other resources like food stamps. Furthermore, impoverished populations face other barriers such as transportation, childcare and opportunities for enhancing their education in order to earn more. This goal is designed to address the comprehensive nature of poverty through housing- and job-related wrap around services.
3	Goal Name	Enriching Neighborhoods
	Goal Description	Increase neighborhood vibrancy, livability, accessibility, and stability through infrastructure development, beautification, reinvestment opportunities and community engagement.
4	Goal Name	Administration
	Goal Description	Includes all planning, reporting, monitoring and other related non-program delivery activities.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Programs to be undertaken by the City of Fort Wayne in 2023 include a wide range to serve wide reaching segments of the City’s residents. Homeowner repair programs that consist of the replacement of essential components will be offered in 2023. The shortage of affordable, safe, and decent housing options for low and extremely low income households will be the driving force behind the construction of new affordable housing. The City is funding several programs to provide assistance to homeless populations.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	2023 CDBG Public Services *
2	CHDO Project
3	Affordable Housing Development
4	2023 Program Delivery Costs
5	Section 108 Loan Repayment
6	Property Disposition
7	Johnnie Mae Farm Operations
8	Homeowner Repair
9	2023 Planning & Administration
10	Neighborhood Improvements Projects
11	Homelessness Strategies
12	ESG23 City of Fort Wayne

*The complete list of projects will be updated after the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process has been completed and the subrecipients have been selected for funding. Applications for the 2023 NOFA are due on April 20, 2023.

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City utilizes numerous sources and avenues of outreach in the development of programming. The results of several focus groups have guided the allocation priorities for the next 3 years. The main obstacle to addressing underserved needs is lack of funding. Needs in the community continue to increase as resources to address the needs decrease.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

The complete list of projects will be updated after the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process has been completed and the subrecipients have been selected for funding. Applications for the 2023 NOFA are due on April 20, 2023.

1	Project Name	2023 Public Services
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Strengthening People and Families
	Needs Addressed	Various
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,000.00
	Description	The complete list of projects will be updated after the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process has been completed and the subrecipients have been selected for funding. Applications for the 2023 NOFA are due on April 20, 2023.
	Target Date	7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Specific benchmarks for the 2023 CDBG Public Services will be detailed for each subrecipient selected for funding after the NOFA process has been completed.
	Location Description	City Wide
	Planned Activities	Specific planned activities for the 2023 CDBG Public Services will be detailed for each subrecipient selected for funding after the NOFA process has been completed.
2	Project Name	CHDO Project
	Target Area	Southeast Strategy
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing Strengthening People and Families
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing Housing and Services for Homeless and At-Risk Housing and Services for People with Special Needs Housing Instability
	Funding	HOME: \$181,098

	Description	This project will include a CHDO rehab/remediation for rental housing program. Developers and non-profits interested in inquiring about Federal funding opportunities through the City of Fort Wayne's Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services should contact OHNS@cityoffortwayne.org to request additional information. Additional information can be found at the City's website. The HOME assisted units included in this project are limited to beneficiaries at or below 60% AMI. The exact funding for this project is \$181,098.30. National Objective- LMH
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is anticipated that 2 households will be assisted
	Location Description	Southeast Strategy
	Planned Activities	This project will include a CHDO rehab/remediation for rental housing program. Developers and non-profits interested in inquiring about Federal funding opportunities through the City of Fort Wayne's Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services should contact OHNS@cityoffortwayne.org to request additional information. Additional information can be found at the City's website. The HOME assisted units included in this project are limited to beneficiaries at or below 60% AMI. The exact funding for this project is \$181,098.30. National Objective- LMH
3	Project Name	Affordable Housing Development
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$1,014,688

	Description	The construction of affordable housing units. Developers and non-profits interested in inquiring about Federal funding opportunities through the City of Fort Wayne's Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services should contact OHNS@cityoffortwayne.org to request additional information. Additional information can be found at the City's website. The HOME assisted units included in this project are limited to beneficiaries at or below 60% AMI. The exact funding for this project is \$1,014,688.49. National Objective- LMH
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Eight families will be assisted through the construction of eight affordable housing units.
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	New Construction of affordable residential units. Developers and non-profits interested in inquiring about Federal funding opportunities through the City of Fort Wayne's Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services should contact OHNS@cityoffortwayne.org to request additional information. Additional information can be found at the City's website. The HOME assisted units included in this project are limited to beneficiaries at or below 60% AMI. The exact funding for this project is \$1,014,688.49. National Objective- LMH
4	Project Name	Program Delivery Costs
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	Direct staff costs and other direct program support costs associated with the operation of direct programs. National Objective - LMH
	Target Date	6/30/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A total of 55 housing units will be assisted through this program
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Rehabilitation services provided under CDBG-funded rehabilitation program, Homeowner Repair and Homeowner Accessibility. National Objective = LMH
5	Project Name	Section 108 Loan Repayment
	Target Area	Southeast Strategy
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$566,955
	Description	Section 108 Loan Repayment. National Objective - LMA
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Section 108 repayment. National Objective - LMA
	Location Description	Southeast Strategy
	Planned Activities	Section 108 repayment
6	Project Name	Property Disposition
	Target Area	Southeast Strategy Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing Enriching Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing Need for Enhanced Neighborhood Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000

	Description	Disposition program focused on selling or donating City-owned properties, most all of which are located in the Renaissance Pointe, for an eligible end use that promotes quality of place. This includes all costs related to disposition, including carrying costs. Anyone interested in purchasing a city-owned lot should contact the City's Office of Housing & Neighborhood Services for more information on how to acquire. National Objective = LMA
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Disposition of City-owned properties. National Objective = LMA
	Location Description	Disposition of City-owned properties purchased with CDBG funds for the purpose of eliminating blight. While it is anticipated that some housing units may be constructed, because there is currently no proposed development projects planned at this time.
	Planned Activities	Disposition of City-owned properties purchased with CDBG funds for the purpose of eliminating blight. While it is anticipated that some housing units may be constructed there is currently no proposed development projects planned at this time.
7	Project Name	Johnnie Mae Farm Operations
	Target Area	Southeast Strategy
	Goals Supported	Strengthening People and Families Enriching Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Lack of Essential Services Need for Enhanced Neighborhood Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$45,000
	Description	This program will assist the Renaissance Pointe Neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods to increase their access to fresh foods and valuable programming. National Objective = Low Mod Area Benefit
	Target Date	6/30/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that a total of 850 area residents will be assisted. National Objective = Low Mod Area Benefit
	Location Description	Activities associated with this activity will take place at 2518 Winter Street. This property is located in the Southeast Strategy Area.
	Planned Activities	harvest and make available 4000 pounds of vegetables and fruits. Provide a weekly farm stand. Accept SNAP/WIC. Donate unsold produce to food banks.
8	Project Name	Homeowner Repair
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	Rehabilitation of owner-occupied units. This activity will consist of two programs. Possible direct programs include an owner-occupied roof replacement program and an owner-occupied HVAC program. All homeowner repair programs are designed to assist households earning at or below 80% AMI. The City utilizes several ways to make community members aware of program opening dates, eligibility, and details. These include: the City's website, program intake hotline 260-427-8585, social media, and traditional media press releases. National Objective - LMH
	Target Date	11/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that a total of 35 owner-occupied housing units will be assisted. National Objective - LMH
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Outreach, intake, and rehabilitation of owner-occupied units. The City utilizes several ways to make community members aware of program opening dates, eligibility, and details. These include: the City's website, program intake hotline 260-427-8585, social media, and traditional media press releases

9	Project Name	2023 Planning & Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing Strengthening People and Families Enriching Neighborhoods Administration
	Needs Addressed	Inadequate Supply of Quality Affordable Housing Housing and Services for Homeless and At-Risk Housing and Services for People with Special Needs Lack of Essential Services Housing Instability Need for Enhanced Neighborhood Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$408,899 HOME: \$123,934
	Description	Planning & Administration for 2023 Program Year. The exact HOME funding amount for this project is \$123,934.26.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program supports all programs and activities.
	Location Description	This program supports all programs and activities.
	Planned Activities	Costs related to planning, monitoring, reporting and other related costs of overall operations of the CDBG & HOME grant programs. The exact HOME funding amount for this project is \$123,934.26.
10	Project Name	Neighborhood Improvements Projects
	Target Area	PACKARD Area Planning Alliance CDAP
	Goals Supported	Enriching Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Need for Enhanced Neighborhood Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,000
	Description	Neighborhood Improvements Projects to address safety concerns, enhance neighborhood enrichment, and increase neighborhood amenities. National Objective - LMA

	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 2000 residents will benefit from the proposed activities. National Objective - LMA
	Location Description	Planned activities will focus on the PACKARD Area Planning Alliance CDAP.
	Planned Activities	Installation of crosswalk signage, replacement of deficient neighborhood streetlighting, and installation of commercial corridor signage.
11	Project Name	Homelessness Strategies
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Strengthening People and Families
	Needs Addressed	Lack of Essential Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$155,330
	Description	Projects to assist homeless individuals and families in the community. These projects will result from and support the City's ongoing Homelessness Strategic Plan. National Objective - LMC
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimates that 100 individuals will benefit from the proposed projects. National Objective - LMC
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The yet to be determined projects will result from and support the City's ongoing Homelessness Strategic Plan.
12	Project Name	ESG22 City of Fort Wayne
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Strengthening People and Families Administration
	Needs Addressed	Lack of Essential Services Housing Instability

Funding	ESG: \$173,753
Description	The City of Fort Wayne was allocated \$173,753.00 of 2022 ESG funding. This allocation will support: Rapid Re-Housing in the amount of \$51,209.61, Homelessness Prevention in the amount of \$13,079, Street Outreach in the amount of \$15,000, Shelter Operations in the amount of \$81,432.92, and administration costs in the amount of \$13,031.47.
Target Date	12/31/2023
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2022 ESG funding: Rapid Re-Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Shelter Operations, and Administration
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	<p>Rapid Re-Housing: Program will provide case management, utility and rental assistance to move families from emergency shelters into a permanent housing situation.</p> <p>Homelessness Prevention: Funding will cover the costs of financial assistance and services required to prevent households from entering into emergency shelters. National Objective - LMC</p> <p>Emergency Shelter: Funds will be used to cover the costs of essential services and operating costs associated with sheltering the homeless.</p> <p>Street Outreach: Coordinated entry assessments and case management for unshelter individuals</p>

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

Most CDBG, HOME and ESG-funded Housing, Fair Housing and Public Service programs operate citywide where programs are geared to benefit primarily low- to moderate-income individuals. Although these programs are open citywide, the majority of requests for assistance come from the Southeast quadrant and other core downtown neighborhoods. These areas are also more likely to experience housing problems due to the age of the housing stock. Because of this, the highest amount of funds are distributed to these areas.

Assistance will be directed throughout the City based on income eligibility and areas in which the majority of households have income at or below 80% of the area median income. The selected projects and programs are largely based on an applicant household's income rather than being place-based investments.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Southeast Strategy	20
DOWNTOWN BluePrint Area	
PACKARD Area Planning Alliance CDAP	5
Citywide	75

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Geographic investment of the City's federal funding allocation is based on many factors. These factors include but are not limited to: availability of supplemental funding, racial/ethnic concentrations, housing condition(s) concentrations, outcomes of studies and planning recommendations, location of LMI census tracts, and identified community needs. Generally, (as it relates to housing) these factors drive the disbursement of Federal Funds to both renter-occupied and owner-occupied property.

Housing investments are determined with the assistance of studies and planning recommendations. Although housing investment funds are available throughout the jurisdiction, planning recommendations highlight areas that have specific housing needs and allow the funds to be targeted toward specific areas. Typically, many of the older neighborhoods within the city are burdened with older housing stock, suffering from deferred property maintenance, lead-based paint, and antiquated mechanical systems. Consequently, older properties affect owners and renters equally in terms of higher utilities cost, exposure to lead-based paint hazards, and issues related to Healthy Homes. Additionally, planning recommendations in conjunction with census data identify census tracts

overtasked with inadequate rental types (in terms of rent-to-income ratio, family size, and availability) within the city allowing for investment in market areas requiring assistance.

Discussion

The City of Fort Wayne's priority geographic areas closely align with the City's planning focus areas. Through planning efforts and additional studies, these areas (i.e. Packard Area Planning Alliance, Southeast, and Downtown) have been identified as areas in need of focused public and private investment.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Fort Wayne will offer programming in 2023 that focuses on the creation of new affordable housing units in the City. Affordable housing units that will be constructed during the 2023 Program Year include the construction of 18 owner-occupied homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity on land previously owned by the City (these will not be counted in the City’s totals as they will not be entered into IDIS), 3 owner-occupied innovative housing prototypes (container home and manufactured housing), 1 rental rehabilitation or new construction through a CHDO, and the construction of 10 new affordable rental units. The City will also be running a homeowner repair program with a 0 % interest loan that will assist approximately 40 households, as well as an accessibility modifications program that will provide a grant to approximately 12 disabled residents.

It is estimated that rental assistance will be provided to 10 families or individuals to assist in their transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency with the City’s 2023 ESG funds.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	10
Non-Homeless	54
Special-Needs	12
Total	76

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	10
The Production of New Units	14
Rehab of Existing Units	52
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	76

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

Discussion

The accomplishments reflect the approximately 52 homeowner households that will be assisted through the CDBG-funded Homeowner Repair and Accessibility programs. The 18 homeowner units being constructed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity are not included in the tables above due to the fact that no federal funds are anticipated to go into the project and the units will not be captured in IDIS.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The mission of the Fort Wayne Housing Authority is to revitalize our city by building and developing safe, quality, affordable housing options, while providing programs to foster community, alleviate poverty and encourage long-term economic self-sufficiency.

They own and manage over 800 units of affordable housing, administer and manage over 3,000 vouchers, and help provide homes to over 3,500 families and nearly 9,000 family members. As a friend of the Fort Wayne community, their team of nearly 45 housing, maintenance and social service professionals aim to create partnerships to offer resources that will empower our residents and enhance their quality of life.

The Housing Authority is a founding member of the newly formed National Housing and Education Task Force, through which they will have access to resources that ensure every child living in our communities can participate in educational enrichment programs designed to strengthen their reading skills.

FWHA was ranked as a High Performer, an honor designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and their programs consistently receive national recognition. Each day, the entire team remains committed to growing and developing affordable housing throughout the city. Whether we're partnering with city leaders to develop strategies for addressing affordable housing needs or working with local agencies to identify resources to help the most vulnerable, FWHA collaborates with individuals and organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged families.

FWHA takes pride in working with over 70 local businesses throughout Fort Wayne. They strive to become an invaluable and long-lasting community partner with public and private entities to assist in the City of Fort Wayne's efforts to restore community pride and property values through strategic revitalization and investment plans that develop, grow, and sustain affordable housing.

Investing in their properties not only benefits the Fort Wayne community, but also our residents.

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

Needs of Residents: FWHA holds monthly and quarterly meetings with residents to help to identify the needs of the communities. FWHA then strives to meet those needs and aid the residents in achieving their goals.

FWHA Strategic Goals pertaining to the needs of Public Housing:

- Strategic Goal: Self-Sufficiency and Independent LivingFWHA will ensure that all of its residents are linked to the critical support services that will provide opportunities for self-sufficiency and /

or independent living. It will be the expectation that residents that are capable of transitioning into the workforce and out of assisted housing will participate in self-sufficiency initiatives and will transition into market rate housing. Independent living programs and services participation will be encouraged for all elderly and / or disabled residents. Strategic Goal: Portfolio Maintenance and Expansion. FWHA will expand their portfolio of safe, decent, and sanitary affordable housing in Fort Wayne. The agency will maintain the quality of its current portfolio through quality asset management and quality asset maintenance while seeking traditional and non-traditional portfolio expansion opportunities that complement its vision, mission, values, and business models.

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

Encourage Residents to be Involved: FWHA has a number of programs available to aid their residents in becoming self-sufficient. The programs provide access to education, employment, home ownership and many other goals that our residents have. Through the Mary L. Morris Resource Center, they have helped many families and individuals achieve their goal of economic self-sufficiency.

The Fort Wayne Housing Authority encourages all residents to participate in their site's Resident Council. This group has monthly meetings to discuss issues facing the property and ongoing activities. The elected officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) from each site's Resident Council make up the Resident Advisory Board. This board meets quarterly to discuss executive items, changes in policies, procedures, and the agency plan.

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

Fort Wayne Public Housing Authority is not classified as "troubled."

Discussion

The City will continue to strengthen its collaboration with Fort Wayne Housing Authority to move public housing tenants toward self-sufficiency and to help identify more opportunities for property owners to accept Housing Choice Vouchers. The City will continue to help identify populations in need of public housing and vouchers. Currently no programs or projects that exist in this Action Plan specifically target Public Housing residents. However, the many CDBG assisted public services agencies that offer services across the City potentially serve FWHA residents.

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

Introduction

Through the City of Fort Wayne’s annual competitive application process for Community Development Block Grant Public Services funding and Emergency Solutions Grant funding, non-profits, social services, and human agencies had the opportunity to apply for funding for their programs that would best serve the homeless and other special populations in our community. *The complete list of projects will be updated after the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process has been completed and the subrecipients have been selected for funding. Applications for the 2023 NOFA are due on April 20, 2023.*

The Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness holds monthly meetings of the steering committee, as well as quarterly meetings of the whole membership, that allows the City, housing providers, shelter operations staff, supportive services organizations and others to identify community resources, gaps and needs in the community. Coordinating efforts helps to ensure that all residents, housed or unhoused, have access to the resources available to help move them to self-sufficiency.

The City of Fort Wayne has recently partnered with the nonprofit planning agency, Homebase, to develop a Homeless Strategic Plan for the community. Goals for the plan include identifying high priority issues and strategies, conducting an assessment of community resources and needs, engage cross-system partners, and ultimately develop tangible effective goals that the City will be able to implement in the upcoming years to better serve homeless and other special need populations in the City.

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

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

The City of Fort Wayne’s Planning Council on Homelessness has adopted a Coordinated Entry system that is used to move people from homelessness to stability by establishing a streamlined and uniform method of serving clients in crisis. The goal of Coordinated Entry (CE) is to increase the efficiency of local response systems and improve fairness and ease of access to resources. When households or individuals in crisis connect with Coordinated Entry, they are assessed using a vulnerability index to determine the type of housing intervention that will most adequately address their need. Brightpoint serves as the lead agency for Coordinated Entry in Region 3 of Indiana, and all people experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness should call Brightpoint’s Coordinated Entry Phone Line.

Further, the Planning Council on Homelessness is made up of various subcommittees to serve particular homeless populations. The Street Outreach Committee is one of the key subcommittees made up of separate street outreach groups that connect with the most at-risk homeless populations in Fort Wayne. The Street Outreach group keeps the Planning Council apprised of the needs, gaps in services and living

patterns that they see when serving their clients.

The City of Fort Wayne released Everyone Home: Fort Wayne’s Homeless Strategic Plan in partnership with the nonprofit planning agency Homebase. A key component of the strategic plan was the development of established goals based off of the data collected as well as the input received from not only service providers, but individuals with lived experience of homelessness. Homebase developed a survey that was distributed to currently or recently homeless individuals to assess their experience and hosted focus groups with homeless individuals to hear their perspective on the needs and gaps in services that they have witnessed or experienced in the City of Fort Wayne.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Fort Wayne works to ensure access to emergency shelter and transitional housing by offering several avenues to those in need so they can be connected to vital programs and services. Within Fort Wayne, several providers address the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of the community, with several projects also targeting the needs of specific subpopulations or vulnerable groups. Although many providers have had to institute program and service changes in order to alleviate the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, people experiencing homelessness still have several ways and options in terms of accessing these vital programs and facilities. Across the entire state of Indiana, anyone can dial 2-1-1 and be connected to a trained Community Navigator for confidential, 24-hour information and referral assistance regarding shelters and transitional housing. Additionally, in-person emergency facilities can also be visited and households can inquire about bed availability directly through the providers as well. Further, any individual or family in crisis should contact the Brightpoint Coordinated Entry phone line to begin the assessment and referral process for housing, resources and service referrals.

Projects in Fort Wayne target a variety of populations and offer emergency shelter and transitional housing for men, women, youth, veterans, women with children, and families. In previous community and stakeholder feedback, shelter availability for single women was a large unmet need. St. Joseph Missions recently opened the first emergency women’s shelter in Fort Wayne with support from the additional ESG-CV funding the City received in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Permanent housing, and the specialized support required to obtain and maintain it, is the key to ending homelessness. With this recognition, the City of Fort Wayne works to ensure that a continuum of

housing options and strategies are used to meet the varying levels of resources and support a household may need. This approach starts prior to a household's entry to the homeless system of care with prevention and diversion. It also utilizes cross-system partnerships that lead to the creation of additional affordable housing units. In collaboration with the Continuum of Care (CoC), Fort Wayne is working to improve efficiency and responsiveness of the homeless system of care by regularly examining data to create a system that better meets the needs of the community.

Rapid Re-housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) play a critical role in the City's response to homelessness and serve as key steppingstones on the path towards permanent housing in the community. RRH and PSH projects in the community serve as part of a strategy to offer a continuum of housing options. In order to shorten the time individuals and families experience homelessness, placements into RRH programs like the City's Ready to Rent are done through the CoC's Coordinated Entry System. This ensures a streamlined referral system and collaboration between shelter case managers to maximize a household's chance of retaining housing.

RRH projects in the city are paired with intensive case management and subpopulation specific services with the goal of increasing a household's income and achieving self-sufficiency. Fort Wayne will continue to prioritize RRH programs for families and special subpopulations through ESG and CDBG allocations and seek out additional funding sources to expand services. Additionally, the City used part of its second allocation of ESG-CV to expand the availability of RRH offerings.

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.

Effective homelessness prevention requires proactive identification, engagement, and investment in communities most at risk of entering the homeless system of care. Across the geographic region, service providers, along with city, county, and state departments, have cross-system partnerships and offer a variety of services aimed at ensuring a robust safety net that helps prevent households from falling into homelessness. In addition, the city plans to continue working and coordinating with the Planning Council on Homelessness and the CoC in order to ensure gaps within the system of care are addressed and resources are expanded to match the needs of the community.

Prevention services in Fort Wayne are historically funded through CDBG and ESG funding streams and are complimented by mainstream services and funding outside of the system of care through entities like the Allen County Division of Family Resources (DFR), the Indiana Department of Public Health, the Department of Child Services, Fort Wayne Community Schools, and the VA of Northern Indiana Healthcare System. Each of these funding streams and partnerships is then used to serve the city's larger

prevention and diversion strategy to increase the collaboration and robustness of the social safety net. Cross-system partnerships between state agencies and providers operating in Fort Wayne also work to address the intersections between the homeless system of care and other intersecting institutions and systems. The city supports these relationships in order to build meaningful and sustainable partnerships to address the needs of the community.

Using CDBG and new ESG-CV funding, the City directly supports the YMCA, Just Neighbors, and has now expanded availability of homeless prevention, emergency financial assistance services, and case management targeting families that may have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Through CDBG funding, the city has been able to build lasting partnerships supporting the needs of youth in public housing, provide additional outreach and case management to proactively assist families at risk of becoming homeless, and provide emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities to prevent households from entering emergency shelter.

Within the community, providers like the YWCA of Northeast Indiana have also worked with state agencies like the Department of Child Services in order to provide women in adjacent systems and institutions from entering homelessness. Through projects like Hope House and Harriet House, YWCA helps women who may be coming from treatment centers or exiting incarceration with substance use issues. In 2020, the projects helped 113 households and helped prevent many who would have otherwise had no place to live from entering homelessness.

Discussion

To strengthen people and families in the City of Fort Wayne, CDBG Public Services funding is reserved for programs that serve low/moderate income individuals, at-risk youth, homeless persons, and individuals with mental or physical disabilities. Building off of the data and input collected from consultations and focus groups, funding is further earmarked for the priority needs cited in citizen participation efforts. Current priority needs include advocacy, childcare, transportation, employment training and readiness, infectious disease response, barriers to independence, health services and youth programming.

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

Introduction:

The City's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services has procured a consultant to complete an updated Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) in 2022. The anticipated completion date of this new AI is April 2023. The process will review local regulations and administrative policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability, and accessibility of housing. It will also assess the conditions, both public and private, that affect fair housing choice.

Until the new study is complete, the City will continue to utilize the findings and goals identified in the 2017 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

The following impediments were identified:

1. *Lack of access to opportunity due to high housing costs and the location and type of affordable housing*
2. *Availability of affordable, accessible units in a range of sizes*
3. *Availability, type, frequency, reliability and accessibility of public transportation*
4. *Lack of private investments in specific neighborhoods*
5. *Lack of meaningful language access for individuals with limited English proficiency*
6. *Lack of resources for fair housing agencies and organizations*

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 City procured the services of McKenna to complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). Work on the Plan will start in the third quarter of 2022 and should be complete by the end April 2023. The Plan will include an extensive review of state and local laws, regulations and administrative policies and procedures. An evaluation of public policies and practices including public services, planning and zoning laws, land use regulations, community development policies and practices, and the procedures and practices of the local public housing authority will be used to establish new recommendations for corrective actions to overcome identified impediments.

While work continues on the AI, the City of Fort Wayne will use a significant portion of its federal funds to reduce the barriers to affordable housing. The City is incorporating several recommendations into its 2023 Annual Action Plan by focusing on the following goals:

- Enhance, preserve, and stabilize the quality and affordability of Fort Wayne's housing stock
- Invest in non-housing community revitalization and economic development focused on benefits

to protected classes.

- Increase the level of fair housing knowledge among housing developers, real estate professionals, elected officials and the general public.

To implement these goals, the City will offer the following housing related programs and projects:

- Housing rehabilitation;
- Neighborhood improvement projects in low- and moderate-income areas; and
- Development of new affordable housing.

The City will also pursue the following non-housing action to ameliorate barriers to affordable housing:

- Job training/employment assistance;
- Youth entrepreneurship services;
- Interpretation and translation services; and
- Fair housing education.

Discussion:

The partnership between OHNS and the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has resulted in the successful expansion of the annual Fair Housing Summit. In 2023, the goal is to provide fair housing and anti-discrimination training to 300 individuals at the April event. The event will be free to the general public and housing providers.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Fort Wayne is committed to the most effective and impactful distribution of funding support to further increase and preserve affordable housing options, strengthen people and families, and enrich neighborhoods. The City plans a variety of initiatives to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, to foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

The complete list of projects will be updated after the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process has been completed and the subrecipients have been selected for funding. Applications for the 2023 NOFA are due on April 20, 2023.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs for affordable housing in the City of Fort Wayne is not only the lack of available affordable housing units, it is also the gap in what households can afford to pay for housing and the currently skyrocketing price of housing in Fort Wayne. The City has a significant affordable housing stock, yet the income level for individual households such as single parent, elderly, disabled, or others of limited economic means, is insufficient to afford even the lowest of the market rate units. In an effort to address this obstacle, The City will continue to work on economic development to provide better job opportunities and with social service providers to assist such households. In addition, the City will work with for-profit and non-profit developers to create more affordable housing.

Another obstacle to meeting the needs of underserved households is the limited amount of funding received by the City. The City of Fort Wayne will partner with other public agencies and nonprofit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources and maximize outcomes in housing and community development.

A primary obstacle to meeting underserved economic development needs is the ability of developers to secure the necessary financing to undertake and complete projects. It is typically the role of the public sector to fill the gaps of these financing needs. However, on occasion, these gaps exceed the assistance capabilities of the City.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The skyrocketing cost of rent and homeownership has created a significant strain on the inventory of safe, decent and affordable housing. We do anticipate a large increase in demand for additional affordable housing units. Through the projects and programs outlined in this plan, the City will assist a total of ## housing units. This assistance ranges from the development of new affordable rental and

homeownership housing to home improvements that aid homeowners with repairs that create safer living conditions. The homeowner repair programs outlined in this plan have eligible repairs that can assist in the reduction of utility bills. It is estimated that ## homeowners will be assisted through these programs.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Housing rehabilitation programs offered over the next program year will adhere to all lead-based paint regulations and work practices. In addition to the rehabilitation program, the City will be offering down payment assistance programs over the next five years. As part of the inspection process, potential homes will receive a visual inspection to ensure that paint hazards do not exist.

Unfortunately, the City's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program concluded in 2022 and the City does not currently have a program to specifically deal with lead-based paint hazards.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The complete list of projects will be updated after the 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process has been completed and the subrecipients have been selected for funding. Applications for the 2023 NOFA are due on April 20, 2023.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Fort Wayne will continue to encourage and build institutional structure by assisting in capacity-building for partner agencies and organizations that serve target populations with identified needs. City of Fort Wayne staff consistently offer technical assistance and support for local partners, and work to cultivate the pool of service providers by encouraging new agencies to apply for CDBG or ESG funding.

Communication is the key in strengthening the service delivery system, aligning priorities and connecting clients as efficiently and effectively as possible to available resources. Within the current system, many agencies, service providers and shelter providers are meeting regularly to identify problems, solutions, gaps and needs within the community. The coordinated entry process in Region 3 has transitioned from a centralized coordinated access point of entry at the 211-call center, to a more decentralized process with Brightpoint serving as the lead agency. The City will continue to strengthen the connections between and among service providers to ensure the full range of resources is made available to all eligible persons in the manner that is most beneficial to their unique needs. Coordinated case management has been effective and will be expanded as resources allow so that an individual may have one point of contact helping to coordinate all appointments, requirements and resources. The City continues to work with the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness to create and enhance an institutional structure that communicates more effectively, assists in breaking down barriers, and strengthens projects related to housing, health, and service providers. The City of Fort Wayne continues

to work to bring past members and new members to the table in an effort to further collaborate toward the common goal of helping the client rather than the agency.

The City of Fort Wayne is currently in the final development stages of creating a Homeless Strategic Plan in partnership with the nonprofit planning agency Homebase. A key component of the strategic plan will be establishing goals based off of the data collected as well as the input received from not only service providers, but individuals with lived experience of homelessness. Homebase has developed a survey that was distributed to currently or recently homeless individuals to assess their experience and is also currently wrapping up focus groups with homeless individuals to hear their perspective on the needs and gaps in services that they have witnessed or experienced in the City of Fort Wayne.

With the increase of CDBG and ESG funding support to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Fort Wayne had the opportunity to strategically use the additional funds to make lasting impacts to the institutional structures in the City. For years, a low barrier emergency shelter for homeless women has been a high need in the community. The City was able to support St. Joseph Missions in their efforts to address this need by using ESG-CV funding in the conversion of a former office building into an emergency shelter that caters specifically to unaccompanied homeless women. With HOME-ARP funding, the City hopes to address additional needs in the community for some of our most at-risk populations. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for HOME-ARP non-congregate shelter was released in May 2022, and the City is optimistic that HOME-ARP funding will support projects that will enhance the institutional structure of our homelessness services network.

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

The City and its non-profit partners are faced with increasing demands and needs from the community at the same time resources are decreasing. While our partners are collaborating and communicating better than ever, we as a community still struggle with how to house all of those who need emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing. Special needs populations, especially low-income households, continue to report a lack of available, affordable and accessible rental housing.

In March 2023, the City unveiled Everyone Home: Fort Wayne's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The planning process included an assessment of current needs and the resources available to address them and identified action steps to coordinate existing resources to maximize the impact.

To effectively implement the Everyone Home strategies, the City partnered with the United Way of Allen County to create a Homelessness Strategy Manager position that will:

- Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private sector agencies, community-based groups, human services advocacy groups, service providers, government entities, faith-based organizations and persons experiencing homelessness to identify and

address homeless service gaps.

- Coordinate with agencies working with the homeless population to ensure inclusion, participation, and to identify unmet needs.
- Maintain relationships with local and state agencies to provide multiple resources for training, education opportunities and to facilitate collaborations and reduce duplication within the housing continuum.

The Chair of the Planning Council on Homelessness will be working in conjunction with the Homelessness Strategy Manager to take a leadership role with projects so that our community can speak with a more unified voice on what priorities and needs exist. There are still pieces of the system that have not linked into the Planning Council, and turfism is still a very real challenge to progress. Agencies and organizations will talk about being willing to change, but they seem to mean they are willing to consider doing something more, if they receive new funding...understandably, they almost never mean they are willing to put their current programs at risk by trying something different.

Discussion:

Actions taken throughout 2023 will serve residents working towards a higher level of self-sufficiency in a variety of different activities. The City is in constant contact with quality developers from across the Midwest. With the recent success of several affordable housing development and market rate housing developments in the City, developers are seeing Fort Wayne as a good investment. The City is currently working to implement strategies that will encourage the development of affordable and market rate housing. Work in 2023 will focus on an infill housing strategy, innovative housing products that can be built faster and/or cheaper than traditional construction products and incentives including tax abatement, residential tax increment financing, lot readiness, and land donation.

The City will continue to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs by partnering with local organizations that have developed programming that create solutions for unmet needs in our community. Though the City does not foresee any reduction in the inventory of safe, decent, and affordable housing in our community, we do anticipate a further increase in demand for affordable housing. The City will also continue to use HOME funds to support larger scale developments such as Columbia Street West and Village Premier in our efforts to ensure the increase of affordable rental units. The homeowner repair programs will continue to run in 2023 to further provide services that foster and maintain affordable housing. The City has partnered with various organizations to reduce the number of poverty-level families by focusing on programming that promotes self-sufficiency and the prevention and decrease of homelessness in the City of Fort Wayne.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	90.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

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

No alternative forms of investment beyond those identified in Section 92.205 are being planned.

The City of Fort Wayne will follow the homeownership limit guidelines established by HUD annually

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to determine the set maximum and minimum purchase price for HOME subsidized homeownership units. Limits will be based on 95% of the median purchasing price provided by HUD for either new construction or existing housing stock.

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:

OHNS uses **Recapture Provisions** when HOME funds are provided to a homebuyer. The loan enables the homebuyer to purchase the unit at an affordable cost. The loan includes any assistance that reduces the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable cost. If HOME, CDBG or NSP funds are used for the cost of developing a property and the unit is sold below fair market value the difference between the fair market value and the purchase price is considered to be directly attributable to the HOME, CDBG or NSP funding.

The Recapture approach requires OHNS funds to be repaid from the net-proceeds of the sale. 100% of the loan provided to the homebuyer can be recaptured from the net proceeds of the sale. OHNS will not require repayment of anything other than the funds available through the net-proceeds.

The recapture provisions will be enforced through an upfront agreement with the homebuyer and through a recorded deed restriction and a promissory note and mortgage.

NOTE: OHNS will not require repayment of anything other than the funds available through net-proceeds.

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 of Fort Wayne enforces the minimum period of affordability on all projects involving the acquisition of units with HOME funds through the use of recorded mortgages and protective restrictive covenants on the property. These liens and restrictive covenants will not be released until the minimum period of affordability has expired. In the event a unit becomes ineligible during the period of affordability, the City will follow its recapture guidelines. Any funds recaptured will be returned to HUD due to the ineligibility of the unit.

The City's HOME Recapture/Resale guidelines are included in the attachment section of this plan.

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 of Fort Wayne does not use its HOME funds for refinancing of existing debt in multifamily.

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

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

2023 Emergency Solutions Grant funds will be utilized in support of local subrecipient's rapid rehousing, street outreach, homelessness prevention and shelter operations and renovations. The City of Fort Wayne's ESG Manual is attached to this Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan.

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

The goal of Coordinated Entry (CE) is to increase the efficiency of local response systems and improve fairness and ease of access to resources. Recognizing that efficient coordinated entry and case management is an essential component of a successful Coordinated Entry process to aid individuals in achieving self-sufficiency, the Planning Council on Homelessness has recently transitioned away from a concentrated coordinated entry process, and has established a new lead agency for Coordinated Entry to further enhance the process to best serve the homeless individuals in the City of Fort Wayne. Brightpoint is now currently serving as the lead agency for Coordinated Entry in Region 3, and all people experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness should be directed to call Brightpoint's Coordinated Entry Phone Line.

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).

The City of Fort Wayne released a request for proposals to determine how to best allocate 2023 ESG funding in our community. Though the community conversation regarding ESG funding has typically focused on rapid re-housing endeavors, the 2023 ESG request for proposals has expanded the scope of services to include shelter operations, renovations, and rapid re-housing activities as eligible projects for funding. Members of the Planning Council Steering Committee served on the scoring committee to assess the application received for 2023 ESG funding, and were able to advocate for proposals that would best serve the homeless population in the City of Fort Wayne with the limited ESG funding available. All ESG subrecipients receiving 2023 ESG funding will be required to use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to best track the services provided to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness or an equivalent system if working with victims of domestic violence. ESG Subrecipients will also be expected to adhere to the proposed scope of work in their application, and will work closely with City staff to ensure that reporting

covering performance standards and benchmarks are properly documented and submitted to the City on a consistent basis.

ESG will be used to administer the programs and to fund financial assistance as defined by program policy for eligible program participants. Private and faith-based organizations will be collaborators in referring potential clients to the program and may be engaged to continue and support case management roles with these clients, each of whom will have been referred from identified partner shelters. For 2023 HESG funds the City is in discussion with one partner to determine if efficiencies can be realized in how the 2023 rapid rehousing program is administered.

To ensure that the activities funded by the City's ESG allocation aligns with the needs in our community, the City works in close collaboration with The Planning Council on Homelessness to assess the needs and gaps of services in the community. The Planning Council's focus on assisting as many homeless individuals and families that are defined as chronically homeless by HUD through the Coordinated Entry process has enforced the City's decision to prioritize ESG funding for rapid rehousing endeavors to not only empower families in crisis to transition further into self-sufficiency, but to also open up space in shelters to further serve our homeless population. In the awarding process for ESG funding, the City ensures that the sub awardees are active participants in the Coordinated Entry process so as to house the prioritized families or individuals in crisis. Preventative measures to homelessness have also been discussed in current conversations with members of the Planning Council's steering committee.

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 City will continue to include homeless individuals in its series of focus groups which are utilized to help identify needs, gaps and priorities for inclusion in our Annual Action Plan(s). Due to the continued COVID-19 crises, our focus groups for the current year were largely centered more on consultations with the professionals and advocates addressing homelessness in Fort Wayne. The City was able to conduct one focus group with currently homeless women staying at newly opened St. Joseph Missions Women's Shelter that specifically serves unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness. The focus of this session was to understand what barriers keep these individuals in shelters and not in independent housing. Depending on the safety guidance provided by local health officials, the City will hopefully connect with more homeless individuals during the 2023/24 planning efforts through focus group discussions. Further, through expert interviews we will learn more about the unsheltered community and the barriers to them moving into shelter and on towards self-sufficiency Input from the homeless community and those who are formerly homeless is always sought and appreciated. We have also had individuals at Planning Council meetings when the discussion was focused on the City's response to homeless encampments.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The City of Fort Wayne has established a manual for all of its ESG programs based on consultations with HUD. Refer to the attached City of Fort Wayne's ESG Manual for more details on performance standards and program requirements. Due to the unique programs that will be funded by 2023 ESG monies, there are specific performance standards that will be established with each subrecipient to ensure that they adhere to ESG guidelines and accomplish their projected benchmarks. Other performance standards are more universal and will be monitored on a consistent basis to ensure compliance. For example, one of the performance standards is the 1:1 match requirement for ESG. City staff will require match reporting from subrecipients on a consistent basis to verify that there is sufficient match to satisfy the requirement.

