



Annual Action Plan
Community Development Block Grant
2023 Program Year
(July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

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

2023 Annual Action Plan

(July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

City Council Members

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Janice Porter, Ward 1

Dr. Charles Coleman, Ward 2

Ann Williams, Ward 3

John Street, Ward 4

LJ Bryant, Ward 5

Dr. Anthony Coleman, Ward 6

Brian Emison, Ward 1

Chris Moore Ward 2

Chris Gibson, Ward 3

Mitch Johnson, Ward 4

Joe Hafner, Ward 4

David McClain, Ward 6

Department of Grants & Community Development

Regina Burkett, Director of Community Development

Brenda Hall, Grants & Finance Specialist

Madelynn Williams, CDBG Program Manager

Alejandra Morales, Grant Writer

Mark Coomes, Grant Writer

Table of Content
Community Development Block Grant Program
2023 Program Year Funds \$652,511

CONTENT	PAGE
Process	
AP-05 Executive Summary	4
PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies	8
AP-10 Consultation	9
AP-12 Participation	13
Annual Action Plan	
AP-15 Expected Resources	16
AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives	19
AP-35 Projects	28
AP-38 Project Summary	30
AP-50 Geographic Distribution	41
AP-55 Affordable Housing	42
AP-60 Public Housing	43
AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities	44
AP-75 Barriers to Affordable Housing	45
AP-85 Other Actions	46
AP-90 Program Specific Requirements	49
Appendices	
Appendix 1: Citizen Participation Comments	
Appendix 2: Guidance on Submitting 2023 Plan (CDBG)	
Appendix 3: COJ Passed and Approved Resolution	
Appendix 4: Forms SF424 and SF424-D, and Certifications	

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary – 24 CFR 91.2009c0, 91.2209(b)

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

Designed to set goals that address community needs, the City of Jonesboro 2023 Annual Action Plan is an addition to the 2022-2026 (Five Year Consolidated Plan). This Action Plan is the second annual report with descriptions and actions for specific activities that meet the goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan.

HUD FY 2023 appropriations were released on February 27, 2023. The City of Jonesboro received \$652,511 in CDBG allocation to carryout allowable activities listed herein. These funds will be used to provide assistance to the Public Services; Homeowner Rehabilitation; First Time Homeownership.

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

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

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

Programs and FY 2023 CDBG allocations are as follows

- First Time Homeownership Assistance Grant to LMI first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing costs. Allocated \$15,000 to assist 3 qualified individuals at \$5,000 per applicant
- Demolition and Clearance Assistance to demolish qualified homeowner properties and other dilapidated structures in LMI areas. Allocated \$15,000
- Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance to LMI qualified homeowners allocation of \$60,000 to assist 4 homeowners with rehabilitation projects
- Public Services Program provides nonprofit organizations with funding for programs benefitting LMI persons and or areas. A total of \$82,876.65 is allocated to nonprofit organizations.
- Public Improvements with receive \$150,000 for connectivity and safety projects and \$50,000 will be allotted to provide sewer connections to LMI residents.
- Other activities funded include the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Homeless Prevention and Services. The NRP is community driven and revitalization focused, \$104,132.33 to address neighborhood issues. Homeless prevention and support services will receive \$45,000 in funds, which will assist with lowering The City's growing homeless population.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The City of Jonesboro (COJ) continues addressing housing services as one of the priorities for the Department. Providing LMI persons with decent housing and suitable living environment is a continuing goal. Homeownership and Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance, and other activities funded have been instrumental to enable the City to address issues that homeowners encounter by living in substandard conditions and having limited access to affordable housing.

The Rehab grant provides qualified homeowners the opportunity to complete needed home repairs; the grant is very sought after. Most applicants are elderly with low fixed income and female-headed households. The City of Jonesboro (COJ) continues addressing housing services as one of the priorities for the Department. Providing low-and moderate-income persons with decent housing and a suitable living environment is a continuing goal. Homeownership and Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance, and other activities funded have been instrumental to enable the City to address issues that homeowners encounter by living in substandard conditions and having limited access to affordable housing.

The First Time Homeownership Grant program funded two homeowners in FY 2022. In an effort to grow the program interest, we are allocating \$15,000 in FY 2023 to assist more applicants fulfill their dream of owning a home. For 2023, we plan to assist three eligible First Time Homeowners.

Aiding in the prevention and elimination of homelessness continues to be a priority for the jurisdiction. In previous years, CDBG funding has been awarded to organizations providing services to the homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless through facility rehab projects, administrative expenses, and or program related costs. In FY 2023, \$45,000 of CDBG funds are allocated towards homeless prevention and support services.

Moreover, the Public Services Program is a great way to assist nonprofit organizations with administrative and program expenses for services they provide to their LMI clients and residents. The Hispanic Community Services, Inc. is an organization providing several programs and services to the Hispanic community in Jonesboro and the outskirts of the city. This year, CDBG will fund them for the expansion of the Hispanic Emerging Leaders Program (H.E.L.P). The program will provide resources including ACT prep and much more to high school students in order to encourage students to attend higher learning institutions and to break the cycle of poverty in the Hispanic community. Similarly, the Jonesboro Business Association will partner with Annie Camp Junior High School to decrease truancy rates and increase higher learning opportunities for children coming from LMI households. Each student will receive mental health services and a mentor to help the child reach their goals. Hope Found of Northeast Arkansas will use their funding to expand community education and awareness programs for victims of human trafficking. Project Hope is an expansion of outreach services provided by Hope Found to victims of human trafficking in Jonesboro. The Organization, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), provides a vital service to the community and ensures that the voices of the abused and neglected children are heard. The program will recruit, train, and support volunteer advocates for every child in the foster care system in the City of Jonesboro. Lastly, North Jonesboro Community Development Corporation, a new recipient, will provide health services to the residents of North Jonesboro, which is a heavily poverty-stricken area. The services will target lowering A1C levels, cooking healthy, affordable meals, exercise programs, and decreasing lifestyle diseases.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

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

On January 27, 2023, a public notice was posted in the Jonesboro Sun and on the City of Jonesboro's website and other social media platforms inviting citizen to attend a public hearing held on February 16, 2023 at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. The public hearings were held one in the morning and one in the evening to facilitate participation and convenience for citizens to attend. There were four participants at the 10:30 am public hearing and three participants at the 5:30 am public hearing. There was one inquiry regarding when public service applications would become available.

To fulfill the public comment and review periods for the Action Plan draft. The City published the Notice of 30 Days Public Review and Comment Period advertisement in the local newspaper and the City website May 9, 2023. A copy of the plan was available in the office for review. The last day for the public to submit comments was June 9, 2023.

5. Summary of public comments

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

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

7. Summary

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

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

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

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

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

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

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Regina Burkett

Director of Community Development

rburkett@jonesboro.org

870-336-7229

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

1. Introduction

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

During the planning process for the 2023 Annual Action Plan, the City consulted with the community, COJ departments, public and private organizations. Collaborated and consulted with the Jonesboro Urban Renewal & Housing Authority (JURHA), Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC), Department of Human Services, Beck Pride Center, United Way of Northeast Arkansas, and many other organizations and agencies.

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

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

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City was involved with planning and strategizing of the Homelessness Task Force Coalition in 2016 and 2017. COJ is a member of the Northeast Arkansas Continuum of Care Coalition, part of the Arkansas Balance of State CoC. The City maintains its goal of addressing the needs of homeless persons and continues to work diligently collaborating on a future site for a shelter, if the citizens wish to move forward in that direction.

Being part of the NEA AR CoC Coalition has facilitated the COJ with working together with other organizations and agencies that provide services to the homeless population in Craighead, Green, and Poinsett Counties. During the planning process, the jurisdiction has collaborated with Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC), Hispanic Community Services, Inc. (HCSI); Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission (N.A.R.T.C.P), East Arkansas Planning and Development District (EAPDD), Craighead County Veterans Services, HUB Homeless Resource Center, and other non-profit organizations, church outreach ministries, community groups and neighborhood associations.

The City participates in the annual Point in Time Count (PIT); collaborates with its partners to serve the homeless populations and at-risk of becoming homeless. Craighead County had a PIT count of 312 homeless individuals for 2022-2023.

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

The City of Jonesboro planning process is a 12-month process that solicits and accepts citizens' input throughout the year. Information and data are collected from federally mandated public hearings; including CDBG, AFH hearings, community meetings and listening sessions. This process has enhanced the avenues for sharing data and gaining a better understanding of how we can coordinate our efforts to improve the lives of low- and moderate-income citizens. Additionally, social service agencies and other entities continue to be invited to the table during the planning process as well as throughout the year. This yearlong listening process has proven to be successful in gaining input from a cross-section of the community and service providers.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF JONESBORO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Jonesboro Department of Grants and Community Development has collaborated with all City departments through the year process for the annual action plan. The purpose to collaborate is to find ways to leverage CDBG funds with other local, state, federal, and private funding for project to benefit LMI areas and individual. Projects such sidewalk and street improvements, parks improvements and playground equipment, economic development, in conjunction with assisting with City's Master Plan to provide connectivity to LMI neighborhoods to access to stores, health services, and more.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Regional Transportation Planning

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The N.A.R.T.P.C partnership with the Grants and Community Development Department to enable input to pedestrian safety issues and improvements needed in areas of town, especially in north Jonesboro. One current project underway is to add pedestrian crossing and street marking in a high vehicle and pedestrian traffic that is deemed hazardous for pedestrian crossing the streets.</p>
---	---

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

Not applicable - None known.

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

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

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

In the efforts to broaden citizen participation, the City advertises all notices in the local newspaper, COJ website and social media pages.

The citizen participation process began with publishing the *Notice of Public Hearing* on January 27, 2023 in the local newspaper, flyers posted on the COJ's social media and website announcing two separate hearings. On February 16, 2023, the public hearings were held one in the morning and one in the evening to facilitate participation and convenience for citizens to attend. Surveys were prepared and available alongside the sign in sheets for the publicized hearings. There were four participants that showed up to the morning hearing and three participants that were present for the afternoon hearing.

The *Notice of Funding Availability* and *Notice of request for Proposal* was published on March 24, 2023 in the local newspaper, COJ website, and social media accounts. With the notice of funding availability, citizens were informed of available funding for housing programs, such as rehabilitation, demolition, and homeownership assistance. The RFP notice, which is directed to nonprofit organizations that may be interested in applying for the upcoming year, proposals were due April 24, 2023.

To fulfill the public comment and review period for the Action Plan Draft, the City published the *Notice of 30-Days Public Review and Comment Period* advertisement in the local newspaper and City website on May 9, 2023. A copy of the plan was available in the office for review. The last day for the public to submit comments was June 9, 2023.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Out Reach	Summary of Response/ Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If Applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-Targeted / Broad Community Non-Profit Organization	Notice of Public Hearing- Non-Profit organizations and residents contact office for more information if there are questions about public hearing times and location. Notice of Funding availability and RFP – citizens and organizations contact the office to inquire about	The 30-Day Comment received one email stating the need for more connectivity projects in the COJ.	N/A	N/A

			the grants available, qualification, and requirement. NUMBER of proposals were received. Notice of 30-Day and Day Public Review and Comment Period			
2	Public Hearing	Non-Targeted/broad Community	There were four attendees. No comments were made.	One inquiry asking when public service applications will become available.	N/A	N/A
3	Internet Outreach	Non-Targeted / Broad Community	N/A	No comments received	No comments received	https://www.jonesboro.org/152/CDBG-Program

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

Introduction

The 2023 CDBG allocation of \$652,511 will be utilized for the program year to fund multiple projects and activities to benefit LMI persons directly or indirectly.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 2				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan	Narrative Description
			Annual Income \$	Program Income \$	Prior Year Resources \$	Total \$		
CDBG	Public-Federal	Acquisition Administration and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$652,511	\$0.00	\$1,850,565	\$2,503,076	\$1,957,533	2023 (Year 2) CDBG allocation received is \$652,511. Prior Year Resources is the amount in IDIS at the beginning of 2023 (Year 2). The remainder of the Con Plan Years 3-5 (2024-2026) estimate is based on the 2023 actual allocation amount.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

FY 2023 is the second year of the Consolidated Plan. The jurisdiction will continue to utilize the CDBG funds for the improvement of the community with infrastructure projects, assisting LMI citizens with housing assistance, and funding nonprofit organization to provide services vital for the Low to Moderate Income community. In effort to increase the positive impact CDBG funds, the jurisdiction may leverage CDBG funds with additional state, local, and private funds.

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

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

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

DRAFT

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	AFH: Collaborate with the Citizen Fair Housing Board	2022	2026	Affordable Housing & Public Housing Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH; community Opposition AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$0	

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy	2022	2026	Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro, North Jonesboro, Jonesboro Low-income Areas	AFH: Availability of Affordable Unity in a Range AFH: Availability of Affordable Unity in a Range AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair housing AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities – Public AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions	CDBG: \$82,876.65	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 5,000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge	2022	2026	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability of Affordable Unity in a Range AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair housing AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities – Public AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0	JURHA provides ADH information to the public through outreach and video delivery for the City of Jonesboro.

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled	2022	2026	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Jonesboro Low-income Areas	AFH Factor: lack of Public Investment – Transit AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings	CDBG: \$150,000	Public Facility or infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit	2022	2026	Public Housing Transportation	Jonesboro, North Jonesboro, Jonesboro Low-income Areas	AFH Factor: lack of Public Investment – Transit AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 1000 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	AFH: Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability	2022	2026	Affordable Housing & Public Housing Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities – Public	CDBG: \$229,132.33	Public Service activities for LMI Housing Benefit: 2000 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 2

DRAFT

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	AFH: Housing and Service Opportunities to the Homeless	2022	2026	Homeless	Jonesboro	AFH: Availability of Affordable Unity in a Range AFH: Availability, type, frequency & reliability AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Private Investments AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities – Public AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Private Discrimination	CDBG: \$45,000	Homelessness Prevention: 20 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	AFH: Establish a Citizen Fair Housing Board
	Goal Description	Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with eight members. The members received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. Several members have attended trainings and conferences hosted by the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. The goal for 2023 is for the board to focus on the role and actions to take as leaders of the community to establish procedures. It must be determined whether the board will hear citizens' concerns and reports or if it will maintain in their informative and advocate role.
2	Goal Name	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy
	Goal Description	By 2023, develop a community revitalization strategy to reverse the trend of segregation in the R/ECAP by addressing the contributing factors in each fair housing issue. Fair Housing is not only about housing, but also about ensuring all residents have a great quality of life. The development of the strategies will allow all residents to provide input into the vision of the quality of life they want for their neighborhood. Revitalization strategies will address contributing factors expressed by residents and staff identified throughout the AFH. The census data shows that over the last ten years, there has been a constant flow of moderate/middle income families as well as white families moving out of North Jonesboro. Over the same period, there has been a constant influx of low-income and minorities moving into North Jonesboro. If this trend continues, it is only a matter of time before this R/ECAP becomes a slum and blight neighborhood, then criminal activities will filter into this area.
3	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge
	Goal Description	Jonesboro Urban Renewal Housing Authority or JURHA provides AFH information to the public through outreach and video delivery for the city of Jonesboro. Citizens Fair Housing Advisory Board established March 20, 2018 with eight members. The members have received training and created a partnership with the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. Several members have attended training and conferences hosted by the Arkansas Fair Housing Advisory Board. The goal for 2023 is for the board and JURHA to focus on the role and actions to take as leaders of the community to establish procedures through education programming. It must be determined whether the board will hear citizens' concerns and reports or if it will maintain in their informative and advocate role.

4	Goal Name	AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled
	Goal Description	Public Improvement Program (\$150,000) project will fund the construction of ADA Street sidewalks and other essential infrastructure; in LMI neighborhoods. The purpose of the project is to increase accessibility, connectivity, and safety for citizens, including ADA accessible sidewalks in this LMI area. Over 5,000 residents and commuter drivers will benefit. This has already been counted in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies goal, identified prior. The Homeowner Rehabilitation projects may also include ADA accessibility improvements for elderly disabled applicants. Furthermore, improvement of public infrastructure will provide active transport options for LMI neighborhoods and will increase neighborhood connectivity.
5	Goal Name	AFH: Improvement of Public Transit
	Goal Description	The Jonesboro Housing Authority is unfamiliar with the challenges facing the City in providing transportation for more routes and extending hours to weekend. The PHA is requesting a representative from the Housing Authority be added to the committee to promote the needs of the publicly assisted housing residents who rely on JET for transportation. The limited schedule affects their ability to access opportunity including jobs in the service industries, third-shift jobs, and other community amenities. Many residents who are impacted are the elderly, disabled, and minorities. Public infrastructure

6	Goal Name	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
	Goal Description	<p>To create attractive neighborhoods the City will continue to focus on funding housing services.</p> <p>Housing services: Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance (\$60,000) to LMI homeowner-occupied. Approximately 4 homeowners will benefit from the grant; additionally it helps improve their quality of life. Demolition and Clearance Assistance (\$15,000) to LMI homeowner, approximately 3 homeowners will benefit from the grant. LMI neighborhoods to prevent/eliminate slum and blight will benefit. Additionally, approximately 10 households will receive funding to have their sewer line reconnected (\$50,000), which will help maintain a safe, clean environment for members of the community.</p> <p>Many of the activities funded this fiscal year will be to address neighborhood revitalization specifically through public facilities and improvements (\$104,132.33).</p> <p>Additionally, creating attractive neighborhood livability is part of the City aiming to develop a community revitalization strategy with the goal to conduct a professional neighborhood assessment. The assessment will enable the City to design better strategies to target specific and identified neighborhoods in need.</p>
7	Goal Name	Housing and Service Opportunities to the Homeless
	Goal Description	<p>The citizens of Jonesboro have expressed a concern regarding the homeless population within the jurisdiction. City leaders have been collaborating on a suitable solution to address this issue. Unfortunately, at the time of submitting this action plan, we still do not have a definitive plan in place for a permanent homeless shelter. Our leaders are diligently working to address this very important issue.</p> <p>It is the jurisdiction goal to continue prioritizing and aiding in the prevention and eradication of homelessness in the city. CDBG funding utilized will assist with the homeless prevention and support services (\$45,000).</p>

AP-35 Projects- 91.220(d)

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated \$651,511 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the City of Jonesboro to achieve the set goals of activities listed in the 2023 Action Plan.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
2	Homeowner Assistance
3	Demolition & Clearance Assistance
4	Neighborhood Revitalization Program
5	Hispanic Community Service, Inc.
6	Hope Found NEA
7	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
8	Jonesboro Business Association
9	North Jonesboro Community Development Corporation
10	Public Improvements
11	Homelessness
12	Sewer Projects
13	CDBG Program Planning & Administration

Table 7 - Project Information

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

CDBG funds benefit LMI individuals throughout the City of Jonesboro. Housing Services: Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance; Homeownership Assistance; Demolition & Clearance, are citywide services for qualified LMI applicants. It is a priority for the City to provide these services, the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance benefits individuals at 51 percent and below of HUD income guidelines. These services are a priority due to the high number of applicants having homes near dilapidation caused by years being unattended by the homeowner for various reasons, one being limited income. Demolition assistance is needed for preventing and eliminating slum and blight in LMI neighborhoods. Furthermore, assisting LMI individuals that are unable to afford demolishing their own houses after a fire or severe decay. Assisting first-time homebuyers with closing costs/ down payments provides accessibility to affordable housing.

The Neighborhoods Revitalization Program (NRP) was designed to revitalize and beautify LMI neighborhoods. Projects selected may include park rehabilitation, community beautification by planting trees, creating green spaces in empty lots, painting murals, neighborhood cleanup events, and many more projects. Aiding in the prevention and elimination of homelessness is one of the city's top priority. Finding ways to provide housing and services to the homeless has been a focus for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

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

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

DRAFT

1	Project Name	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy AFH: Increase Accessibly for the Disabled Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability
	Needs addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Rehabilitated Housing
	Funding	\$60,000
	Description	Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance for qualified homeowner-occupied properties for minor and major home repairs. Repair, replacements, energy efficiency improvements, and / or installations (such as plumbing, roof, electric up top codes, windows, foundation and many more).
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 4 projects will be completed for qualified LMI applicants. Most grant recipients are elderly with fixed incomes below the 50% HUD income limits.
	Location Description	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.

	Planned Activities	CDBG Funds will cover the cost of the rehab projects that may be comprised in replacement, repair, and installation.
2	Project Name	Homeownership Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Increase the Acceptability of Housing Choice
	Needs addressed	AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in Range
	Funding	\$15,000
	Description	Homeownership Assistance program provides qualified first-time homebuyers a \$5,000 grant for a down payment and closing costs assistance. Most applicants are within the 80% of HUD income limits.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Three LMI households will directly benefit from this grant

	Location Description	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.
	Planned Activities	Homeownership Assistance program provides qualified first-time homebuyers a \$5,000 grant for a down payment and closing costs assistance.
3	Project Name	Demolition & Clearance Assistance
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	Create Attractive Neighborhoods-livability
	Needs addressed	AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties
	Funding	\$15,000
	Description	The demolition assistance grant benefits LMI homeowners to demolish their dilapidated properties. It may include the demolition of privately owned buildings aiming to address slum and blight in LMI areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Three to four homeowners will benefit directly from receiving the grant to demolish their dilapidated homes.
	Location Description	Citywide qualified applicants, most in identified LMI areas, especially in North Jonesboro.
	Planned Activities	Qualified applicants will receive the grant to demolish dilapidated homes. CDBG funds will cover the cost of demolition and tipping fees.
4	Project Name	Neighborhoods Revitalization Program
	Target Area	Jonesboro LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability
	Needs addressed	AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies AFH Lack of Services and Amenities-Public
	Funding	\$104,132.33
	Description	Program will fund the cost of projects addressing revitalization and beautification of LMI neighborhoods. This program year, funds will support the Neighborhood Beautification Commissions and City Council will identify potential projects. Potential projects may be neighborhood cleanup events, tree plantings, street lighting, and more.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Residents of LMI neighborhoods will directly benefit from neighborhood revitalization and beautification projects.
	Location Description	Jonesboro LMI Areas
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will cover the purchase or rental costs of neighborhood cleanup events.
5	Project Name	Hispanic Community Service, Inc. expansion of Hispanic Emerging Leaders Program (H.E.L.P.)
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	To assist Low Income students who have less resources for school and face disparities in education and access to institutions of higher learning.
	Needs addressed	AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	\$19,951.5
	Description	Public Services Program – The Hispanic Community Services, Inc., are expanding their H.E.L.P. program where they will provide ACT Prep, mentorship from Hispanic community leaders, and guidance to prevent risky behaviors.

	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 students benefit directly from H.E.L.P. Over 51 percent of the high school students are from LMI households.
	Location Description	Program administration will be conducted at Municipal Center by the Grants and Community Development Department. Services will be provided at El Centro Hispano at 211 Vandyne Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of scholarships and administration.
6	Project Name	Hope Found NEA – Project Hope
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	Bring awareness to and safety for victims of Human Trafficking in NEA
	Needs addressed	To provide services and to implement community education and awareness programs for human trafficking victims.
	Funding	\$19,598

	Description	Public Services Program – Project Hope will increase the awareness of trafficking and its perils among high-risk groups, minors, and the general public through aggressive and intentional information dissemination campaigns. HFNEA has a 24 hour helpline for victims to call for immediate assistance and it is important people are aware of this information
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1,600 people will benefit directly from the grant from ages 12-60 years old.
	Location Description	Administration of project will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grant and Community Development Department. Location of the facility is 706 S. Main Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of supplies, printing, materials, office space and training.
7	Project Name	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Building Better Homes
	Target Area	Jonesboro North Jonesboro Jonesboro - Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Lack of Services and amenities-Public
	Needs addressed	AFH: Lack of Service & Amenities

	Funding	\$11,875
	Description	To recruit, train and support volunteer advocacy for every child in foster care in the City of Jonesboro.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Citywide outreach and services, specifically 120 will be served directly by this grant including 48 households.
	Location Description	Administration of project will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grant and Community Development Department. Location of the facility is 410 Church Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of supplies, printing, materials, office space and training.
8	Project Name	Jonesboro Business Association- See Me Be Me
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Lack of Services and amenities-Public

	Needs addressed	AFH: Lack of Services and amenities-Public
	Funding	\$19,952.15
	Description	Public Services Program – See Me Be Me will provide mentorship and mental health services to children from LMI households. The program provides the resources needed to encourage higher rates of attendance of LMI children in institutions for higher learning.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The funds will directly benefit only LMI children within the Jonesboro City Limits.
	Location Description	Administration of project will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grant and Community Development Department. Location of the facility is 1814 west Nettleton Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of supplies, materials, social media, and intern stipend.
9	Project Name	North Jonesboro Community Development Corporation – North Jonesboro Strong
	Target Area	Jonesboro

	Goals Supported	AFH: Lack of Services and amenities-Public
	Needs addressed	AFH: Lack of Services and amenities-Public
	Funding	\$11,500
	Description	North Jonesboro Strong provide health services to the residents of North Jonesboro. The services will target lowering A1C levels, cooking healthy, affordable meals, exercise programs, and decreasing lifestyle diseases
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program will directly benefit 400 LMI individuals located in North Jonesboro.
	Location Description	Administration of project will be conducted at the Municipal Center by the Grant and Community Development Department. Location of the facility is 1506 North Church Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of supplies, materials, printing, and staff wages.
10	Project Name	Public Improvements

Target Area	Jonesboro
Goals Supported	Create Attractive Neighborhood- Livability
Needs addressed	AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings, Walking Trails and recreation
Funding	\$150,000
Description	Public Improvements – ADA Sidewalk Connectivity Walking Path
Target Date	6/30/2024
Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The infrastructure improvements will benefit over 5,000 LMI persons in the identified areas where over 51 percent are LMI.
Location Description	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.
Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be utilized to cover the cost of construction of ADA sidewalks and infrastructure improvements throughout the City of Jonesboro.

11	Project Name	Homelessness
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Needs addressed	AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities - Public
	Funding	\$45,000
	Description	Funding will be provided to support homeless prevention and support services within the City of Jonesboro.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.
	Location Description	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.

	Planned Activities	CDBG Funds will cover the cost of the rehab projects that may be comprised in replacement, repair, and installation.
12	Project Name	Sewer Projects
	Target Area	Jonesboro
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy AFH: Increase Accessibly for the Disabled Create Attractive Neighborhood-Livability
	Needs addressed	AFH: Location and Type of Rehabilitated Housing
	Funding	\$50,000
	Description	Homeowner Rehabilitation, specifically for sewer connections, for qualified homeowner occupied properties. Most applicants are elderly and are below the 50% of HUD income limits.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Ten LMI households will directly benefit from this grant.

	Location Description	Citywide projects based on LMI applicants in various locations throughout the city limits of Jonesboro.
	Planned Activities	Homeowner Rehabilitation, specifically for sewer connections, for qualified homeowner occupied properties

13	Project Name	CDBG-Program Planning & Administration
	Target Area	Jonesboro, North Jonesboro, Jonesboro-Low Income Areas
	Goals Supported	AFH: Develop a Community Revitalization Strategy AFH: Increase Fair Housing Knowledge through JURHA AFH: Increase Accessibility for the Disabled AFH: Increase Acceptability for Housing Choice AFH: Create Attractive Neighborhood Livability AFH: Housing and Services Opportunities for the Homeless

Needs Addressed	<p>AFH Factor: Lack of Public Investment-Transit</p> <p>AFH: Access to Transportation for Persons</p> <p>AFH: Availability , type, frequency & reliability</p> <p>AFH: Community Opposition</p> <p>AFH: Lack of Private Investments</p> <p>AFH: Location and Type of Affordable Housing</p> <p>AFH: Occupancy Codes and Restrictions</p> <p>AFH: Private Discrimination</p> <p>AFH: Deteriorated and Abandoned Properties</p> <p>AFH: Lack of Community Revitalization Strategies</p> <p>AFH: Lack of Fair Housing Outreach & Enforcement</p> <p>AFH: Lack of Knowledge of Fair Housing</p> <p>AFH: Availability of Affordable Units in a range</p> <p>AFH: Inaccessible Sidewalks, Pedestrian Crossings</p> <p>AFH: Lack of Transitional Housing</p> <p>AFH: Lack of Services & Amenities-Public</p>
Funding	CDBG-: \$130,502.02 Administration Cost
Description	<p>CDBG administration expenses necessary for planning, project management, implementation and compliance reporting. Planned activities include managing 2021 CDBG funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Program management will directly/indirectly have a positive effect on thousands of low-to-moderate income individuals throughout the program year. Planned activities include managing CDGB funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Meeting the 20 percent cap.</p>
Target Date	6/30/2022

Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Citywide outreach and services, specifically to LMI residents.
Location Description	Municipal Center at 300 S. Church St., Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401
Planned Activities	Planned activities include managing CDBG funded programs, projects, and comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DRAFT

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

City of Jonesboro – data shows multiple LMI sectors citywide. There are multiple pockets of low-income and minority concentrations throughout the City. Three key areas in the City have the highest LMI population and with neighborhoods needing rehabilitation, revitalization, and beautification strategies. These areas are north Jonesboro (NRSA), Fairview at the east of city limits, and West Ends adjacent to downtown to the west side of town. North Jonesboro has approximately **PERCENT** of LMI population in **CENSUS TRACT**. Fairview has approximately **PERCENT** of LMI population in **CENSUS TRACT**. West End overall census tract data shows that approximately **PERCENT** of the population is LMI; however, the areas of focus are in **CENSUS TRACT** indicating **PERCENT** are LMI.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Jonesboro	
North Jonesboro	
Jonesboro – Low Income Areas	

Table 8: Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

It is the City’s priority to fund projects and activities that benefit LMI individuals and areas; subsequently, to comply with §91.220 (f), the City dedicates over 70% of funds to benefit LMI persons and areas. A portion of the funds will utilize to fund the activities in North Jonesboro, where a large number of LMI households reside. Most of the public services organization being funded this fiscal year will provide services to LMI individuals. Funds for housing services are awarded to qualified LMI individuals citywide; however, there is a large number of applicants from north Jonesboro for the rehabilitation assistance program.

Geographic distribution is as follows: Jonesboro (citywide) **PERCENT**, LMI area **PERCENT**, north Jonesboro **PERCENT**. Program Planning and Administration amount allocated was divided evenly among the three areas to focus for a balanced distribution.

Discussion

Funds will benefit LMI individuals all throughout the City of Jonesboro. More than **NUMBER** individuals will benefit through direct and / or indirect service.

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

In FY 2023 funds are being awarded to **NUMBER** first-time homebuyers for the Homeownership Assistance Program. These funds are awarded to qualified LMI individuals to assist with closing costs and the down payment.

Currently, the jurisdiction is working on funding housing services from 2022 CDBG funds. Approximately **NUMBER** houses will be completed for the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program. Funds to rehabilitate homeowner-occupied properties to bring them up to code and to create a clean and safe environment to live in. With this program, homeowners in very dilapidated housing will be able to stay in their property that they can afford as opposed to relocating in case their home becomes condemned-unlivable conditions.

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

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

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

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

Discussion

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

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The jurisdiction does not own or manage any public housing. The City of Jonesboro collaborates with the Jonesboro Housing Authority (JURHA) who is over public housing. JURHA public housing developments are primarily located on the outskirts of the R/ECAP. Even though it is physically located out of the R/ECAP, based on the JURHA annual review for the de-concentration in public housing, **PERCENT** fall at or below the extremely low-income levels. Of the remaining **PERCENT** of the households, **NUMBER** live at the 50 percent or the very low-income levels for the City population.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not Applicable

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

Introduction

The City of Jonesboro is tackling the ever-increasing issue of homelessness. As more and more people find themselves without shelter, the jurisdiction deems necessary to address this issue and allocate funds for services that aim to prevent or eliminate homelessness in the City. However, individuals with disabilities struggle to transition into permanent housing. The jurisdiction is aware of these issues and are willing to work with service providers and the families of these individuals.

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

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

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

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

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 families, and corrections programs and institutions); or receiving assistance from public or private agencies that addressing housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

Finding solutions to establish a homeless shelter that meets demand is priority. One of the core CDBG programs for the City is the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance that provides housing repairs for those who own their home and needs assistance to bring their homes up to code. Most of the applicants are elderly, on a fixed income, or a single parent head of household that without receiving the grant for needed housing repairs may run the risk of losing their homes or their homes becoming beyond repair that may be condemned.

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

Introduction

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

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects or public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

A significant barrier to affordable housing remains the financial ability of the LMI families to provide necessary funding for acquisition or for major or minor homeowner repairs, so acquisition and repair programs implemented by the City help address this obstacle. Obstacles the City continues to face is the current rising cost of materials and labor for rehabilitation projects in the community due to the impact of COVID causing a severe disruption of the supply chain for materials and the negative impact of the that escalation on the existing program limits. The City currently administers minor and major repair programs that enable low- and moderate-income homeowners to stay in their homes and in a safe and decent environment. The City continues to assist the low-income community by offering the Homeownership Assistance program to eligible first-time homebuyers. These programs continue to be very successful and in demand. The Homeowner Rehabilitation program, specifically, is a great resource and tool for qualified homeowners to apply for the grant and have their homes repair to avoid fines or losing their homes for becoming dilapidated or inhabitable.

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

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Jonesboro continues to place major emphasis on HUD's priority to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for LMI persons. COJ's goals of housing improving the quality of life for LMI residents through the provision of needed public services, public improvements, and housing assistance programs. This year's projects and activities address these goals directly as it increases accessibility of affordable housing and the viability for potential homeownership through the provision of direct homeownership assistance. The City will address the sustainability of our existing affordable housing through preservation, improvement, and rehabilitation projects. Providing grant opportunities for the underserved LMI abs minority groups, fund services through public service programs, working on finding suitable locations to open a homeless shelter, and follow lead-based paint regulation are all efforts to assure the most disadvantaged residents have access to these programs and opportunities.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Jonesboro's Department of Grants & Community Development has implemented a citywide community engagement strategy that includes residents, churches, stakeholder, and non-profit organizations that serve our lowest income residents. It is the jurisdiction's intention to build a model of community involvement that directly addresses poverty issues, encourages community leadership, and enable low-income neighborhoods to see marked change in the program year 2023.

The FY2023 program year includes multiple projects that will benefit the LMI and minority persons in the City. Every year through the planning process of the plan, the City focuses on the identifying community needs though its Citizen's Participation Plan. Those comments, concerns, and community needs identified take priority in developing projects to be funded through CDBG. This year, funding nonprofit organizations through public services that serve primarily minorities and LMI individuals is of importance to the City. Furthermore, the housing programs grants available to LMI individuals is a great way of servicing and providing opportunities to those underserved and with financial difficulty. The City is working towards strengthening or neighborhood revitalization efforts to improve accessibility and livability in LMI areas. This far, the City has not faced any obstacles to meeting the needs of residents being served within the programs mentioned.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Jonesboro is committed to the proper implementation of a balanced Community Development Program that maximizes benefits to LMI persons both directly and indirectly through the improvement of their neighborhoods. Through the provision of decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment, educational and supportive services, and the expansion of economic opportunities. The City intends to change the face of our low-income neighborhoods and provide residences with the needed resources to assist them in breaking both generational

and circumstantial poverty. This year's focus is housing, along with a broad range of public and social services addressing the core needs of our low-income individuals.

CDBG funding makes it possible for Jonesboro to provide meaningful housing improvements, public improvement, and community restoration and development activities. It is through these activities that the City addresses the quality of life issues.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

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

Owners of properties to be rehabilitated are informed of the risk of lead based paint. As part of the rehabilitation process. The property is inspected for signs of defective paint. Defective paint in older homes that is suspected to be lead based is removed following the lead based paint standards. If there are children in the home, the parents are provided information regarding the benefits of having the children tested for lead based paint and also where they can go get this done. When the Rehab project scope includes paint disturbance or touching paint, the RRP Certified contractor will test the paint surface for lead and if the lead is found then the contractor follows Lead-Based Paint Safety Work Practices. All properties with built date unknown are assumed to have lead and SWP must be followed to avoid lead-based paint hazards.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The institutional structure for implementation of the Consolidated Plan includes nonprofit organizations along with other public agencies and education institutions. The COJ Department of Grants and Community Development is responsible for the implementation of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans. Providing LMI Individuals multiple of services and opportunities for grants enables the jurisdiction to decrease the number of poverty-level families in the City.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City funds and coordinates with the nonprofit organizations that provide public services to benefit Jonesboro residents. The City also works with housing developers in the development of affordable housing through out the City. Nonprofit organizations are vital partners in achieving the Consolidated Plan goals.

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

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

The City assists nonprofit agencies in securing other state and federal funding by writing letters of support and assisting agencies to complete applications for funding.

The major strengths of the City's institutional structure is in the access to various city departments and a large number of very capable nonprofit organizations who are highly competent in using available resources and leveraging funding in order to achieve the desired housing and services.

DRAFT

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(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	100
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

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

DRAFT