



2023-2024 CDBG Action Plan



City of Cape Coral
2023-2024 CDBG One Year Action Plan
Resolution XX-2023
Public Comment Version 1.0
No Appendices



**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
FY 2023-2024
for submittal to US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Public Comment 1.0
DRAFT
June 1, 2023**

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

Introduction

The Consolidated Plan consists of the information required in 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 91, Consolidated Submissions for Community Planning and Development Programs. The Consolidated Plan serves as a planning document, application for Federal Funds, strategic plan in carrying out U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs, and Action Plan that provides the basis for assessing performance.

The City of Cape Coral's Five-Year Consolidated Plan covers the time period from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025. The Plan identifies community needs and details initiatives to address those needs and is structured in a format that will help to measure performance. Using the latest available data, this five-year planning document identifies priority housing, homeless, special populations, public housing, and community development needs. The plan also considers market conditions for a wide range of housing characteristics, including the number of available housing units, cost and condition of housing, homeless facilities and services, special needs facilities and services, and barriers to affordable housing. The plan establishes general strategies for addressing those needs, and integrates the application, planning, implementation, and citizen participation requirements for the Community Development Block Grant program and other sources of state and federal funds administered through the Cape Coral Development Services Department.

Cape Coral's Development Services Department, City Planning Division, is responsible for administering the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The City is the primary recipient of HOPWA funds for Lee County. The City defers these funds to the State of Florida for administration. CDBG activities will be included in this Consolidated Plan and HOPWA funds are covered under the State's Consolidated Plan. The Cape Coral City Council is the entity responsible for approving the application of grant funds for various activities outlined in the Consolidated Plan and the One-Year Action Plan.

Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The City of Cape Coral has identified five priority needs to be addressed during the Consolidated Plan period (2020-2024) that will meet HUD's objectives of providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, or economic opportunity. Priority needs, objectives, and outcome indicators projected for the 5-Year period include: homeowner assistance, acquisition of property, sidewalk construction, social/public services, and microenterprise assistance.

Evaluation of past performance

The City regularly monitors and evaluates its past performance to ensure meaningful progress is made toward its goals identified in its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. Below summarizes progress made on each goal identified in that Consolidated Plan as of publication of the City's PY2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

- **9 income qualified households were connected to City utilities**
- **Gap assistance was provided to 5 low income households to purchase homes**
- **21,199 low/moderate income Cape Coral households were provided services through eight(8) different programs.**

- **Eighteen (18) income qualified residents attended training to open new businesses.**
- **One segment of sidewalk was completed in a low income neighborhood**

Lack of funding and increased costs of labor and materials may have caused barriers in accomplishing activities including new construction of affordable homeowner units and owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. Grant funds were expended in a timely manner. The City will adjust accordingly for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and will continue to monitor activities and focus on high priority needs.

Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Cape Coral recognizes the importance of a robust, comprehensive, and effective citizen participation and stakeholder consultation process. The community insights and ideals gained from this outreach are invaluable resources to the development of an appropriate, comprehensive, and meaningful strategy set forth in this plan.

The Citizen Participation Plan (CP) encourages public participation, emphasizing involvement by low and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in areas targeted for revitalization and areas where funding is proposed. In addition, it encourages the participation of all its citizens, including minorities, non-English speaking persons, and persons with disabilities.

The City's Citizen Participation Plan was amended in July 2021 by Resolution 154-21.

The City solicited comment during a 30-day public comment period from June 5, 2023 through July 5, 2023. The City also held a public hearing on July 12th to solicit comments on the Action Plan and the City Council also adopted the Action Plan at this hearing. Proper notices of public comment were published in a newspaper of general circulation, on the City's home website, and social media pages.

The City provides the public with reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the data or content of all federally required documents and publications. The City also provides full and timely disclosure of program records and information for the preceding five years consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws regarding personal privacy and confidentiality.

Summary of public comments

The City of Cape Coral hosted one public meeting and one public hearing for the development of the Action Plan. The following summary represents a broad overview of the comments and input received from these consultations. For further details on comments received, attendance counts, and other details pertaining to the citizen input process, refer to section PR-15.

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

There were no comments, opinions, or statements rejected during the course of the public comment period, survey collection, stakeholder forums, publicly available meetings, or public hearings.

Summary

This Consolidated Plan consists of four parts including: a housing and community development needs assessment, a market analysis, a Strategic Plan, and the Annual Action Plan. The Strategic Plan is a key

component of the Consolidated Plan, as this section outlines the City's objectives and outcomes to meet the needs identified in the assessment section. The Annual Action Plan, one of five annual plans, outlines how federal resources will be allocated. Each year after that an Annual Plan will be completed to communicate how these funds will be allocated to meet the objectives identified in the Consolidated Plan.

The Annual Action Plans also includes a section that evaluates the city's performance towards meeting the objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. This is the fourth Annual Plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

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

Agency/Entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan/Action Plan

AGENCY ROLE	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Lead Entity	Development Services Department/City Planning Division
CDBG Administrator	Development Services Department/City Planning Division

Narrative

The City of Cape Coral Development Services Department- City Planning Division is responsible for the planning and coordination of the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan including Annual Action Plans. This office operates and administers the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Development Block Grant – COVID, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), and state affordable housing (State Housing Initiatives Partnerships) programs.

Consolidated Plan/Action Plan Public Comment Contact Information

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

Introduction

In developing the Annual Action Plan, the City of Cape Coral conducts an outreach effort to engage with critical stakeholders.

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

The City of Cape Coral's Development Services Department/City Planning Division has developed and managed strong partnerships and relationships to enhance coordination between service providers. Entities participating in the process include multiple providers of services from various disciplines. These include agencies, organizations, groups with expertise in case management, life skills, alcohol and/or drug abuse, mental health, housing, public housing, employment assistance, transportation, legal, elderly, food/clothing, and domestic violence.

The jurisdiction's consultation with these providers for the Consolidated Plan involved scoping sessions, surveys, interviews, and public meetings. These methods of coordination not only imparted information to the various groups but also presented opportunities for criticisms, questions, and feedback. Outside of the Consolidated Planning process, the City annually holds workshops for agencies to discuss needs within the community. Often these workshops lead to agencies collaborating on services, exchanging information, or providing referrals. By continuing to offer these workshops and other opportunities the City anticipates outcomes including, but not limited to, improved lines of communication, increased collaboration, and enriched citizen participation.

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 of Cape Coral is part of the Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC). The Lee County Human and Veteran Services Department serves as the lead agency for the County's Continuum of Care (CoC). Through this collaboration, the City ensures that CoC goals and the City's Consolidated Plan priorities are integrated into the plan.

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.

While the City of Cape Coral does not receive ESG funds, the City is a member of the Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC) Governing Board. The Governing Board is responsible for developing performance standards for and evaluation of outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds and developing policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS.

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 provides a list of agencies that participated in the Action Plan process

1	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE/COMMUNITY SUPPORT
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY HOMELESS NEEDS - CHRONICALLY HOMELESS HOMELESS NEEDS - FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN HOMELESSNESS NEEDS - VETERANS HOMELESSNESS NEEDS - UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA COLLECTION/INFORMATION INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

2	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	SERVICES-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SERVICES-HEALTH
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA COLLECTION/INFORMATION INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

3	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	ABUSE COUNSELING AND TREATMENT
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	SERVICES-VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA COLLECTION/INFORMATION INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

4	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	DEAF SERVICE CENTER OF SWFL, INC
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	SERVICES-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA COLLECTION/INFORMATION INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

5	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	CITY OF CAPE CORAL PARKS AND RECREATION
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	SERVICES-ELDERLY PERSONS SERVICES-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SERVICES – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE/FACILITIES
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA COLLECTION/INFORMATION INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

6	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	DR. PIPER CENTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, INC
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	SERVICES-CHILDREN SERVICES-ELDERLY PERSONS SERVICES-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SERVICES-EMPLOYMENT
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING

7	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF LEE AND HENDRY COUNTIES
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	HOUSING
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	AFFORDABLE HOUSING
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA COLLECTION/INFORMATION INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

8	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SW FLORIDA
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	HOUSING SERVICES-EMPLOYMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA/INFORMATION FOR INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

9	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	CITY OF CAPE CORAL – PUBLIC WORKS
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	PUBLIC FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA/INFORMATION FOR INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

1 0	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION	CAPE CORAL CARING CENTER
	AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION TYPE	EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE/COMMUNITY SUPPORT
	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY HOMELESS NEEDS - CHRONICALLY HOMELESS HOMELESS NEEDS - FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN HOMELESSNESS NEEDS - VETERANS HOMELESSNESS NEEDS - UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH
	HOW WAS THE AGENCY/GROUP/ORGANIZATION CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION OR AREAS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION?	PUBLIC MEETING DATA/INFORMATION FOR INCORPORATION IN PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES

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

Efforts were made to consult as broadly as possible with community stakeholders. No agency types were excluded from participation.

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	Lee County Department of Human and Veteran Services	Not applicable.
Lee County Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	City of Cape Coral, Lee County, City of Fort Myers	Goals within the strategic plan coordinate and enhance the goals and objectives outlined in this plan to affirmatively further fair housing choice.
City of Cape Coral Comprehensive Plan	City of Cape Coral	Goals within the strategic plan coordinate and enhance the goals and objectives outlined in this plan's housing element.

AP12 Participation – 91.105,91.200(c)

Citizen participation was achieved through several methods during the Action Plan planning process. The following methods were used to garner public and private input:

On March 27th , there was a meeting of the Citizen’s Advisory Board for CDBG which included an opportunity for Comment from Public and Board Members.

On May 22nd , there was a meeting for the Citizen’s Advisory Board for CDBG which included an opportunity for Comment from Public and Board Members.

From June 5th though July 5th, the draft Action Plan was made available for public comment at the following locations: City Hall, internet.

On July 12th , City Council held the public meeting regarding the draft Action Plan which included an opportunity for comment by the public and City Council Members.

Table 4 below is a summary of public participation in the process. This table will be updated throughout the process.

Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
Internet Outreach	Minorities, Non-English Speaking, Persons with Disabilities, Non-Targeted/Broad Community, Residents of Public Housing	N/A	None Received	N/A	www.capecoral.gov
Two Public Advertisements	Minorities, Non-English Speaking, Persons with Disabilities, Non-Targeted/Broad Community, Residents of Public Housing	N/A – No Calls or emails received	None Received	N/A	
Two Public Meetings	Minorities, Non-English Speaking, Persons with Disabilities, Non-Targeted/Broad Community, Residents of Public Housing	Citizen's Advisory Board Members (five).	Participants described public service and housing needs in Cape Coral.	N/A	
Public Hearing	Minorities, Non-English Speaking, Persons with Disabilities, Non-Targeted/Broad Community, Residents of Public Housing	City Council			

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

Introduction

During the five years covered by the Consolidated Plan, the City of Cape Coral expects to receive \$5,353,015 in CDBG funding. For Program Year 2023-2024 the City has been awarded \$1,048,486 in CDBG funds. The CDBG funds will be used to address the priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Reminder 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	1,048,486	0	0	1,048,486	1,048,486	CDBG funds will be utilized in accordance with this plan to further address community development, housing, and public service needs in Cape Coral
Other	Public - State	Acquisition/New Construction Housing/Rehabilitation	2,385,694	0	0	2,385,694	4,771,388	State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program funds will be utilized to address affordable housing issues in Cape Coral.

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

The City will use the federal funds to support projects and programs implemented by City staff as well as non-profit organizations, developers, and other partners. For projects to be successful, other funding sources including in-kind resources are often added to federal funding in order to have sufficient resources to benefit the population to be served as well as to cover expenditures that may not be allowable under the CPD programs or to cover indirect costs. The source of these additional funds, if needed, will depend on the nature of the activity. There is no match requirement for the CDBG program.

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

Florida Statutes Section 166.0451, Disposition of municipal property for affordable housing, requires that cities create an inventory list of real property with fee simple title appropriate for affordable housing. In compliance with the statute, the City of Cape Coral maintains the inventory of City-owned surplus land that are potential properties for the development of permanent affordable housing. The City of Cape Coral may partner with nonprofit organizations that develop affordable housing for low income households. However, the disposition of any of these properties for affordable housing is subject to the discretion of the City of Cape Coral.

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

Goal Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Homeowner Assistance	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	City of Cape Coral	Increase Access to Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$410,175 State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP): \$1,255,773	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 5 Households Assisted Rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing - 0
2	Acquisition	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	City of Cape Coral	Increase Access to Affordable Housing	CDBG: Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 and 3: State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP):	Acquisition of properties -
3	Sidewalk Construction	2020	2024	Public Facilities	City of Cape Coral	Provide for Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG:\$0	Public facility or infrastructure activities other than low/moderate income housing benefit:
4	Public Service Assistance	2020	2024	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City of Cape Coral	Increase Access to Public Service Activities	CDBG: \$151,901	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted
5	Microenterprise-Economic Development	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Cape Coral	Increase Economic Opportunity	CDBG: \$38,840	11 persons
6	Program Administration	2020	2024	Program Administration	City of Cape Coral	Program Administration	CDBG: \$202,535	

Goal Descriptions

1	GOAL NAME	HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE
	GOAL DESCRIPTION	SUPPORT HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND AFFORDABILITY BY PROVIDING DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOMEBUYERS. ASSIST LOW INCOME HOMEOWNERS WITH HEALTH, SAFETY, AND/OR WELFARE RELATED REPAIRS TO THEIR HOMES. THIS MAY INCLUDE MANDATORY CONNECTION TO CITY WATER AND SEWER.
2	GOAL NAME	ACQUISITION
	GOAL DESCRIPTION	PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
3	GOAL NAME	SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION – INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT
	GOAL DESCRIPTION	FUNDS WILL BE USED TO REDUCE SLUM/BLIGHT, CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS, PROVIDE ACCESSABILITY, AND STABILIZE THE NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SIDEWALKS
4	GOAL NAME	PUBLIC SERVICE ASSISTANCE
	GOAL DESCRIPTION	FUNDS WILL BE USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH, HUMAN, AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS IN THE CITY FOR LMI INDIVIDUALS AND PERSONS PRESUMED TO BE LOW AND MODERATE INCOME. THE CITY WILL PROMOTE A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORT DECENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY PROVIDING SERVICES TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES, ELDERLY, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
5	GOAL NAME	MICROENTERPRISE
	GOAL DESCRIPTION	SUPPORT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS OR POTENTIAL ENTREPRENEURS.
5	GOAL NAME	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
	GOAL DESCRIPTION	FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUD CDBG PROGRAM. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE STAFF SALARIES; FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES; AND PREPARATION OF HUD REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

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

It is estimated that 6 income qualified households will purchase affordable housing during the program year. Housing activities have a two-year contract period.

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City will undertake various projects during the 2023-2024 program year focused on providing decent affordable housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunity for residents. The City will utilize their HUD CDBG grant program to carry out activities intended to address priority needs in the community and ensure the greatest impact to beneficiaries.

#	PROJECT NAME
1	HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE
2	CAPE CORAL CARING CENTER PUBLIC SERVICES
3	SHELTER AND SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS
4	PARATRANSIT – MINIBUS
5	CHILD CARE SERVICES
6	UTILITY ASSISTANCE
7	SERVICES FOR THE DEAF
8	SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED
9	SENIOR SERVICES
10	MICROENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE
11	CDBG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

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

Projects chosen for funding were based on priorities established in the Consolidated Plan.

There are various elements that produce obstacles to meeting need within the community. Addressing all housing, homeless, and community developments needs is a difficult task due to lack of funding. The City utilizes all possible resources and continues to seek leveraging sources to meet as many underserved needs. The current housing market and economic environment also serve as barriers to meeting needs. Housing values have increased tremendously limiting access to affordable housing for low income persons. Stagnant incomes add to the number of families and individuals needing access to services and many times the capacity to fund and implement existing or additional programs is limited. The City utilizes its CDBG funds to the fullest extent to assist in meeting underserved needs. Leveraging efforts with public and private entities are also made to supplement federal funds and increase the resources available to address community needs.

AP-38 Projects Summary

Project Summary Information

1	PROJECT NAME	HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$641,516
	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT WILL COMPRISE OF THREE ACTIVITIES – GAP FINANCING FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW OR EXISTING HOUSING BY INCOME ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS, REHABILITATION OF PROPERTIES FOR SALE TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND DOWN PAYMENT/CLOSING COST ASSISTANCE TO INCOME ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CDBG REGULATIONS.
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2025
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 6 HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE ASSISTED THROUGH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	THIS IS A SCATTERED SITE PROJECT. PROPERTIES WILL BE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL.
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOMEOWNERSHIP

2	PROJECT NAME	CAPE CORAL CARING CENTER - PUBLIC SERVICES
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES DECREASE HOMELESSNESS
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$23,468
	DESCRIPTION	CAPE CORAL CARING CENTER PROVIDES A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO THE CITY'S LOW INCOME RESIDENTS. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A FOOD PANTRY, BUS PASSES, UTILITY AND PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	APPROXIMATELY 950 PERSONS WILL BE ASSISTED THROUGH THIS PROJECT.
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE AGENCIES LOCATION AT 1420 SE 47 th St, CAPE CORAL, FL 33904
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	CAPE CORAL CARING CENTER

3	PROJECT NAME	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES
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TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
NEEDS ADDRESSED	DECREASE HOMELESSNESS
FUNDING	CDBG: \$34,409
DESCRIPTION	ABUSE COUNSELING AND TREATMENT WILL PROVIDE SHELTER TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CAPE CORAL SHELTER
TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 150 PERSONS WILL BE ASSISTED THROUGH THIS ACTIVITY
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE AGENCY'S CAPE CORAL SHELTER. THE LOCATION OF THIS FACILITY IS CONFIDENTIAL.
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	ABUSE COUNSELING AND TREATMENT

4	PROJECT NAME	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
	TARGET AREA	CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$19,070
	DESCRIPTION	CITY OF CAPE CORAL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE FEE ASSISTANCE TO LOW INCOME AND/OR DISABLED PERSONS TO UTILIZE THE CITY'S MINI-BUS PARATRANSIT PROGRAM
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	APPROXIMATELY 80 PERSONS WILL BE ASSISTED THROUGH FEE ASSISTANCE
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	400 SANTA BARBARA BLVD, CAPE CORAL, FL 33990
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	CAPE CORAL PARKS AND RECREATION MINI-BUS

5	PROJECT NAME	CHILD CARE SERVICES
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$12,673
	DESCRIPTION	PROVIDES FEE ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES PARTICIPATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT DAY CARE.
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL	AN ESTIMATED 12 FAMILIES WILL BE ASSISTED.

BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	315 SE 2ND AVE, CAPE CORAL, FL 33990
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	PARKS AND RECREATION - CHILD CARE

6	PROJECT NAME	UTILITY ASSISTANCE
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES DECREASE HOMELESSNESS
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$19,537
	DESCRIPTION	EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO ASSIST LOW INCOME PERSONS WITH DELINQUENT WATER/ELECTRIC BILLS.
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT 15 LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE ASSISTED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	1105 CULTURAL PARK BLVD, CAPE CORAL, FL 33990
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	CCMI-UTILITY ASSISTANCE

7	PROJECT NAME	HANDICAPPED SERVICES
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$19,499
	DESCRIPTION	ASSISTANCE TO HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS OF CAPE CORAL
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	IT IS ANTICIPATED 1000 CAPE CORAL RESIDENTS WILL BE SERVED.
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	DEAF SERVICE CENTER

8	PROJECT NAME	HANDICAPPED SERVICES
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$11,535
	DESCRIPTION	ASSISTANCE TO HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS OF CAPE CORAL
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024

ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	IT IS ANTICIPATED 3 CAPE CORAL RESIDENTS WILL BE SERVED.
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

9	PROJECT NAME	SENIOR SERVICES
	TARGET AREA	CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PUBLIC SERVICES
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$17,082
	DESCRIPTION	ASSISTANCE TO LOW INCOME SENIOR PARTICIPATING IN THE VOLUNTEER GRANDPARENT AND SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAMS
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	AN ESTIMATED 16 LOW INCOME SENIORS WILL RECEIVE MILE REIMBURSEMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	DR. PIPER CENTER

10	PROJECT NAME	MICROENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE
	TARGET AREA	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
	GOALS SUPPORTED	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - MICROENTERPRISE
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
	FUNDING	CDBG: \$40,000
	DESCRIPTION	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SWFL WILL PROVIDE MICROENTERPRISE TRAINING TO LOW INCOME PERSONS.
	TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 11 LOW INCOME PERSONS WILL BE ASSISTED WITH THIS PROJECT.
	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	GOODWILL MICROENTERPRISE

13	PROJECT NAME	ADMINISTRATION
	TARGET AREA	N/A
	GOALS SUPPORTED	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
	NEEDS ADDRESSED	N/A

FUNDING	CDBG: \$209,697
DESCRIPTION	GRANTEE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CDBG PROGRAM.
TARGET DATE	9/30/2024
ESTIMATE THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	NOT APPLICABLE.
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT CAPE CORAL CITY HALL LOCATED AT 1015 CULTURAL PARK BLVD. CAPE CORAL, FL 33990
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO MANAGE THE CDBG PROGRAM. FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR SALARY AND OPERATING.

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

The City of Cape Coral adheres to all program-specific eligibility requirements when allocating funds. Currently, HUD sets the low/moderate income exception threshold for the City of Cape Coral at 48.1%. The City of Cape Coral has 30 census block groups that meet the income threshold. However, the minority/low income populations are dispersed throughout the City in such that no one geographic area can meet HUD's jurisdiction requirements of low income or racial/ethnic minority concentration at this time.

The priorities in the allocation of the resources the City expects to receive would be located throughout the community (citywide). Only 30 census blocks qualify as meeting the low-moderate income criteria as provided in 24 CFR 570.208 (a), (1), (ii). If projects are funded which must meet area low-moderate income area benefit criteria, they will be in these block groups. These block groups will be amended from time to time as new data is provided HUD.

The primary distribution of the population benefiting from the grant assistance program will be city-wide, and in most cases extremely low, low, and moderate-income. Beneficiaries will also include the elderly, handicapped, or victims of domestic violence. The City's housing programs are concentrated on scattered sites throughout the City. The priority community development needs and public service locations will be throughout the City.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City of Cape Coral	100
Low Mod Exception Area Qualified Block Group	

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City adheres to all program-specific eligibility requirements when allocating funds. Funds are allocated on a priority need basis in neighborhoods that demonstrate compliance with HUD's low- to moderate-income criteria. The map on the following page identifies LMI census block groups in the City of Cape Coral.

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91-220(g)

Introduction

In PY 2023-2024 the City of Cape Coral will support affordable housing through its CDBG program by funding activities including: direct financial assistance to homeowners, owner occupied rehabilitation and acquisition of land for the development of affordable housing units.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	6
Special-Needs	0
Total	0

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units/Gap Assistance	6
Total	6

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

There are two public housing authorities that serve the City of Cape Coral – the Lee County Housing Authority (LCHA) and the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers (HACFM). There are no public housing developments located within the boundaries of the City however, Section 8 housing choice voucher holders can use their vouchers to rent units from private landlords in the City. Additionally, there are 12 senior rental housing units in the City that are subsidized under the Project Based Voucher Program.

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

The City of Cape Coral does not anticipate utilizing CDBG funds to address the needs of public housing. Public housing needs are addressed by the two housing authorities. During FY 2022-2023, the HACFM plans to undertake several new activities including project-based vouchers, conversion of public housing to tenant-based assistance, conversion of public housing to project-based assistance under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program, mixed finance modernization or development, and designated housing for elderly and/or disabled families. The LCHA is also considering converting their public housing developments to tenant-based assistance.

The HACFM will continue to ensure that housing choice vouchers will be used to maintain the number of affordable and decent rental units in the private rental market and will apply for additional housing choice vouchers should funds become available through HUD. Additional goals included in HACFM's Annual PHA Plan include:

- Engaging the community to make affordable housing a citywide priority;
- Reducing the number of public housing vacancies;
- Increasing voucher utilization;
- Utilizing Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program to convert public housing to project-based assistance; and
- Leveraging private and public funds including Low Income Housing Tax Credits to create new senior and multifamily housing opportunities.

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

The public housing authorities plan to undertake the following actions:

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers offers an array of family self-sufficiency (FSS) and supportive service programs for clients receiving subsidized housing assistance. The family-self-sufficiency program is aimed at families who have a desire to achieve economic independence and self-reliance of government assistance programs. Clients living in public housing or who participate on the housing choice voucher program, qualify for the FSS program. While participating in the FSS program, participants work closely with the FSS Coordinator for a period up to five years. With the guidance of the FSS Coordinator, families identify and set goals that promote self-sufficiency. Self-sufficiency activities include but not limited to: obtaining and maintaining suitable employment, participating in employment related services such as resume writing, seek suitable employment, and attend life skills courses. FSS participants also attend financial literacy classes where they learn and become familiar with key objectives such as establishing credit, budgeting, savings, and loans.

Through the Senior Service Coordinator (SSC), HACFM provides case management and outreach services for elderly and individuals with disabilities who are age 55 or older. The SSC works closely with local non-profits,

community and faith based organizations, & health providers (e.g. Family Health Centers, HOPE Healthcare, Medi-Care, Senior Friendship Centers, etc.) to provide in-home healthcare, preventative care, and chronic disease management services, all to assist and aid families desiring to live independently in their homes. The SSC aids with coordinating medical appointments, assisting with Medicaid/Medicare eligibility applications, Food stamp applications & recertification, transportation assistance, monthly shopping trips, and social service activities on and off-site.

As a HUD certified counseling agency, HACFM also offers a wide array of housing counseling services for HACFM clients but also clients in the entire Lee County area. Services include pre-purchase counseling, post-purchase counseling, monthly home buyers' education, foreclosure prevention & loss mitigation. The benefit to clients is that all housing counseling services are offered free of charge to all clients in need.

HACFM encourages public housing residents to become involved in management through the establishment of Resident Advisory Boards (RAB). Public housing residents and voucher holders also participate in seminars provided by community organizations to help them towards economic empowerment and homeownership.

Additionally, the City will continue to advise the public housing authorities of the availability of the City's affordable housing programs and provide referrals as necessary.

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

Not applicable.

AP65-Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

The City of Cape Coral is a partner of the Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC). The City solicits feedback from community-based organizations to guarantee that the City and CoC's goals align and are integrated into the appropriate plans. Providing consultation to the City, the Community Cooperative, and Cape Coral Caring Center were asked to develop strategies and provide guidance on addressing needs of persons experiencing homelessness, including chronically homeless, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth, in Cape Coral. The City of Cape Coral will continue participation with the Lee County CoC's efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the Cape Coral community. The City of Cape Coral is committed providing funding to increase permanent supportive housing opportunities and works to create a stronger network of providers of supportive and mainstream services to persons experiencing homelessness in the community.

The City of Cape Coral is not an ESG entitlement entity. The CoC is consulted about ESG funding decisions by the only ESG entitlement entity in the area, which is Lee County. Consultation includes allocation of ESG funded projects, along with the Point in Time Count (PIT), Housing Inventory Count (HIC), and System Performance Measure data, are monitored regularly by Lee County. The City of Cape Coral is represented on the CoC's Governing Board which is responsible for developing performance standards for and evaluation of outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds and developing policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS. The HMIS Lead Agency for FL-603 – Ft. Myers, Cape Coral/Lee County CoC is the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the CoC coordinates on a daily basis with Cape Coral and Ft. Myers through coordinated entry referrals, meetings, and other grant programs pertinent to preventing and ending homelessness.

The City recognizes the importance of supporting programs to increase access to affordable housing for access to public services for persons with special needs and incorporates United Cerebral Palsy of Southwest Florida, Deaf Service Center of Southwest Florida, City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation, and Dr. Piper Center for Social Services to provide consultation to the City, ensuring persons with special needs are included in planning.

The respondents who completed the Consolidated Plan's Cape Coral Community Needs Survey expressed a high need for shelters for persons experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence, gathering 63.64% of the high need category. Homelessness prevention activities such as rental assistance and rapid rehousing captured 61.36% of the high need category, scoring as the second most important need. In third, 58.43% of those who participated in the survey identified Outreach to Homeless Persons as a high need in their community. Respondents identified Housing for Special Needs Populations (including persons with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, and persons with disabilities) as a high need category, with 59.55% supporting this need. To increase access to public services, the City has committed \$152,273 of CDBG to serve residents with public service activities other than the Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit.

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

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

The City of Cape Coral has an established partnership with the Lee County CoC and it supports its initiatives to implement and expand homeless outreach, assessments, and referrals to housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness in Cape Coral. Within the City's goals to decrease homelessness, Cape Coral will provide public service funding to agencies that provide homeless or homeless prevention services. The City of Cape Coral dedicates \$152,273 of CDBG dollars to increasing access to public service activities, which are

public service activities other than low/moderate income housing benefits. Within this public services funding, the City intends to serve at least 2,000 persons.

Respondents who participated in the Consolidated Plan's community needs survey identified outreach to persons experiencing homelessness as a high need.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Respondents of the Consolidated Plan's community survey verbalized the importance of addressing needs for persons experiencing homelessness within the community. The community's feedback resulted in many respondents expressing that there is a high need for shelters for homeless persons and victims of domestic violence. Transitional Housing scored much lower.

Although City of Cape Coral is not an ESG entitlement entity, the CoC is consulted about ESG-funded activities by Lee County, the only ESG entitlement entity in the area. The City of Cape Coral will participate to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs through CoC, state, or local grant funding opportunities, when available. The City plans to improve the institutional structure by collaborating with the Lee County Department of Human Services and Lee County Homeless Coalition to best address availability of shelter and service resources for persons experiencing homelessness in Cape Coral.

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

The City of Cape Coral's strategy to decrease homelessness involves providing public service funding to agencies that provide homeless or homeless prevention services and providing funding to increase permanent supportive housing opportunities and work to create a stronger network of providers of supportive and mainstream services to homeless clients in Cape Coral. Feedback gathered from the community needs survey expressed importance of supportive housing programs for persons experiencing homelessness.

As part of the City's strategy to decrease homelessness in the City of Cape Coral, \$34,409 of CDBG funding is dedicated to support Abuse Counseling and Treatment and providing shelter to victims of domestic violence. The City anticipates that the funded organization, Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT), will assist 150 persons through this project.

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

The City of Cape Coral's efforts to increase access to affordable housing include funding activities that expand the supply of affordable housing. Improving the condition of the current stock of housing that is affordable to households of lower incomes is also part of the strategy. Implementing weatherization, repair, and home rehabilitation programs assists the City to extend the life of the existing housing stock. The City also funds activities that leverage both public and private resources. To increase access to public services, the City invests in projects that provide supportive services to households with persons who have special needs and low-to-moderate households. The City supports efforts to increase access to affordable and permanent housing

solutions. Community members who completed the community needs survey for the Consolidated Plan recognized Affordable Rental Housing as the number one high need for the community, with Special Needs Housing identified as the second highest need, and Affordable Homes for Purchase ranked as the third highest need by Cape Coral residents. The City is committed to supporting collaboration among direct service providers which will streamline processes, prevent duplication of services, and improve service delivery for special needs populations, as well as low to moderate income households.

City of Cape Coral residents provided feedback in the community needs survey as part of the development of the Five Year Consolidated Plan to highlight the importance of public services. The top three public service needs identified by survey responses in the high need category are mental health services (77.53%), services for persons with disabilities (69.77%), and senior services (68.18%).

To address the City's desire to decrease homelessness, Cape Coral Caring Center receives \$23,468 of CDBG dollars from the City to provide resources such as a food pantry, bus passes, utility, and prescription assistance to a projected 950 low-income residents in Cape Coral. Increasing access to public service activities promotes the City's plan to decrease homelessness and the City is dedicating \$19,537 of CDBG to supply emergency assistance to assist low income persons with delinquent water/electric bills.

CDBG funding is directed to address Community Development, Housing, and Public Service needs in Cape Coral. During the last review of Cape Coral's publicly owned land stock, nine properties were identified and allotted for affordable housing. As part of the local CDBG distribution, \$40,000 is aimed at increasing economic opportunity among the City's residents

Discussion

Based on the number of persons experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in the most recent Point In Time Count and Cape Coral residents whose household includes a person with a disability, there is a great need for housing and services to provide inclusive living opportunities for all of Cape Coral's residents. While the City earmarks funding to address the needs of special populations residing in the community, there are residents who would benefit from expanded services, supports, and access to housing that's affordable. As highlighted by the survey responses, Cape Coral residents realize that investing in public services and systems which improve the wellness of the community's most vulnerable residents will, in turn, improve the community.

AP-75 Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction

The City of Cape Coral is aware of the effect that public policies have on the cost of housing, given the potential to dissuade development, maintenance, or improvement of affordable housing. Government regulations including land use/zoning codes and building codes adopted by a jurisdiction have the potential to impact the cost of housing and limit the supply of affordable housing. The City of Cape Coral recognizes that there can be institutional, regulatory, or policy barriers to development and promotion of access to affordable housing. Some of these barriers are at the discretion of City policymakers, including the permitting, zoning, and housing & community development offices. The following barriers may impact the development of affordable housing:

- Development approvals process. The development approval process can be time- and resource-intensive, particularly for developers of affordable housing.
- Density restrictions. Depending on the maximum allowable density in any given zoning category, higher density housing developments may be prohibited. Higher density housing is typically able to absorb more income-restricted housing and still maintain profitability for the developer, in addition to naturally enhancing the availability of housing overall in the City.
- Parking and setback requirements. Depending on the restrictions of parking and setbacks in the local land use code and comprehensive plan, these requirements may prohibit development of affordable housing.
- Affordable housing accessible to transit. Low-income households are more likely to depend on public transportation as a means of mobility. A lack of affordable housing near public transportation networks places an inherent restriction on a family's ability to reasonably access housing.
- Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY) Syndrome. The social and financial stigma of affordable housing can lead to significant resistance from surrounding properties.

In the case of new construction, significant barriers to creating affordable housing are reductions in federal and state housing funds, the land costs, impact fees, zoning, and compliance with new hurricane standards building codes. An additional significant barrier is the poor credit record of many low-and moderate-income households.

In the case of existing housing rehabilitation, the cost of upgrading to new construction codes is a barrier. Health Department regulations restrict expansion of existing septic systems and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) restricts rehabilitations to existing structures beyond a certain value on properties located within 100-year Floodplain.

The City of Cape Coral's recent Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) identified the following impediments to affordable and fair housing:

- Housing discrimination persists in the private market, according to complaints data received.
- Pattern of disparity continues to exist in private mortgage lending for racial and ethnic minorities.
- Limited public transit options and rising cost of transportation in general limit location options for many lower-income households.
- Fair Housing education, training and outreach programs are inadequate to meet the responsibility to affirmatively further fair housing throughout Lee County.

- An insufficient number of accessible housing units are available which meets the needs of persons with disabilities in the County.
- Neighborhood opposition to diversity in housing type.

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 adopted an Affordable Housing Incentive Plan as part of their Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP). The LHAP is required to participate in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program. The Plan contains the following affordable housing incentives:

- The processing of approvals of development orders or permits for affordable housing projects is expedited to a greater degree than other projects.
- The establishment of a process which local government considers, before adoption, policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, or plan provisions that increase the cost of housing.
- The modification of impact-fee requirements, including reduction or waiver of fees and alternative methods of fee payment for affordable housing.
- The reduction of parking and setback requirements for affordable housing (parking requirement only).
- The preparation of a printed inventory of locally owned public lands suitable for affordable housing.

The Housing Element of Cape Coral's Comprehensive Plan includes the goal of providing good quality housing in safe, clean neighborhoods, offering a broad choice of options in both type (single family and multi-family) and tenure (owner and renter occupied) to meet the needs of present and future residents of the City, regardless of age or income status. Objectives under this goal include:

Objective 1: Housing Availability. The City will provide the infrastructure needed to increase Cape Coral's housing stock to accommodate the expected 2025 and 2040 permanent populations, in accordance with the levels of service standards established in other elements of this Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 2: Housing Affordability. The City will review and re-evaluate the City Codes to identify and revise those sections which restrict the development of affordable housing in the City.

Objective 3: Equal Opportunity. The City shall assure that the Cape Coral housing market is open to all persons, regardless of age, race, sex, disability, or other legally prohibited designations by mitigating impediments to affordable housing and tracking/resolving complaints concerning housing discrimination reported to the City.

Objective 4: Special Housing Needs. The City will maintain the Land Use and Development Code to enable the siting of group homes and foster care facilities in residential areas.

Objective 5: Housing Quality. The City will continue to maintain a high standard of quality for new and existing housing.

Objective 6: Displacement. The City shall maintain the adopted Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan that is compatible with federal regulation and state statutes and shall amend said plan as necessary to reflect changes in federal and state requirements.

Objective 7: Historic Preservation. The City will continue to inventory historically significant and potentially historically significant structures in the City.

Objective 8: Housing Implementation. The City will implement City Codes and regulations through enforcement activities to promote housing opportunities for City residents without sacrificing housing quality and affordability.

Objective 9: The City will review annually the Land Development Code to evaluate provisions for the enforcement of land use regulations to protect the value of individual homes and properties and amend said regulations as necessary.

Objective 10: The City shall provide adequate sites for the housing needs of low-and moderate- income persons.

The City of Cape Coral participated in a Regional Analysis of Impediments that identified actions to remove fair housing impediments. The document can be found at www.capecoral.net.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

This section of the Plan describes the specific actions the City will take to address the housing and community development needs of low- and moderate-income residents during PY 2023-2024 based on the strategies outlined in the five-year plan for reducing lead-based paint hazards, reducing poverty, developing institutional structure, and enhancing coordination between the public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

One of the main obstacles the City faces in meeting its goals is the limited resources available to address the priority needs identified in the Strategic Plan. The City will address this obstacle by working with existing partners and building new relationships to leverage non-federal funding to have a greater impact in the community. Specific to housing needs, the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) identifies strategies to address barriers to fair housing choice. During the program year, the City will continue to implement the actions in the AI. The City will also continue to support agencies and organizations that assist in the development of small businesses and the provision of services for low- and moderate-income persons.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to administer the owner-occupied rehabilitation program to preserve existing affordable housing in the community. Additionally, the City will support the creation of affordable units by subsidizing the cost of housing through programs that provide homebuyer assistance any by working with nonprofit housing providers and developers to develop rental housing and housing for ownership. The City will encourage the development of affordable housing by utilizing the incentives in the Local Housing Incentive Plan and through implementation of the strategies in the AI. During PY 2023-2024, the City will also utilize supplemental HUD funding received through the CDBG-CV program to assist individuals who were economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and may be unstably housed.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City will follow the process outlined in the Lead Based Paint Hazard Policy for the implementation of its housing programs. The policy details the steps the City will take to address the acquisition and rehabilitation of housing units that were constructed pre-1978 and where lead-based paint could potentially be present. The actions planned include, determining if a property is exempt from the Lead Safe Housing Rule, notifying occupants of the housing units by providing lead-based hazard information, conducting a visual inspection of all painted surfaces to identify deteriorated paint, conducting paint stabilization and a clearance examination, if necessary. The scope of work for each housing rehabilitation project (level of assistance) determines the City's approach to lead hazard evaluation and reduction.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

During PY 2023-2024, the City will continue to fund activities that serve families living below the poverty level and will support housing organizations, social services agencies, Lee County, the public housing authorities, and other key community stakeholders that operate programs that help participants work towards self-sufficiency. Some of the initiatives that the City will undertake include:

- Utilizing CDBG funding to support the Goodwill Southwest Florida Microenterprise Institute which helps emerging entrepreneurs with low- to moderate-income levels to start new ventures or grow an existing business.
- Offering economic incentives for new, expanding, or relocating companies including employment/hiring incentives, deferral of impact fees, infrastructure grants, and CRA Business and Development incentives.

- Both the Lee County Housing Authority (LCHA) and the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers (HACFM) will continue to participate in the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program to help public housing residents and voucher recipients become self-sufficient by providing supportive services including education, job training, job placement, and life managements kills. The HACFM also offers a Job Club which assists families with job searches, resume writing, and other job skill training services.
- The LCHA will continue to administer the Resident Opportunities Self Sufficiency (ROSS) program which links public housing residents with supportive services and resources through community partners. The ROSS Service Coordinator assists with job searches and resume writing and other computer services.
- Implement the strategies in the Local Housing Incentive Plan (LHIP) to encourage the development of both affordable rental and homeownership units.
- The City will continue to support its affordable housing programs through the Community Development Department to expand the supply of affordable housing and improve housing conditions. The Community Development Department will also coordinate with various partners including the Cape Coral Housing Development Corporation and the Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties to address affordable housing goals.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City will utilize its network of public sector and nonprofit organizations to address the gaps identified in the institutional structure. During PY 2023-2024, the City expects to maximize community resources when implementing the Action Plan and will take the following actions:

- Training and capacity building for non-profit organizations;
- Collaborating with the Lee County Department of Human and Veteran Services and Lee County Homeless Coalition regarding availability of homeless services/shelter in Cape Coral;
- Monitoring to identify program inefficiencies, improve program performance, and ensure compliance with applicable regulations;
- Encouraging collaboration among agencies to eliminate duplicative services and better serve residents, especially low- and moderate-income households and special needs populations; and
- Reviewing internal policies, procedures and staffing of the CDBG program for efficiency and effectiveness.

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

The City will collaborate with various agencies, municipalities, and authorities to ensure the most effective system of delivering housing and services to residents. This includes coordinating with the Lee County Homeless Coalition, the two housing authorities that serve the City, affordable housing providers, and agencies that meet the needs of persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other special need populations. The Economic and Business Development Office will continue to work closely with private industries to attract new businesses to the City and grow existing businesses.

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

Introduction

The City's program specific requirements for the CDBG program are listed below.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

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

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
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
The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
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
The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0

Other CDBG Requirements

The amount of urgent need activities	0
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.	80.00%