

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

Cuyahoga County's present form of government was launched in the November election of 2010 with the passage of Issue 6 under which the voters of Cuyahoga County approved a charter amendment in which three County Commissioners would be replaced by 1) an elected Executive who would manage the affairs of the county, 2) numerous elected positions were placed under the Executive's leadership and 3) an elected eleven-member council would be created and given legislative powers. Under the new charter government there were 12 chapters that described standard governmental functions such as County Organization, Contracts and Purchasing, Revenue and Finance. In addition, the Charter specifically included chapters on Ethics, Equity, Employment Practices and Economic Development. The Chapter on Economic Development included three focus areas – Innovation Development, Commercial Property Reutilization, and Business Growth Commercialization and Attraction. Subheadings within the priorities included Micro Enterprise, Innovation Match, Redevelopment and Modernization, Accelerated Growth, and Large-Scale Attraction. An Economic Development Commission was given the task of advising the Department of Development in the creation of a Five-Year Economic Development Plan with a requirement that there be annual updates and reports. To provide stimuli, an Economic Development Fund was created and a goal of capitalizing the Fund was stated. As noted throughout this 2023 Annual Plan, significant local resources are devoted to creating a climate for nurturing business and employment growth for all of the citizens of Cuyahoga County.

With the election of a new County Executive, the Housing and Community Development division is now a stand-alone department. The Department of Housing and Community Development became effective April 25, 2023. The new department allows the county to place greater emphasis on affordable housing.

Federal resources noted in this Plan are invested in low-moderate income areas throughout the counties 51 urban county communities while making investments in affordable housing for the county's residents as directed by the Cuyahoga HOME Consortium. Federal requirements govern the appropriate target populations for location and for incomes of these federal dollars. This document, the 2024 Annual Plan, follows a format required by HUD to receive its annual CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding. Information about the other programs and initiatives being undertaken by Cuyahoga County and its many partnerships can be found on its website <https://cuyahogacounty.us>.

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.

Both the 2024 Annual Plan and the HUD Approved Five-Year Consolidated Plan FY 2020-24 are located on the Department's website. This Annual Plan describes the needs of low- and moderate-income residents, persons with special needs, and homeless individuals and families in the 51 member communities of the Cuyahoga County Urban County (Urban County). The Annual Plan outlines the goals, strategies, partners, and anticipated financial resources that will be available to implement projects using several HUD funding programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). This document sets forth the specific projects that will be implemented during FY 2024. At the conclusion of each year, Cuyahoga County submits the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), describing the community's results in implementing projects.

HUD funding is intended to assist individuals and families that earn less than 80% of the Area Median Family Income (AMI) in a metropolitan area. HUD defines these categories based upon household income, adjusted for family size. Using published current 2024 HOME categories, that translates to the maximum income for a family of four to be \$29,150 (0-30% of AMI), \$48,600 (31-50% of AMI), and \$77,750 (51-80% of AMI) based on the definition of Extremely Low-Income Family (ELI) as described in Consolidated Submission for CPD Programs section of **24 CFR part 91.5**. Therefore, the ELI Limit is calculated as 30 percent of median family income for the area and may not be the same as the Section 8 ELI Limit for your jurisdiction. The Section 8 Limit is calculated based on the definition of ELI as described in **the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act**, (Section 238 on page 128 Stat 635) which defines ELI as very low-income families whose incomes do not exceed the higher of the Federal poverty level or 30% of area median income.

Cuyahoga Housing Consortium

Cuyahoga County is the lead administrative entity for the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium (Consortium). The five Consortium members – the HUD CDBG entitlement jurisdictions of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, Parma, and the Urban County – formed the HUD-approved Consortium in the early 1990's to leverage HOME program funds for their communities. By acting jointly, the funding amount received by the group is greater than the amount of money that could be obtained by the jurisdictions individually. The Consortium also uses the opportunity of having 55 communities working together – representing 66% of all county residents (850,000) – to ensure broader planning and coordination on affordable housing issues within Cuyahoga County. The County's Annual Plan also incorporates discussions pertaining to the Consortium as a whole.

The 5-Year Consolidated Plan contains very detailed analysis of housing needs assessment, housing market analysis and strategies for addressing needs. Because issues and needs do not change rapidly

in the industrial areas of the Midwest and East, like Cuyahoga County, the detailed discussion in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan on the identification of needs is still accurate as of 2024.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Due to the pandemic in 2020, Cuyahoga County had to increase the amount of funding for foreclosure prevention counseling and rental assistance. Many residents experienced job loss, job reduction and/or increased housing related expenses because of the pandemic. This has caused a decrease in the number of affordable homes and rental units. Rental rates have increased in some areas of the County by more than 50 percent since the pandemic. The same problem has arisen with home purchases. The median listed home price in Cuyahoga County as of April 2024 is \$200k which means homes are currently trending at 13.1 percent year after year per Realtor.com and Zillow. On average, the cost of rent in Cuyahoga County is approximately \$1,395 per month per Renthop.com but in 2019 the average rental cost was only \$831.

In the years of 2020-2024 Cuyahoga County provided the following funding for housing related assistance:

The County provided over \$1.1 million dollars in CDBG funds for financial education counseling; and CDBG-Cares Act funds were also provided for mortgage and rental assistance for approximately \$3.3 million.

Additionally, ERA 1 and ERA 2 funds were provided for rental and utility assistance; to increase affordable housing efforts and to maintain housing stability. The total amount of ERA funds provided was a little over \$97 million dollars.

The County will continue to provide financial counseling, foreclosure prevention, fair housing, home repair and downpayment assistance to help those who are struggling to maintain and obtain affordable housing. These programs help to strengthen neighborhoods and communities by preventing homelessness and maintaining property values. Cuyahoga County will continue to create programming to sustain housing efforts and economic stability to ensure its residents have increased housing choices.

The County also funds municipalities through a competitive process in their efforts to improve streets, parks, senior centers, exterior home repairs, storefront renovations, etc. Forty percent of the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation funds are dedicated to these types of projects which amounts to approximately \$1.2 million dollars.

Cuyahoga County has approximately 5,000 people who are homeless every year. The Office of Homeless Services has unveiled a Strategic Action Plan to combat Homelessness.

Cuyahoga County unveiled today its Strategic Action Plan for Homelessness: Advancing Pathways to Housing Through Equity. The plan was launched at a gathering of homeless advocates and community leaders this morning.

The plan is aimed at elevating the response to homelessness in the county with a goal of 25% reduction in homelessness by the year 2027. The plan was developed by the Office of Homeless Services and Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care (CoC), a team made up of partners from homelessness assistance organizations, philanthropy, government, faith leaders, law enforcement, public health, behavioral health, education, and persons with lived experience of homelessness.

The goals of the action plan include improving client engagement and access, improving the experience of clients in crisis housing, expanding housing stabilization capacity, connecting clients to income and benefits, and building system capacity.

“The plan will also chart a path for future reductions and improvements to the homeless system for years to come,” said Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services Director Melissa Sirak.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

During the development of the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development utilized notices in a newspaper of general circulation, public meetings, and internet outreach to solicit public comment.

The documents were also posted on the Cuyahoga County Department of Development’s website. For more specific details about the citizen participation process, please refer to section **AP-10 Consultation** in the following Section.

In addition, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development is active throughout the year in consulting with its 51-member communities, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies to gain input and feedback on countywide issues and departmental programs. In 2017, and again in 2022, the county worked with these stakeholders to identify specific issues related to housing that need to be addressed and created a county wide housing plan. Stakeholders continue to meet regularly, and this ongoing dialogue helps to create programs that are both proactive and reactive to change and remove unnecessarily complex program requirements while ensuring that any restrictions are followed.

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.

The Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development placed a Public Notice in the Plain Dealer for meetings held on August 25th, 2023 and June 14, 2024 as well as made the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan Draft available through the Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development's main webpage. In addition, the entire HUD approved 2020-2024 5-Year Strategic Plan and the past Performance Reports were also available on the county's web site and could be downloaded.

During our public comment periods we received no comments

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

No comments were received to date regarding the 2024 Annual Action Plan, funding, and/or projects

7. Summary

It is important that Cuyahoga County continues to not only increase affordable housing efforts but also provide community programming i.e. public service activities such as foreclosure prevention and fair housing related activities that will enhance all residents with these additional housing needs. It is also important to note that grants are made available on a competitive basis yearly to 51 urban areas within Cuyahoga County to provide street improvements, senior citizen center improvement, park improvements, exterior housing repairs, ADA compliance, etc.

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

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

The following are the agencies/entities 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	CUYAHOGA COUNTY	Cuyahoga County Dept of Housing and Community Dev
HOME Administrator	CUYAHOGA COUNTY	Cuyahoga County Dept of Housing and Community Dev
ESG Administrator	CUYAHOGA COUNTY	Health & Human Services, Office Homeless Services

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

This document discusses the Community Development Block Grant funds received directly by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the 51-member Cuyahoga County Urban County.

This document is also part of a submission to HUD by the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium, representing the five jurisdictions of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, Parma, and the Cuyahoga County Urban County.

The Cuyahoga Housing Consortium

In 1991, the City of Cleveland Heights, City of Euclid, and the Cuyahoga County Department of Development—at that time representing the 43 communities of the Cuyahoga County Urban County—received HUD approval to form the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium. Over several years, the Cities of Lakewood and Parma received HUD approval to join the Consortium. With later community additions to the Cuyahoga County Urban County, in 2023 the Consortium represents about 860,000 persons in 55 communities, or two-thirds of all Cuyahoga County residents.

The Consortium is governed by a seven-member Board consisting of the Mayor or City Manager of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, and Parma, along with 3 Cuyahoga County appointees. These jurisdictions formed a consortium to receive HOME funds jointly from HUD. By creating the Consortium, the total amount of HOME funds received by the group is greater than the amount of HOME funds that could be obtained by the individual jurisdictions. Cumulatively, that decision has brought millions of dollars for local housing programs. Actions taken as the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium do not affect allocations of CDBG funds or other federal funds to the individual members.

In addition to receiving HOME funds, the Consortium leverages the fact that 55 communities in Cuyahoga County work together for the Consolidated Plan process, which is an opportunity to ensure broader planning and coordination on affordable housing issues within the county. The following CDBG entitlement communities are not members of the Consortium and file Consolidated Plan documents directly with HUD: Cleveland and East Cleveland.

The Consolidated Plan approach is the means to meet the submission requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) formula programs, the four formula programs available to jurisdictions:

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).** These funds are used for a variety of community development, neighborhood revitalization, or economic development programs, with the intent of assisting low-and-moderate income persons and improving deteriorated areas.
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).** These funds are used specifically for housing related projects, such as first-time homebuyer assistance or housing rehabilitation. The funds are received directly from HUD by the Cuyahoga County Housing Consortium on behalf of its five partner jurisdictions, and Cuyahoga County serves as the lead administrative entity.
- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).** Based upon HUD formulas, Lakewood, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga County Urban County receive ESG funds directly from HUD. These funds are intended to assist families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The funds can be spent in any community in Cuyahoga County.
- **Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA).** In Northeast Ohio, only the City of Cleveland receives HOPWA funds from HUD, and that city coordinates funding in Cuyahoga County and surrounding counties. The funds can be spent in any community in Cuyahoga County.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Kellie F. Glenn - Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development, 2079 East Ninth Street 7th FL, Cleveland, OH 44115,
or email at kglenn@cuyahogacounty.us

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

1. Introduction

This item intentionally left blank.

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 Board of Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) provides housing related activities through several programs, such as the Housing for Persons on MAT (Medication-Assisted Treatment), funded through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)-State Opioid Response program.
- There are also persons released from health care institutions that could be at-risk of homelessness, such as persons who have lost employment during their hospital stay, due to not having sufficient income to pay ongoing housing and housing-related costs during their hospital stay, and do not have a support network of other persons to assist them through this period. Social workers at physical health institutions have access to resources such as United Way of Greater Cleveland's 211/First Call For Help, an information clearinghouse staffed 24-hours-a-day to provide information on a variety of health, housing, and human service needs. United Way, through its partner organizations, also available to assist in an effort to prevent a homelessness situation from occurring. Lastly, through a recent partnership with the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services, United Way serves as the primary point of screening for shelter intakes for persons experiencing homelessness.
- Established in 1933 as the first chartered public housing authority in the country, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) owns and manages property and administers rent subsidy programs to provide eligible low-income individuals and families quality, safe, affordable housing in Cuyahoga County. The mission of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority is to create safe, quality, affordable housing opportunities and improve the quality of life for the communities we serve. CMHA has partnered with the Cuyahoga Continuum of Care in a collaborative effort to assist homeless individuals and families through Emergency Housing Voucher. In addition, CMHA has dedicated vouchers annually to assist homeless persons served in Permanent Supportive Housing in moving to other affordable housing options.
- Cuyahoga County Diversion Center -The Cuyahoga County Diversion Center is a first-of-its kind facility in Ohio, working with law enforcement to help individuals who are exhibiting signs and symptoms of a mental illness and/or addiction. These individuals receive the help, care and linkage to

community resources they need in a treatment environment rather than going to the County jail. The Diversion Center has also expanded eligibility beyond law enforcement referrals to include calls from friends, family members and individuals in need of and wanting care for a mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Click here for more information: [Guide for Friends, Family, and Individuals - Using the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center.](#)

- The Cuyahoga County Diversion Center is a 50-bed facility, with staff onsite 24/7. Services can include assessment, medical evaluation, case management, counseling, medications, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), withdrawal management (detox), NAMI educational groups, referral and linkage to other community services. Treatment costs are covered by Medicaid or the local ADAMHS Board. Treatment services are certified through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).
- The Cuyahoga County Housing and Community staff meet monthly with the housing and community staff of the other six (6) entitlement communities to discuss the needs of the county as a whole. Through that collaboration we have been able to create programming that serves all members of the county and increase housing stability countywide.

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.

Housing providers, health, and service agencies in Cuyahoga County have a record of collaborating to address the needs of literally homeless persons, chronically homeless, families with children, veterans, unaccompanied youth, and persons at-risk of homelessness.

The Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) is a department within Cuyahoga County and is the lead agency for the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC). In partnership with elected officials, county/city departments, and non-profit housing/service providers, the CoC supports a Homeless Crisis Response System that strives to assure that all homeless persons have access to emergency shelter or transportation to and space at an Overflow Shelter location.

Housing First Initiative (HFI) HFI is a successful public/private partnership to develop permanent supportive housing and end chronic homelessness countywide. HFI moves chronically homeless persons into stable housing and links the person to comprehensive support services on-site. 99% of residents remain in their unit or exit to a positive destination, with almost all engaged in services. The rate of emergency room visits/hospitalizations has been substantially reduced and only a small percentage return to a shelter.

Hospital Protocols for the Homeless A difficulty for shelters, hospitals, and hospitalized homeless persons is the discharge process. If the patient has recovered sufficiently, the hospital cannot continue to accommodate. A shelter often does not have the medical expertise or appropriate accommodations to care for someone with more extensive medical needs. Through a coalition of CoC providers, hospital social work staff/administrators, and local foundations discharge screening guidelines were implemented. If the patient is homeless at discharge but does not meet ten basic functioning measures, the CoC hospital protocols require relocation to a nursing facility.

211/First Call for Help United Way of Greater Cleveland administers a 24-hour/7 day-a-week hot line. This resource allows anyone to call with questions regarding service needs and immediately receive an answer or referral. United Way also provides dedicated staff to assist in screening for intakes of persons identifying as homeless and seeking assistance.

Discharge Coordination Protocols Per HEARTH Act requirements, the CoC developed and implemented protocols to ensure persons discharged from publicly funded institutions/systems of care are not released into homelessness.

Re-Entry Strategies The Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry addresses the needs of persons returning to Cuyahoga County from federal and state prison and local jails. In collaboration with the City of Cleveland, United Way, and local foundations, comprehensive re-entry strategies include housing, behavioral health access, and employment support. For youth, the Ohio Department of Youth Services written policy is to return youth to their own home, if possible. Release planning for all youth begins within 60 days of admission to the facility and continues for the duration of commitment.

Ending Youth and Young Adult Homelessness The CoC initiated an eight-month shared-ownership planning process through a combined effort of 28 core community and system partners to address youth and young adult homelessness in Cuyahoga County. This has resulted in the development of the Cuyahoga County Coordinated Community Plan which details the strategy to serve this vulnerable population. The plan was officially approved by HUD in 2023 and the planning group has initiated the implementation phase of this work.

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 Cuyahoga Urban County is a recipient of Emergency Solutions Grant funding. The Strategic Plan section of the Cuyahoga County Five-Year Consolidated Plan describes goals, objectives, and strategies for addressing the problem of homelessness. The Plan references the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care's (CoC) Strategic Plan, which emphasizes the CoC's approach to housing and access to services. Among the specific strategies included are:

- A Coordinated Entry System whereby all persons seeking shelter are assessed immediately to determine diversion opportunities or shelter options.
- Within the shelter system, develop a housing plan and provide assessment and linkages to case management and mainstream social services.
- Utilize rapid re-housing resources to reduce the length of shelter stays. The Cuyahoga Urban County's ESG allocation is made available to all interested nonprofit institutions and participating units of local government who have the capacity and interest in delivering services that meet the priorities described above. The process is administered by the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) under the supervision of Cuyahoga County's Office of Procurement and Diversity.

Performance Standards and Outcome Evaluation OHS is the System Administrator for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and serves as the CoC's HMIS Lead. All agencies receiving sub-awards of ESG are required to participate in the HMIS. Non-publicly funded providers are encouraged and welcome to participate in HMIS. The HUD-required data/progam elements are entered for every client accessing ESG services. HEARTH ACT regulations prohibit homeless data for persons who identify as victims of domestic violence (DV) from being entered into the HMIS data collection system. The DV shelter participates in an HMIS comparable data system unique to domestic violence shelter providers. The aggregated data related to numbers served, demographics of the population, and program services and outcomes is provided to the HMIS System Administrator. The HMIS data, combined with the DV data, enables outcomes to be evaluated based on the following measures:

- Diversion: 11% of households seeking shelter are successfully diverted to alternative, safe housing.
- Length of Stay: Implementing rapid exit strategies will shorten the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) by 10%. The ALOS benchmark for Rapid Re-housing has been determined based on the 2023 HUD System Performance Measures (SPM) data with the current CoC standard at 30 days or less.
- Return to Shelter: Utilizing the 2023 HUD System Performance Measures (SPM), the benchmark for the percentage of persons who return to shelter from CoC funded services has been established and should not exceed 4% within 0-6 months or 8% within 7-12 months of exit. ESG participants who return to shelter are tracked in HMIS and monitored for performance according to the CoC approved standard.

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Alcohol Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims Health Agency Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members and the Continuum of Care have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents.

2	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Cleveland - Department of Community Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis 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?	County and City of Cleveland Department of Community Development staff meet frequently throughout the year to coordinate funding and programming in many areas including economic development, fair housing, housing services, and regional planning.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	CLEVELAND HOUSING NETWORK
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Non-profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	County staff meet at least monthly with agency staff on counseling and foreclosure prevention issues. The agency is also a major nonprofit housing developer and manager, with ongoing interaction between County staff and agency staff on development issues.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims Other government - County

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members work with OHS staff, its Advisory Board, and committees on an ongoing basis to coordinate the needs of homeless and at-risk homeless county residents.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium and the Continuum of Care have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents.

6	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga County Board of Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Health Health Agency Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents. Consortium members and this agency jointly plan, implement, and administer programs that are part of the countywide lead-based paint strategy.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-housing Community Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the infrastructure needs of county communities. Consortium members and this agency jointly plan and implement infrastructure projects that positively impact low- and moderate-income areas.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services - Victims Other government - County

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	County development staff meet several times each year with county senior and adult services staff to coordinate programming and assess housing needs of the elderly and disabled adult population.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis related to real estate data for county communities. Condition of housing data was obtained from this agency and analyzed as part of this plan.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address foreclosure and property disposition issues in county communities. Consortium members and this agency jointly plan and implement projects that impact low- and moderate-income areas, including acquisition, sale, demolition, and rehabilitation of buildings.

11	Agency/Group/Organization	Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents. In addition, on a regular basis this agency shares countywide program usage information with the member communities.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	Fair Housing Center for Rights and Research
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Non-profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Fair Housing
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	As an organization providing fair housing services to the Cuyahoga County Urban County, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development has policy and program discussions with this organization on an ongoing basis to address housing issues in the 51-member communities.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater Cleveland Partnership
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Greater Cleveland Partnership is the regional chamber of commerce for the greater Cleveland area. It concentrates on business retention and civic initiatives of interest to business leaders. County economic development staff work closely with Greater Cleveland Partnership staff to understand the factors that motivate businesses to remain and expand in Cuyahoga County, and to coordinate resources for business retention and expansion.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Non-Housing Community Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the current public transit system and needs of county communities, particularly the impact on low- and moderate-income areas.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Heights Community Congress
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Non-profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	As an organization providing fair housing services to the Cuyahoga County Urban County, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development and HCC have policy and program discussions on an ongoing basis to address housing issues in the 51-member communities.

16	Agency/Group/Organization	Home Repair Resource Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Education Non-profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	County staff and agency staff meet at least monthly to discuss foreclosure prevention and housing counseling issues. The agency serves as a HOME program subrecipient for homebuyer assistance and as such provides insight into homebuyer market conditions.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Jobs Ohio
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - State Business and Civic Leaders Private Sector Banking / Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Jobs Ohio is the nonprofit organization created by the State of Ohio to carry out State funded economic development activities statewide. County economic development staff work closely with Jobs Ohio staff to understand business financing needs and coordinate resources for business attraction and retention.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Regional organization Non-profit Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	As an organization providing fair housing services to the Cuyahoga County Urban County, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development has policy and program discussions with this organization on an ongoing basis to address affordable housing issues in the 51-member communities.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-housing Community Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the infrastructure and transit needs of county communities. Consortium members and this agency jointly plan and implement infrastructure projects that positively impact low- and moderate-income areas. All five Consortium jurisdictions have seats on the NOACA Board of Directors.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization Non-profit Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The nineteen community members of this Council of Governments work to maintain and revitalize their mature, developed communities and raise public and political awareness of the problem and inequities associated with urban sprawl and urban disinvestment. Cuyahoga County has policy and program discussions with this organization on an ongoing basis to address housing and other community needs. The four suburban members of the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium (Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, and Parma) are members of the organization.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-housing Community Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address sewer infrastructure needs of county communities. Consortium members and this agency jointly plan and implement infrastructure projects that positively impact low- and moderate-income areas. Note: Euclid and Lakewood manage their own sewer infrastructure.
22	Agency/Group/Organization	Parma Public Housing Agency
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Cuyahoga Housing Consortium members have policy and program discussions with this agency on an ongoing basis to address the needs of county residents. In addition, this agency makes available countywide program usage information.

23	Agency/Group/Organization	Team NEO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Team NEO is the regional business attraction organization for Northeast Ohio including Cuyahoga County. Economic development staff of Cuyahoga County work closely with the staff of Team NEO to understand the conditions that will best attract new businesses to the region. These conditions include place-based considerations which can be addressed by community development programming.

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

All Agency Types were consulted.

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	Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care	The 2024 Annual Plan supports the goals of the Cuyahoga Continuum of Care (CoC). The Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) serves all 59 communities in Cuyahoga County and is the Lead Agency for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated by the CoC, an extensive network of public, private, and non-profit agencies that facilitate and provide, either directly or indirectly, emergency shelter, assisted housing, health services, and/or social services to persons in Cuyahoga County who are chronically homeless, homeless, or are at-risk of homelessness. Cuyahoga County Strategic Action Plan for Homelessness - Advancing Pathways to Housing through Equity 2023 - 2027 and Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services Overview.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Economic Development Plan	Cuyahoga County	This plan, updated annually by Cuyahoga County government, focuses on the areas of innovation, investment, collaboration, and education as themes for County economic development decisions. Although primarily intended to be implemented with more than dollars provided by HUD, the Plan emphasizes that investments should create high-quality, well-connected places, economic development, and preparation for jobs and careers, and accelerate business growth. The 2023 Annual Plan goals, using HUD funds, relate to investment objectives of the Cuyahoga County Economic Development Plan. https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/docs/default-source/development/economicdevelopmentplan.pdf
Cuyahoga County Housing Plan	Cuyahoga County	The Cuyahoga County Housing Plan was developed in coordination with countywide stakeholders from 2015-2017, and adopted in February 2019. The plan identified six primary objectives that need to be addressed to improve housing conditions and values. 1. Access to Affordable Housing 2. Tax Collection and Delinquency 3. Housing Insecurity 4. Special Populations 5. Fair Housing 6. Confidence in the Housing Market. In February 2019, Cuyahoga Council passed legislation to create the Cuyahoga County Housing Program. A feature of this program is to support home repair and low-dollar mortgages starting in 2020 using \$1 million of revenue from casino taxes. The program is designed to complement strategies in the 2020-2024 Consolidated plan including expanding the capacity of local counseling services to support low-income homeowners, new tools for first mortgage lending that could leverage the current down payment assistance programming, and expanding the homeowner repair programs that currently exist.
Rebuilding as One: A Common Sense Approach to Housing	Northeast Ohio's First Suburbs Consortium	This 2023 report outlines issues and strategies to address housing issues, particularly in the Cuyahoga County suburbs that geographically form the first ring of development beyond Cleveland. Building on the Cuyahoga County Economic Development Plan goal of creating high-quality, well-connected places that provide our residents with great communities to live, work, and play, the report emphasizes strategies focusing on the four policy areas of preserving older housing stock, reducing vacancy and blight, strengthening, and promoting stability. The 2023 Annual Plan goals focus significant housing funds on investment in existing housing through rehabilitation and homebuyer programs plus code enforcement, which reinforce the strategies of the Rebuilding as One report. http://nebula.wsimg.com/dcb273f93355b0f0d3ee06c9cd4429ee?AccessKeyId=09E1CA301C4A0B66503D&disposition=08

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Vibrant NEO 2040	Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium Initiative	Funded by a HUD/USDOT/USEPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative grant, this twelve-county regional plan was developed by 33 organizations developed a vision for the future of Northeast Ohio. The eight objectives include promoting investment in established communities, developing the regional economy with accessible employment opportunities, and enhancing the transportation network. The Consolidated Plan Strategic Plan goals focus on investing funds in housing, businesses, and infrastructure in developed neighborhoods, commercial districts, and industrial areas, which reinforce the goals of Vibrant NEO 2040. http://vibrantneo.org

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

- Cuyahoga County government, on behalf of the 51-member Cuyahoga County Urban County, entered into agreements with the Cities of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, and Parma to jointly participate in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding. The joint funding process creating the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium began with FY 1993 federal funds and has provided an opportunity for better coordination of housing program delivery by CDBG entitlement communities, such as rehabilitation work and homebuyer programs. The Consortium has also coordinated on other issues, such as successfully obtaining federal grants to address lead-based paint issues in older homes.

All seven communities in Cuyahoga County that receive CDBG entitlement funding (Cuyahoga County on behalf of 51 Urban County member suburbs, Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Lakewood, and Parma) have jointly participated in ongoing coordinated efforts on Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice studies and updates. From 2011-2013, all seven Cuyahoga County entitlements participated in a broader, twelve-county, regional fair housing equity study carried out under a HUD Sustainable Communities grant. The regional study, completed in 2013 and extended to add specific local impediments in 2014, was recognized by HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity as an appropriate method to update each jurisdiction’s existing Analysis of Impediments. We are currently in the process of securing a consultant to complete the County’s Fair Housing Impediment Study by the end of 2024.

- The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, through the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services, coordinate homeless prevention and homeless recovery funding and programming countywide. This collaboration includes development of a single countywide homeless prevention strategy, implemented by a single Continuum of Care process that brings Shelter Plus Care and

Supportive Housing program funding into the county. Likewise, Emergency Shelter Grant and stimulus-era Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing funds were and are managed on a countywide basis. Homeless prevention and recovery activities are available countywide; they benefit Consortium jurisdiction residents when the need arises.

- Cuyahoga County cooperates with the State of Ohio Department of Development Services Agency (ODSA) through the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services alignment with ODSA as a subrecipient of “Homeless Crisis Response Program” funding on behalf of the County. These funds are used to leverage County ESG dollars targeted to Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention. The Office of Homeless Services represents Cuyahoga County on the State’s Supportive Housing Planning Council which meets annually to advise ODSA on the development of the State’s Consolidated Plan.
- **The Cuyahoga County Department of Development regularly coordinates specific economic development projects that involve a business and host community, along with partners such as the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority and the State of Ohio. Also, local communities within Cuyahoga County, including the Cuyahoga County Urban County, prepare joint funding applications and work cooperatively on projects with the State of Ohio.**
- **The Cuyahoga County Department of Development website, training sessions, and community meetings are all used as vehicles to communicate and interact with Urban County communities as well as interested members of the public. The other Consortium jurisdictions utilize similar outreach strategies.**

AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The five Consortium jurisdictions take actions to encourage participation by all residents. For example, jurisdictions conduct outreach on a communitywide basis through various types of media, such as community-based newspapers and newsletters, electronic newsletters, home mailings, websites, and public access TV channels. Outreach is expanded through members of citizen advisory committees or special interest groups, as well as program sub recipients. Outreach is conducted at community facilities, such as posting notices at recreation centers, senior centers, libraries, web pages, social media, and municipal buildings. These actions increase the opportunity for residents throughout a community to participate in the process, including low- and-moderate income residents, minorities, and residents living in HUD-assisted housing.

The Consortium jurisdictions undertake the following types of actions to encourage citizen involvement:

- Translation services for non-English speaking residents. (Available Upon Request)
- Meeting locations and office space for housing Consortium staff are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Meetings, hearings, and other public activities are scheduled at times and locations convenient to encourage attendance. Electronic meetings via Microsoft Teams were utilized due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Reasonable and timely access is provided to information and records relating to the 2024 Annual Plan and Consolidated Plan and use of HUD assistance via CAPER reports.
- Each Consortium jurisdiction has a Citizen's Participation Plan.

The Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development, as the lead administrative entity for the Consortium, is tasked by HUD for overseeing physical submission of all 5 CDBG Entitlement entities as one group. HUD's software requires submission by the lead entity (the County).

Table 4 shows the public comment process undertaken by the Cuyahoga County Urban County. The public meetings were publicized in a newspaper of general circulation. Citizens were invited to provide comments electronically in the meetings or via telephone, mail, or email. During the 30-day comment period, copies of the Draft FY 2024 Annual Plan document were available in public places, such as government offices and libraries. The document was also posted on the County's website at <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/housing-and-community-development>

Public meetings were held electronically on weekdays during the day. The meetings linked the 5-Year Plan and FY 2024 Annual Plan, providing continuity for discussing short-term and long-term timeframes. At each public meeting, the 5-Year Plan and Annual 2023 Plan were listed and discussed as

a separate agenda item. The discussions included presentations of background information, data, and priorities, and time was allotted for audience questions.

County staff provides technical assistance to groups developing proposals for funding assistance under the Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan. Offers of technical assistance are included as part of application materials, published notices, and/or made verbally during group meetings. Staff also provide contact information on their website. Technical assistance, on a one-on-one basis, often includes explanations concerning programs, potential projects, and application procedures.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
------------	------------------	--------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------	--	---------------------

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/ broad community	<p>The Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development invited Mayors, City Admin, Non-profits, service agencies, and all residents who would like to hear Program, Funding, and Project information to participate in early discussions of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) utilization for the upcoming FY'24 projects and activity. Emails were retrieved from a past list of invitees, awardees, grantees, and vendors. The list was compiled and emails were sent to more than 80 representatives on August 15, 2023 at 1.53 pm via Prentis Jackson Jr to attend the in-</p>	N/A	N/A	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	<p>The Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development placed an Ad in the Plain Dealer on August 18th, 2023 detailing the Public Meeting event to be held on August 25th, 2023 at The Lyndhurst Community Center 1341 Parkview Drive Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124 at 10:00 am. We invited citizen review and comment. The information was also placed on the Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development's website for public review. Comments available were to be sent to Prentis Jackson Annual Action Plan Department of 2024 Development 7th Floor 2079 E. 9th Street, Cleveland,</p>	N/A	N/A	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Public Meeting Session (August 25, 2023) to engage and solicit comments for the HUD allocation of the 2024 Annual Plan based on projected/estimated appropriations from HUD. We invited review and comment on the discussion of estimated HUD appropriations/al locations and potential programs and projects anticipated in the county as a result. Comments available were to be sent to Prentis Jackson Jr, Department of Housing and Community Development 7th Floor 2079 E. 9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 or at pjackson01@cuyahogacounty.us or 216-443-8856	N/A	N/A	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	<p>The Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development placed an Ad in the Plain Dealer on May 15th, 2024 detailing the Public Meeting event to be held on June 14th, 2024 at The Cuyahoga County Council Chambers 2079 East 9th Street 4th Floor Cleveland, Ohio 44115 at 10:00 am. We invited citizen review and comment. The information for the meeting and a draft of the 2024 Annual Plan was also placed on the Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development's website, and at Regional Libraries for public review. Comments available were to be sent to Prentis Jackson Jr,</p>	N/A	N/A	https://cuyahogacounty.gov/housing-and-community-development

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ broad community	Public Meeting Session (June 14, 2024) to engage and solicit comments for the HUD allocation of the 2024 Annual Plan based on actual appropriations from HUD. We invited review and comment on the discussion of actual HUD appropriations/allocations and potential programs and projects anticipated in the county as a result. Comments available were to be sent to Prentis Jackson Jr, Department of Housing and Community Development 7th Floor 2079 E. 9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 or at pjackson01@cuyahogacounty.us or 216-443-8856.	No Comments Received	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2020-2024 identifies the federal, state, local, and private resources expected to be available to the Cuyahoga Urban County to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the Strategic Plan *of the Consolidated Plan 2020-2024*. The Cuyahoga Urban County is a direct entitlement community for the HUD-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. The Cuyahoga Urban County is a member of the Cuyahoga County Consortium through which it manages all Consortium funds for the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program. Below are the Expected Resources per the Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2024.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	4,055,322	291,829	204,897	4,552,048	3,900,000	Annual allocation is the recent Fiscal Year allocation received from HUD. Program Income is based on recent years average. Program Income is technically Revolving Loan Program Income earned on loan repayments and used for similar purposes according to HUD regulations. Program Income is calculated as an average of the aggregated amounts received over several (often two) years. Annual allocation amounts available in the future depends on the will of Congress to keep program. The remainder of Con Plan expected amount is an estimate based on FY 2024 allocation multiplied by four years. Annual allocations may fluctuate.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	2,642,112	405,971	0	3,048,083	3,000,000	HOME public - federal Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership CHDO 2,642,112 405,970 0 3,048,082 2,048,082 Annual allocation is the recent Fiscal Year allocation received from HUD. Program Income is based on recent years average. Program Income is technically Revolving Loan Program Income earned on loan repayments and used for similar purposes according to HUD regulations. Program Income is calculated as an average of the aggregated amounts received over several (often two) years. Annual allocation amounts available in the future depends on the will of Congress to keep program. The remainder of Con Plan expected amount is an estimate based on FY 2024 allocation multiplied by four years. Annual allocations may fluctuate.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	345,109	0	0	345,109	330,000	Annual allocation is the recent Fiscal Year allocation received from HUD. Annual allocation amounts available in the future depends on the will of Congress to keep program. The remainder of Con Plan expected amount is an estimate based on FY 2024 allocation multiplied by four years. Annual allocations may fluctuate.

Table 2 - 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

Housing construction and renovation activities funded by HOME typically leverage tax credit equity and loans from other funding sources that exceed the HOME funds invested. Also, where necessary private development funding such as stocks, bonds, equity financial instruments will be utilized to develop affordable housing efforts.

ESG match requirements are met with local government contributions, foundations, philanthropic donations, and charitable event fundraising sponsored by homeless providers funded with county ESG.

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

County government does not itself own substantial amounts of vacant land or buildings suitable for redevelopment in the suburban communities for which this plan is developed. Several suburbs have acquired ownership of vacant residential lots through a land banking program, and Cuyahoga County has an innovative Land Bank which holds an increasing number of vacant houses and vacant lots for redevelopment. Land Bank owned houses do not remain vacant for long periods. They are either renovated for re-occupancy or demolished if the cost of needed repairs would make renovation and re-occupancy economically unsound.

Discussion

This item intentionally left blank.

Annual Goals and Objectives

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

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Cuyahoga Urban County	Affordable Housing Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs	CDBG: \$981,323 HOME: \$2,053,314	Rental units constructed: 40 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 60 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 60 Households Assisted Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 16 Households Assisted
2	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Cuyahoga Urban County	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$2,273,376 HOME: \$67,451	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 12000 Persons Assisted
3	Provide Needed Public Services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Cuyahoga Urban County	Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs	CDBG: \$194,323	Homelessness Prevention: 8 Persons Assisted
4	Increase Economic Opportunities	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Cuyahoga Urban County	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$0	Jobs created/retained: 0 Jobs Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness	2020	2024	Homeless	Cuyahoga Urban County	Homelessness	CDBG: \$792,052 HOME: \$894,478 ESG: \$352,643	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 40 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 400 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 1000 Persons Assisted

Table 3 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	<p>The Cuyahoga Urban County will administer activities to improve, maintain, and expand owner- and renter-occupied housing. The activities may include but may not be limited to: down-payment assistance, rehabilitation, new construction, weatherization and energy efficiency improvements, home modifications for disabled persons and elderly homeowners to assist them to remain in their homes, and rental assistance.</p> <p>Some activities under this goal will utilize HOME funds provided by HUD and administered by the Cuyahoga Urban County as the lead jurisdiction.</p> <p>Opportunities for linking of projects that increase the availability of affordable housing units in areas where jobs are being created but low wage workers cannot find affordable housing units, in turn creating excessive travel times, is a goal for 2024. Funding will come from existing appropriations in prior year HOME appropriations.</p>

2	Goal Name	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Goal Description	<p>The Department of Housing and Community Development will work with the 51 communities that comprise the Urban County to assist in improving the quality of life by investing in projects nominated by communities in the Competitive Municipal Grant Program under CDBG. Projects awarded funding meet the announced criteria and improve quality of life by improving neighborhood streets, investing in upgrading deteriorated public infrastructure and upgrading senior centers that meet HUD guidelines.</p> <p>The second element of the Municipal Grant Program may be used again to work with communities that have signed an agreement for financing the cleaning and relining of sanitary sewer lines, as well as the separation of sewer and storm sewer lines. Participants must have signed agreements with the Department of Public Works. Funding would come from CDBG prior year unused Municipal and other CDBG appropriations. Such work immediately improves the quality of life and livability of neighborhoods that have experienced sewer backups into basements during rain-storm events.</p> <p>In communities with Improvement Target Areas (ITA's), the Department works with an agency to perform litter control services in public rights-of-way to reduce the blighting effect of litter and improve the livability of neighborhoods.</p>
3	Goal Name	Provide Needed Public Services
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Increase Economic Opportunities
	Goal Description	Program has not been utilized for small business/economic grants and/or loans and therefore funds have been reappropriated to various programs/projects

5	Goal Name	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Goal Description	<p>In carrying out all of its homeless assistance programs, the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) as the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC), works in close collaboration with the City of Cleveland’s Department of Community Development and homeless service providers. The OHS is the Collaborative Applicant for the annual CoC Homeless Assistance Grant application. The OHS administers both the Cuyahoga County ESG entitlement and the City of Cleveland’s ESG entitlement through a single RFP process. This promotes coordination and alignment with HEARTH Act goals. The State of Ohio and the Ohio Development Services Agency have awarded OHS funding through its “Homeless Crisis Response Program “(HCRP). The funding source is the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. Project activities are intended to align with ESG and CoC program priorities and activities.</p> <p>In addition to the current Homelessness Prevention programs and strategies administered by the Office of Homeless Services, there is a need for non-congregate shelter for county residents that are homeless or at risk of being homeless due to conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of receiving additional HOME funds via the American Rescue Plan (ARP), we plan to amend our 2021 Annual Plan to create a HOME program for affordable housing that addresses this need for non-congregate shelter via the Cuyahoga County HOME Consortium.</p>

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

The attached projects are proposed for 2024 based on the HUD allocations for CDBG, HOME, and ESG for Cuyahoga County

Project Name

1 CDBG Competitive Municipal Grant

2 CDBG Home and Furnace Repair Program (Including Project and Professional Fees)

3 CDBG Foreclosure Prevention

4 HOME Consortium

5 CDBG General Admin (Salaries and Benefits (\$39K per mo*12)

6 CDBG Down Payment Assistance (Including Counseling and Homeownership Counseling)

7 HOME CHDO Funding (Set-Aside; Max 15%)

8 HOME Affordable Rental Housing Program

9 HOME Administration Costs (Max 7%)

10 CDBG Fair Housing Testing

11 HESG - ESG24

12 CDBG Fair Housing Counseling

13 CDBG Community Development Program Staffing (Non-Admin)

14 CDBG Fair Housing Impediment Study

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Competitive Municipal Grant
2	CDBG Home and Furnace Repair Program (Including Project and Professional Fees)
3	CDBG Foreclosure Prevention
4	HOME Consortium
5	CDBG General Admin (Salaries and Benefits - \$39K per mo*12)
6	CDBG Down Payment Assistance (including Counseling and Homeownership Counseling)
7	HOME CHDO FUnding (Set-Aside; Max 15%)
8	HOME Affordable Rental Housing Program
9	HOME Administration Costs (Max 7%)
10	CDBG Fair Housing (Testing)
11	HESG-ESG24
12	CDBG Fair Housing Counseling
13	CDBG Community Development Program Staffing (Non-Admin)
14	CDBG Fair Housing Impediment Study

Table 4 – Project Information

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

The Cooperation Agreements currently in force with the 51 local communities participating in the Urban County provide that *not less than forty percent (40%) of the total Urban County Entitlement Funds for Cuyahoga County will be expended by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the participating political subdivisions to finance, through a Municipal Grant Program, eligible Community Development activities and projects in said participating political subdivisions.*

This commitment to expend funds on behalf of municipalities is realized by the Competitive Municipal Grant Program (CMGP). There are two elements to the county's Municipal Grant Program. 1) the Competitive Municipal Grant Program under which communities submit applications for CDBG funding that are scored under a point system disclosed when the application process begins. These projects must be eligible under the CDBG regulations and meet a national objective Expenditures in the Municipal Grant Program have been applied in situations where CDBG expenditures must be made to meet HUD requirements for timeliness. Under this program communities submit applications for CDBG funding that are scored under a point system disclosed when the application begins.

In the Competitive Municipal Grant Program, communities are encouraged to coordinate their proposed CDBG activities with other investments occurring in their communities in an attempt to obtain more synergistic investments. To take advantage of the bulk of the 2024 construction season, the competitive applications were received in September 2023 with expected projects to start May 1, 2024. All recommended projects will undergo environmental review before awards are announced.

All other programs operated by the Department of Housing and Community Development require an

application from an individual for a homeowner rehabilitation loan, from a family for down payment assistance, from a business to apply for a commercial revitalization/rehabilitation loan/grant, or from a business to request assistance to expand its operations. The new county government is attempting to coordinate/concentrate activities with other investments, both public and private, to increase the quality of place and quality of lives for the citizens of Cuyahoga County. For example, the Department of Housing and Community Development used CDBG administrative funding from 2013 to 2014 to pay for additional recommendations to the Economic Development Plan to identify areas where investment is occurring and opportunities for where additional investment will have synergistic affects.

In addition, the Cuyahoga County Community Development Supplemental Grant program (CDSG) is mirrored after the Federal Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) to provide needed funds to municipalities and non-profits to further the aims and goals of their respective communities with repairs, renovations, and upgrades to keep the community safe, livable, and thriving.

Any potential reductions in HUD funding present the greatest obstacle in meeting underserved needs.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Competitive Municipal Grant
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,884,258
	Description	At least 40% of the CDBG Entitlement grant is committed to assisting participating jurisdictions - that commitment is fulfilled through this project. Funding is for eligible activities under codes 1-5,10,15,17 & 20 and also includes potential national objective codes 570.208(a) (1), (2) and (4) and 208(b)(1). If any repayments are received from communities, the amounts will be included with 40% for distribution.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	03J Water/Sewer Improvements; 03K Street Improvements; 03F Parks recreational Facilities; 03E Neighborhood Facilities; Public Facilities & Improvements (General); 03(A) Senior Centers all 570.201(c): 14A Home Rehab; 17B Storefront Rehab; 03(G) Parking Facilities; 03L Sidewalks; and other CDBG eligible activities
2	Project Name	CDBG Home and Furnace Repair Program (Including Project and Professional Fees)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$500,000
	Description	Included in this project are activities that provide loans for needed home repairs to income eligible recipients. Also provides heating unit repairs for low- and moderate-income homeowners and tenants. A portion of the funding is also available for furnace replacement. The program also supports the replacement of old electrical wiring (knob and tube) to updated electrical wiring. Pre-agreement costs would use carry forward appropriations.

	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	14A Rehab Single Unit Residential and 14F Energy Efficiency Improvements 570.202 Note: 14 (H) Rehabilitation Administration of the program
3	Project Name	CDBG Foreclosure Prevention
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,000
	Description	Due to the continued high foreclosure rate in the Urban County, funds will be allocated to counsel persons on budget management, credit repair, mortgage foreclosure or tax delinquency prevention and assistance and home purchase. Non-profit organizations will provide this service via a competitive process. Those organizations awarded funding contracts must be HUD certified and be in full standing with HUD.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	05U Housing Counseling 24 CFR 570.201
4	Project Name	HOME Consortium
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	HOME: \$824,339

	Description	Allocations for HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Cuyahoga County Home Consortium: Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland Heights, City of Euclid, City of Lakewood, and the City of Parma. Of the HOME allocation, 15% is set aside for CHDO and 7% for County Planning and Administration. Of the remaining balance, 60% is allocated to Cuyahoga County, 10% to Cleveland Heights, 10% to Euclid, 13% to Lakewood, and 7% to Parma. Projects and activity consist of Down Payment Assistance (DPA), Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Affordable Rental Housing Development, and Homeowner Rehab.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County and Home Consortium Communities of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, and Parma.
	Planned Activities	
5	Project Name	CDBG General Admin (Salaries and Benefits - \$39K per mo*12)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$663,564
	Description	General administration of the Community Development Program operated by the Department of Development. This includes staffing and support costs as well as indirect and space maintenance charges. Pre-agreement operating costs would be incurred to maintain administration of ongoing programming.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	

	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	21A Administration 19F Planned Repayment of Section 108 Loans. These funds will not be recorded in the budget as the funds would then raise the amount of administrative funds available as IDIS is presently constituted.
6	Project Name	CDBG Down Payment Assistance (including Counseling and Homeownership Counseling)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$500,000
	Description	Provides Counseling and financial assistance to new homebuyers with the purchase of a home either newly constructed or renovated in the Urban County
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	13A Direct Home Assistance 570.201(h)
7	Project Name	HOME CHDO FUnDing (Set-Aside; Max 15%)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$396,317
	Description	Financial assistance to organizations recognized by Cuyahoga County as CHDOs (Community Housing Development Organizations) that undertake eligible housing activities.
	Target Date	12/31/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	<p>14B Multi-unit</p>
8	Project Name	HOME Affordable Rental Housing Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs
	Funding	HOME: \$1,236,508
	Description	HOME funds are proposed to assist two or more projects that would create additional affordable housing units. Projects could involve construction of new units or rehabilitation of existing structures. Plans are developing to maximize our resources and provide incentive funding. The Department will explore one or more partnerships in assisting low- and moderate-income workers obtain housing near employment clusters.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	Construction of Rental Housing
9	Project Name	HOME Administration Costs (Max 7%)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs

	Funding	HOME: \$184,948
	Description	General administration of the HOME Program operated by the Department of Housing and Community Development and four Consortium municipal partners. This includes staffing and support costs as well as indirect and space maintenance charges. Pre-agreement operating costs would be incurred to maintain administration of ongoing programming.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	HOME Administration
10	Project Name	CDBG Fair Housing (Testing)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$140,000
	Description	The Department coordinates a comprehensive fair housing program from CDBG and local government resources. Activities include the systematic audits of sales. An RFP process for housing services is combined with low/moderate benefit activities to achieve a comprehensive grouping of services.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
Planned Activities	21D Fair Housing Activities (subject to 20% Admin cap) 570.206	
11	Project Name	HESG-ESG24
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness

	Needs Addressed	Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$345,109
	Description	Funding supports a) Basic shelter services, including outreach and daytime shelter for single adults, families, and youth; and b) Rapid re-housing, short term rental assistance to reduce shelter length of stay and promote housing stability.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Existing Homeless Service Organizations
	Planned Activities	HomesHELTER, Supportive Services, and Rapid Rehousing
12	Project Name	CDBG Fair Housing Counseling
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$110,000
	Description	Fair Housing Counseling for residents of the Cuyahoga Urban County to assist with Housing Rights. The Department coordinates a comprehensive fair housing program from CDBG and local government resources. Activities include education and outreach and discrimination complaint services.
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	Fair Housing Activities 21D Fair Housing Activities (subject to 20% Admin cap) 570.206
13	Project Name	CDBG Community Development Program Staffing (Non-Admin)
	Target Area	

	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	:
	Description	Consists of general salaries, operating expenditures and other costs to support the delivery of housing and community development related programming administered by the Department of Development. Pre-agreement costs to continue delivery of rehabilitation services would be incurred to maintain an uninterrupted delivery of ongoing programs
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
14	Project Name	CDBG Fair Housing Impediment Study
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,500
	Description	RFP for CDBG Fair Housing Impediment Study 2024
	Target Date	12/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Planned Activities	21D Fair Housing Activities (subject to 20% Admin cap) 570.206

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

Cuyahoga County is the second most populated County in Ohio with Franklin County being number one. The County has a population of 1, 264,817 persons. The City of Cleveland is the largest city and the county seat. Unfortunately, the County’s population has been decreasing steadily since 2020 the population has decreased by 2.5% per the United States Census Bureau. The County’s median household income is \$60,736, which is slightly below the State of Ohio’s average of \$65,720.

The County has 6 (six) Entitlements cities: Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, Parma and Cuyahoga County. In addition to these areas there are 51 Urban Communities within Cuyahoga County boundaries.

There are two non-participating areas of the County Hunting Valley and Brecksville. Hunting Valley (Village), nestled in Cuyahoga and Geauga counties, but is one of the wealthiest cities in Ohio. Despite its modest population of just over 760 people with 306 households, the median home value is around \$1.4 million with the median income being \$93,558. The other area is the City of Brecksville with a population of just under 14,000 residents and a median income of \$67,520. The average home value in the city according to Zillow.com is \$396,806.

The remaining portion of Cuyahoga County is made up of 51 urban communities which is where federal funding efforts are concentrated. These are areas are as follows: *Due to character limit, the information is continued in the "Rationale..." Section below.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Cuyahoga Urban County	90

Table 5 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The Cooperation Agreements currently in force with the 51 local communities participating in the Urban County in program year 2024 provide that “not less than forty percent (40%) of the total Urban County Entitlement Funds for Cuyahoga County will be expended by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the participating political subdivisions to finance, through a Municipal Grant Program, eligible Community

Development activities and projects in said participating political subdivisions.”

51 Urban County Communities

- Bay Village, Beachwood, Bedford, Bedford Hts, Bentleyville Village, Berea, Bratenahl Village, Broadview Hts, Brook Park, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Hts, Chagrin Falls Township, Chagrin Falls Village, Cuyahoga Hts, Fairview Park, Garfield Hts, Gates Mills, Glenwillow Village, Highland Hills, Highland Hts, Independence, Linndale, Lyndhurst, Maple Hts, Mayfield Hts, Mayfield Village, Middleburg Hts, Newburgh Hts, North Olmsted, North Randall, North Royalton, Oakwood Village, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, Orange Village, Parma Hts, Pepper Pike, Richmond Hts, Rocky River, Seven Hills, Shaker Hts, Solon, South euclid, Strongsville, University Hts, Valley View, Walton Hills Village, Warrensville Hts.

All other programs operated by the Department of Housing and Community Development require an application from an individual for a homeowner rehabilitation loan, from a family for down payment assistance, from a business to apply for a commercial revitalization/rehabilitation loan/grant, or from a business to request assistance to expand its operations. The Department is attempting to coordinate/concentrate activities with other investments, both public and private, to increase the quality of place and life for the citizens of Cuyahoga County. Even with the increase in HUD funding, demand for more resources presents the greatest obstacle in meeting underserved needs.

Discussion

Two additional urban communities are Westlake and Woodmere Village

Cuyahoga County has many inner ring suburban areas that are concentrated with low to moderate residents. The median income for Cuyahoga County is \$71,175 which is higher than the median income for the United States. More than 44 percent of the of the population in the suburban areas of the County are struggling to maintain stable living conditions.

The United Way of Greater Cleveland conducted a study in 2022 the provided this assessment. Cuyahoga County has 13 percent of its residents that live in poverty, which is about 207,000 people living below the poverty line. An additional 209,000 persons are in or near poverty. Many of those people reside in the City of Cleveland but the remainder of the population, which is 44 percent, live in the suburban areas. Many studies have documented the mitigation of low-income residents from urban centers. It is not different in Cuyahoga County. Studies have been conducted by the Council of Economic Opportunities, the Mandel School at Case Western Reserve University, and the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University that show the movement of poverty from the urban center to the suburban zones. The concentration of poverty is caused by limited progress in economic development, mobility, housing instability and health initiatives which have remained unchained over the past few years. These areas have faced additional challenges due to the peak of the pandemic in 2020.

Areas of blight are identified every ten years in cooperation with our municipal partners. The methodology and process has been consistent for over thirty years and is approved by HUD. These areas, known as Improvement Target Areas (ITAs) are used to identify areas where activities fundable under HUD's national objective of eliminating conditions of slum and blight can occur. An RFQ is issued, and contracts are awarded to the County Planning Commission to undertake new ITA surveys. These surveys are paid for with CDBG Administration/Planning funds. New maps of the areas that meet HUD's slum and blight national objectives have been shared with our municipal partners and submitted to the Columbus Field Office of HUD. These maps are maintained within the Department of Housing & Community Development. The surveys help the department develop and determine what areas within the County's boundaries for funding have the greatest need for funding eligible programs and/or activities.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.420, 91.220(g)

Introduction

Intentionally left blank

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	80
Non-Homeless	125
Special-Needs	20
Total	225

Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	20
The Production of New Units	45
Rehab of Existing Units	80
Acquisition of Existing Units	80
Total	225

Table 7 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

N/A

AP-60 Public Housing - 91.420, 91.220(h)

Introduction

This question intentionally left blank. Please refer to other responses in this section.

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

Within the Cuyahoga County Urban County, there are only two (2) small public housing developments totaling 116 units. Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) has responsibility for both, Oakwood Garden and Oakwood Villas. Oakwood Villas has 91 one-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit, all for elderly persons. Oakwood Garden consists of 25 three-bedroom, single-family homes designated for families. These properties have been constructed on bus routes, with retail establishments accessible by walking, bus, or automobile.

The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) has a maintenance and improvement plan for the facilities and allocates funds on an ongoing basis to accomplish those tasks. Cuyahoga County does not intend to fund any activities related to these two (2) facilities.

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

In terms of management, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) has a system in place for residents and administrators to meet on an ongoing basis to discuss management/building issues, which Cuyahoga County believes is appropriate for that purpose. Public housing facilities are also subject to the building codes of the local communities, when repair issues arise. In addition, Cuyahoga MHA staff has met with the staff of the County Department of Development and Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Assistance to work together to identify suitable units to accommodate formerly homeless persons.

In terms of participation in homeownership, the 91 units in Oakwood Villas are occupied by elderly residents. It is likely that many residents would feel that the physical burden and financial responsibility of maintaining a home would be beyond their capabilities. The 25 units at Oakwood Garden are occupied by families. A shift to homeownership for a family may be possible under the proper set of circumstances, such as steady employment and appropriate financial management skills. If a resident wishes to pursue the possibility of homeownership, Cuyahoga County has existing programs to assist that family.

In addition, Section 3 reporting requires us to encourage and promote, to the greatest extent feasible, employment and training opportunities for very low- and low-income county residents that are within the project area. Section 3 is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by

certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.

Targeted Section 3 worker is:

1) is employed by a Section 3 business concern; or

(2) currently fits or when hired fit at least one of the following categories, as documented within the past five years:

(i) A resident of public housing or Section 8-assisted housing;

(ii) A resident of other public housing projects or Section 8-assisted housing managed by the PHA that is providing the assistance; or

(iii) A YouthBuild participant.

A Section 3 Business Concern is:

1. At least 51 percent owned and controlled by low- or very low-income persons;

2. Over 75 percent of the labor hours performed for the business over the prior three-month period are performed by Section 3 workers; or

3. A business at least 51 percent owned and controlled by current public housing residents or residents who currently live in Section 8-assisted housing.

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

Not applicable. Neither the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) nor the Parma PHA is designated as “troubled” by HUD.

Discussion

This question intentionally left blank. Please refer to other responses in this section.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

Cuyahoga County intends to combine its 2024 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds with those received by the City of Cleveland, along with Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) funds allocated to Cuyahoga County by the State of Ohio's Department of Development, for HEARTH Act defined activities intended to reduce homelessness, shorten shelter lengths of stay, and promote housing stability. Cuyahoga County is aligned with the US Interagency Council's goals to make homelessness "Brief, Rare, and Non-recurring."

These funds will be administered by the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS), recognized by HUD as the lead agency for the Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care. The staff of the OHS supports the CoC Advisory Board which is in compliance with the HEARTH Act requirements for representation and membership.

The goals of the CoC's strategic plan are:

1. To make homelessness Brief, Rare, and Non-recurring;
2. Reduce the number of individuals and families who experience homelessness;
3. Implement a Coordinated Intake and Assessment system to allocate limited resources in the most effective and efficient way;
4. Implement strategies and to use CoC resources to move people from shelter and the streets to housing as quickly as possible;
5. Align resources to promote rapid re-housing; and
6. Increase the supply of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, families, and youth.

The CoC has four primary outreach efforts that operate 365/days a year:

1. CoC Outreach workers, supported by both local and mental health funding, work early morning and in the evening visiting camps and places known to be used by homeless. Outreach workers refer many persons to the permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless units;
2. Care Alliance, the Federally Qualified Health Center serving homeless persons, also searches streets, under bridges, and empty buildings to find street homeless and provide medical assistance and to engage with clients;
3. Supportive Services to Veterans Families (SSVF): the SSVF program is funded through the Veterans Administration. In addition to providing short term rental assistance, SSVF funding provides outreach staff to identify homeless veterans sleeping in places not fit for human habitation. SSVF outreach staff are able to link homeless veterans with CoC resources as appropriate;
4. The CoC funds a cold weather, weekend shelter for people who refuse 'traditional' shelter. Outreach staff go to this site to engage these chronic homeless persons.

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

Homeless persons are assessed through Coordinated Intake and Assessment (CI). The CoC implemented CI in FY2012. CI enables the CoC to:

- Use limited resources most effectively, by matching client need with CoC resources.
- Permits a single door of entry at which a standardized HMIS assessment form is utilized, promoting consistency and quality of data entry and outcomes.
- Enables every household seeking shelter to have the opportunity to be assessed for Diversion – an intervention to keep the household from entering the shelter system.
- Assures that all CoC funded beds are available and being used by legitimately homeless persons;
- Permits the CoC to assess housing barriers for each household and recommend an exit housing plan to be implemented by the receiving shelter.
- Enables the CoC to track the Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing referrals initiated through CI.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

In FY 2012, the CoC implemented Coordinated Intake (CI) at the 365 bed Men’s Shelter and at the 160 bed Norma Herr Women’s Shelter. CI also began to include families, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the utilization of HUD funded housing and services for homeless persons. Prior to the implementation of CI, some individuals and families seeking shelter were turned away by nonprofit agencies because of behavioral health issues. This resulted in there being unused resources and people on the street, or doubling up in unsafe situations. Other resources in the CoC system were also being allocated in a less than effective way. Since higher barrier individuals and families were being denied access, that meant that households with fewer or very low barriers, were being referred for the more costly and high intensity programming of transitional and permanent housing resources. This mismatch of services with needs was corrected by implementing a system wide Coordinated Intake.

Agencies which receive federal homeless funding, (ESG, CoC, ARPA, or State Funded HCRP) must align with the HEARTH Act’s directions to serve the highest barrier persons. People may not be turned away because of behavioral or physical health challenges, low or no income, or criminal justice background.

CI operates from 8 AM to 8 PM M- F, and can be accessed by phone after hours and on weekends through 2-1-1.

CI plays a critical role in re-linking individuals and families with systems and resources in the community. During the Assessment, case manager relationships with other community agencies may be identified and contacted. Sometimes these other systems will be able to provide resources to prevent the individual or family from entering shelter. Specific examples include:

- a) Veterans are identified immediately and referred to the VA's Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) so that their eligibility for VA services and resources can be quickly verified. If a veteran received a dishonorable or less than honorable discharge, they will still receive services and housing funded through the CoC resources.
- b) persons over 60 are linked with the resources targeted to senior citizens;
- c) a youth focused Assessment tool at CI screens youth for system specific involvement and service linkage.
- d) Families are screened for diversion when appropriate.

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 CoC has stated a goal of making homelessness "brief, rare, and non-recurring". The CoC was awarded funding through the HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grant process for Rapid Re-Housing for single adults, families, and youth. With these additional resources, the CoC is able to offer RRH, and twelve months of rental assistance to all populations experiencing a housing crisis. The community is engaged in the effort to end Veteran homelessness which has as one of the benchmarks that newly identified homeless veterans will be provided Permanent Housing in less than 90 days.

PSH: The Housing First Initiative (HFI) is the CoC's Plan to end Chronic Homelessness. Established in FY 2003, the HFI set a goal of developing 1,217 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for chronically homeless individuals by FY 2017. To date, there are over 782 units occupied with an additional 50 units either under construction, or in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit application process. In FY 2011, the HFI expanded the target population from CH Individuals to include CH Families and Youth. The housing model for these subpopulations is scattered site units. Applying the HUD definition of chronic homelessness to the families and youth in the shelter system resulted in a very low number of eligible households. These households have been housed. As newly chronically homeless youth and families are identified at CI, they are added to the By Name List to access PSH subsidies as they become available.

RRH:

1. Families: The CoC implemented a "Progressive Engagement" model for RRH for families. Through this model, all families, regardless of income or other barriers, are offered RRH, short term rental assistance within 7 days of shelter placement. Prior to the pandemic, 70% and 75% of families were able to maintain their housing on their own after 4 months of assistance. Currently, all RRH households receive an additional 8 months of subsidy with more intensive case management. At the end of this time period, about 50% of the cohort is stable; the remaining families are bridged to either a public housing subsidy or a PSH subsidy if eligible. This approach meets the two objectives of 1) reducing the shelter length of

stay, and 2) of assuring that the family does not return to homelessness. Since the implementation of RRH for families, the average shelter length of stay in 2022 reflected a decrease from 76 days to 69 days. Due to COVID, the length of stay has remained above the 6-day benchmark. The CoC has expanded efforts to again reduce length of stay and enable the CoC to serve more families experiencing a housing crisis through diversion and supportive services.

2. Single Adults: RRH for single adults is being implemented within a larger strategy to better serve the adult population experiencing a housing crisis. RRH will be offered to single adults who are on a clear path to income stability. For persons ages 25 and over, there is an income requirement with no set threshold for the amount of income eligibility. Shelter staff will also work the client to document the ability to maintain housing and increase income at the end of the RRH rental assistance period. The CoC is also encouraging a “shared housing” model to encourage rapid exit and housing stability for very low-income persons.

3. Youth: The Cuyahoga County CoC is committed to ending Youth Homelessness. Currently the CoC has developed a “By Name” List of homeless youth to identify and track progress toward ending their homelessness quickly and permanently. For those enrolled in RRH, there is no income requirement and rental assistance is provided for a full twelve months. Through bi-weekly meetings, Youth “Navigators” track RRH referrals, income efforts, housing placement and housing retention.

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.

Foster Care Discharge Planning

Through CI, youth aging out of foster care are identified at the shelter front door. CI staff contact the Department of Children and Family Services staff liaison to relink the client with agency services and divert them from shelter. In 2013, the CoC joined the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative to improve youth outcomes related to permanence, employment, health, education, housing, and financial capability, to prevent youth homelessness. The Jim Casey model will be replicated with the youth justice and mental health systems. Also in 2013, the CoC converted a 26-bed adult male shelter and a 26-bed adult male transitional housing program to provide shelter services for both males, females, transgender, and non-binary individuals ages 18-24. The objective is to have a safe emergency housing alternative for youth who are on the street, and who are less likely to go to the larger shelter facilities who traditionally serve older adults ages 25 and older.

Health Care Discharge Planning

Although the Ohio Department of Health policy prohibits discharging people requiring ongoing medical care to shelter, the practice continues. A CoC Hospital Discharge Planning Group, established in FY 2011, focuses on the discharge policies and protocols of area nursing homes and hospitals. The group developed written “Health Status” guidelines which clearly state the minimum health status threshold to enter a shelter. This information has been distributed to all area nursing homes and hospitals. Further, the protocol states that prior to sending someone to a shelter by cab or by ambulance, the facility must call CA/I, who will discuss the referral in order to prevent someone who is medically inappropriate from being discharged to the shelter. Hospital and nursing home staff attend the Discharge Planning Group meetings. CA/I staff track medical discharges that are inappropriate. Facilities are contacted and held accountable to stop the practice.

Mental Health Discharge Planning

The Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board monitors state requirements prohibiting discharge to shelters. In addition, it provides a 10 bed mental health crisis shelter. The respite beds provide additional time for case workers to develop safe, permanent housing options for persons who may have been homeless prior to hospitalization. Chronically homeless individuals leaving the state hospital may access a permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless unit. Safe Haven placement is another option provided the client was homeless prior to the state hospital stay. Mentally ill persons living on the streets and in the shelter are prioritized for permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless units.

Corrections Discharge Planning

In 2009, Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland established an Office of Re-entry to link returning offenders with resources in order to reduce recidivism. A strategy to prevent homelessness that has been promoted by the Office on Re-entry is outreach to inmates to assess housing, employment, and behavioral health needs, and begin the process of linking clients with resources prior to release. Two current programs are noteworthy: a) the VA goes into the institutions and identifies veterans, provides ID's, benefit determination, medical services and housing upon release; and b) The Corporation for Supportive Housing has sponsored a program that focuses on identifying persons who have serious mental health issues, engaging with them and providing housing upon release. Both programs have documented success with reducing homelessness for these high-risk populations as a result of the program interventions.

Discussion

Assistance from Other Public or Private Agencies

Above 90% of CoC program participants accessed non-employment income sources. Over the year, maintaining this percentage of participation will be attempted through maintaining focused efforts to assess and link clients quickly. Through CE, the CoC is better able to assess clients at shelter entrance to identify current income sources and potential benefit sources. The standardized data is entered into HMIS. The open/shared HMIS system enables the agency accepting the client referral from CE to begin addressing client income issues more quickly. In addition, the State of Ohio has established an online “Benefit Bank.” Using client data, case workers can identify additional income sources for which the client may qualify. Through CA/I, veterans are identified and referred immediately to the VA Homeless Outreach Coordinator to link the client with VA resources. Performance on income attainment is discussed at bi-monthly provider meetings.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing -91.420, 91.220(j)

Introduction

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

Cuyahoga County will support affordable rental housing projects that utilize the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. The County will continue to issue housing revenue bonds to support affordable housing development. Issuance of housing revenue bonds in combination with federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits keeps a project's cost in a workable range, which allows rents to be set at affordable levels.

The providers of Housing for Persons With Special Needs (such as persons who are physically challenged and persons with developmental disabilities) are a network of experienced organizations fulfilling a demonstrated need in the metropolitan area.

Discussion

Current State of Housing Market

Per the Housing Market Recovery in Cuyahoga County (2000-2020), COVID-19 has created a shortage of homes for sale, resulting in higher demand and higher prices. Some communities, such as South Euclid in the inner ring suburbs, and the Cleveland west side neighborhoods of Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway and Tremont, have seen significant home price increases since 2020. However, the market activity is not equally distributed throughout all of Cuyahoga County as neighborhoods and regions of the county with a majority of African Americans are still struggling to recover from the foreclosure crisis.

The largest decline in home sales was in the City of Cleveland with no decline in the predominantly white Outer Suburbs and West Inner Suburbs. However, some of the strongest gains were in the Outer and West Suburbs. With fewer homes being offered for sale, and homes selling quickly, sale prices are up in much of Cuyahoga County. But the degree of recovery is not consistent in all sub-markets in the county as vacancy, abandonment, and blight still undermine market recovery in majority African American communities. Vacancies had been declining steadily as the most blighted vacant homes were removed by demolition. Resources for demo are now scarce and Residential vacancy continues to be disproportionately high in the majority African American regions of the county that were the most impacted by predatory lending, foreclosure and abandonment. Predominantly White areas (Outer Suburbs, West Inner Suburbs and West Side of Cleveland) have recovered 99-100%. Majority Black

regions (East Side of Cleveland and East Inner Suburbs) have recovered much less (44-82%) and still need additional resources to stimulate full recovery. The predominantly White (96%) West Inner Suburbs have fully recovered; their 2020 prices are the highest seen in the past 21 years.

All West Side Cleveland neighborhoods are on an upward trajectory, but the steepest increases in recent years have been in Detroit Shoreway, Ohio City, Edgewater and Tremont. Old Brooklyn, Jefferson and Bellaire Puritas have recovered 90% or more of their prior peak price. While overall the East Inner Suburbs have recovered 82% of prior peak home sale price, there is a wide range of recovery, with Shaker Hts. (100%) and University Hts. (100%) on the high end, and East Cleveland (25%) on the low end. South Euclid achieved a significant increase in 2020. Warrensville Hts. experienced a slight decline in 2020. The East Side of Cleveland was hardest hit by subprime lending, foreclosure, abandonment and blight. There are positive upward trends, most notably in North Shore Collinwood, Lee Harvard, Buckeye-Shaker and Fairfax, but abandonment continues to slow recovery and significant resources are still needed to insure sustained recovery.

University Circle stands in contracts to most of the East Side of Cleveland as one of the hottest markets in the county. To a lesser extent, the Central neighborhood, with its close proximity to Downtown, and extensive new home construction over the past decade, appears to be an exception to the general trend in the East Side of Cleveland, although prices have been erratic since 2017. Central has historically had a small number of sales so the data needs to be interpreted with some caution. We plan to continue to study and monitor the housing market trends as we create and initiative actions/activity that benefit all populations of Cuyahoga County.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

The County will apply its federal and non-federal resources to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families. Cuyahoga County was able to obtain resources for economic development activities using general fund tax receipts, bond proceeds and casino revenue funds. These revenues are applied to funding large-scale attractions, encouraging new start up high-tech businesses, and participating in micro-lending. The range of activities possible can be seen on the County's website <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/> or the department's website @ <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/housing-and-community-development>.

Voters in Cuyahoga County have supported special tax levies to support funding of Health and Human services and funding for Metro Health Hospital deliverer of medical services as well as social services to those who cannot afford medical care.

Voters in November of 2015 continued support for Arts funding by renewing twenty-five cents a pack charge levied on tobacco sales and generating \$25 million a year in funding for arts and cultural programming. In May of 2019, the Health and Human Services levy was renewed. The levy raises \$125 million to fund social services. In addition, the United Way nonprofit charitable giving campaign was started in Cleveland and continues in 2024 to provide significant support for the less fortunate in the county.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Over the past nine years, the issue of vacant and abandoned properties has changed from primarily a central city or urban core problem, to one that affects all communities in the county and throughout the United States. While housing markets have begun to return to stability across the United States and in outlying communities in Cuyahoga County, other communities that share borders with Cleveland and are part of the urban core have not witnessed the same level of housing price recovery. (Community Development Division staff reviews sale prices by community). The number of bank foreclosures is declining while the number of tax foreclosures has been increasing. (County CDBG funded data analysis by Cleveland State University). To address this situation, foreclosure counseling services were updated in 2019 to specifically include the ability to perform counseling services to Urban County residents/households experiencing foreclosure for failure to pay real estate taxes.

Support for continued economic recovery will benefit not only CDBG eligible residents but also those residents that are not CDBG eligible. Local government resources are being applied to encourage business growth and attract investment funding for Cuyahoga County businesses.

In addition, the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (County Land Bank) has received over \$30 million from the Hardest Hit Funds to further reduce the blight in our community.

Even with the increase in federal funding in the 2024 budget process, lack of other resources presents the greatest obstacle in meeting underserved needs.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Cuyahoga County and the HOME Consortium is budgeting approximately \$1.2M of HOME funding to support new housing by fostering affordable housing. The project selections will be through a competitive process and will conform to the requirements of the new HOME rule for analysis of all projects, the underwriting criteria and analysis of neighborhood conditions.

CDBG rehabilitation assistance for Urban County homeowners is used to assist low-income homeowners make needed repairs to their homes to enable them to maintain their property free and clear of health and safety related issues.

The housing programs operated by the Department are designed to:

- Rehabilitate existing structures for renters and homeowners
- Encourage home ownership with down payment assistance programs

Provide funds to communities to preserve existing and vacant housing stock by funding

- needed repairs or demolition of municipal declared nuisances
- Provide supportive services and housing for the homeless and persons with disabilities

Support the County Land Bank efforts to rehabilitate or demolish vacant and abandoned properties with demolition financing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Cuyahoga Department of Health was the recent recipient of another HUD Lead hazard grant. The program is operated by the Board of Health with Development staff providing eligibility and inspection services for the grant. County projects will comply with federal regulations to remediate lead hazards when cases occur. If necessary, the Department of Housing and Community Development will use CDBG or HOME funds to comply with federal regulations to remediate lead hazards on rehabilitation cases in the Urban County.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Please refer to the extensive discussion on this topic in **Section SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy** of the 5-Year Plan located at <https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/docs/default-source/development/hud-5yrplan.pdf>

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The institutional network utilized by the Cuyahoga Urban County jurisdictions to implement their housing strategies includes agencies and organizations from the public, private and non-profit sectors. Several of these agencies and organizations have an extensive service area and play a role throughout the Consortium jurisdictions. Other agencies and organizations have a service area that is limited to the 51-member communities of the Cuyahoga Urban County, and in the situation of a municipal government implementing an activity as a sub-recipient of the Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development, only within that respective community.

Within the public sector, Cuyahoga County government has one department with the lead role in the issue of affordable housing. The Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) manages the federal funds received by the Cuyahoga Urban County (CDBG) and the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium (HOME). The Office of Homeless Services manages the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG/HESG) received by the County in conjunction with EGS funds received by the City of Cleveland.

The Cuyahoga County HCD will continue to promote leveraging HOME funds with the private sector in activities implemented in conjunction with the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium.

The County has qualified partners capable of carrying out their activities. There are no major gaps in the institutional delivery system. The Cuyahoga County HCD will continue to use an open Request for Proposals (RFP) process to solicit proposals from qualified nonprofit partners, so that newly formed or growing organizations will have the opportunity to be considered for funding.

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

Cuyahoga County government already supports numerous coordination activities between a wide variety of housing and social service agencies. These activities include regular meetings between County staff and nonprofit agency representatives in the areas of homeless services, foreclosure prevention and affordable housing. A very detailed listing of these agencies can be found in Section AP-10 Consultation of this 2024 Annual Plan. Additionally, County government provides financial support to the United Way First Call for Help 2-1-1 System which maintains accurate and timely information on thousands of public, private, religious, nonprofit, and charitable service organizations offering a wide variety of social services to all residents.

Discussion

Cuyahoga County participates in the Vacant and Abandoned Properties Action Coordinating Council

(VAPAC) with local government officials representing the City of Cleveland and suburban leadership, to identify and promote best practices to reduce vacant and abandoned properties.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

This question intentionally left blank. Please refer to other responses in this section.

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

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. The amount of urgent need activities | 0 |
| 2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. | 80.00% |

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

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

Other forms of assistance are considered on a case-by-case basis after an application from a

Annual Action Plan
2024

78

developer has been received and our staff has completed an analysis of the project to ensure that the additional subsidy is warranted and falls within existing federal guidelines to not unduly enrich developers. Also, that the project conforms to the requirements for underwriting analysis, review of market conditions for project feasibility, and any additional requirements of the new HOME rule.

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

Repayment and Recapture of HOME Assistance Homeownership Activities Cuyahoga County routinely uses HOME funds to provide deferred payment loans to income eligible homebuyers purchasing single family houses and condominium units that meet HOME program property standards. Proceeds of these deferred payment loans cover the down payment, in excess of the 3% that the buyer must provide from their own funds or a bona fide gift and closing costs. Normally there is no other HOME assistance involved in developing the house or condo unit, so the amount of HOME funds invested exactly equals the amount of the deferred loan.

Cuyahoga County will continue to use recapture as its method of assuring continued affordability for the required period. The Note and Mortgage will continue to reflect the following amounts due upon sale of the property during the period of affordability:

If the sale is from a foreclosure, the amount due is the net proceeds of foreclosure sale, if any, up to the full amount of the HOME funded deferred payment loan to the buyer.

If the sale is not from a foreclosure, the amount due is the full amount of the HOME funded deferred payment loan to the buyer. (Any forgiveness of the deferred payment loan will occur only upon completion of the required period of HOME affordability.)

The Note and Mortgage will also provide that the buyer's failure to occupy the unit as their principal residence for the entire affordability period will make the full amount of the deferred payment loan immediately due and payable, since Cuyahoga County must repay this amount.

When other HOME funds were invested as a development subsidy, the Note and Mortgage will also provide that a buyer who converts their unit to rental property during the period of affordability must conform to current HOME program income and rent limits, to preserve the unit as affordable housing.

Some units may be sold to eligible owner-occupants under a Land Trust model. In this situation, resale restrictions may be used instead of recapture restrictions, to conform with other program design elements of the Land Trust program.

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

Please refer to Section 2 above.

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

Additional Note on HOME Program as administered for the Cuyahoga County HOME Consortium

In the 2018 Annual Plan, comments were specifically sought on raising the per unit subsidy for HOME funded multi-family projects. No official comments were received, however, the HOME Consortium Board at a public meeting before the 2018 Annual Plan was submitted did discuss the issue and gave direction to County staff to review a possible maximum per unit subsidy of \$125,000.

Staff were directed to use the CPI Inflation Calculator to create a present value for \$75,000 in 1993 to a present (2019) dollar value. If the result was greater than \$125,000, the new limit for future multi-family projects would be a maximum per unit HOME subsidy not to exceed \$125,000. We have continued to use this process.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).
6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).
7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

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

As indicated, the primary focus for the use of Emergency Solutions Grant funds is on providing rapid-re-housing services and assistance that will allow homeless persons to move from shelter to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Homeless prevention activities will be carried out under specified circumstances.

Policies and Procedures for evaluating eligibility for ESG Assistance

Rapid re-housing assistance is available to homeless individuals and families who are in one of the following circumstances:

- sleeping in an emergency shelter;
 - sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, streets/sidewalks;
 - graduating from or timing out of a transitional housing program, with a documented status of homelessness before entering the program;
 - fleeing domestic violence.
2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Based on the local experience with the former HPRP program and the very clear directive from HUD concerning ESG, Cuyahoga County continues to make Coordinated Intake/Assessment, Diversion and Rapid Re-housing activities a priority using the following procedures:

Leveraging the strategies of Coordinated Intake, ESG funds for homelessness prevention will be focused very specifically at the door of the shelter through **diverting** newly homeless persons and households.

As part of the **Coordinated Intake** process, all persons seeking entry into emergency shelter are assessed to determine if they may have a safe, preferable alternative to shelter. If there is a safe, stable alternative, the household may be diverted from entering the shelter system. This diversion effort is not intended to discourage persons that have critical shelter needs. Diversion is intended to identify specific issues leading to homelessness that can be immediately addressed, so that a stay in shelter may be avoided. In such cases, the use of ESG funds for **diversion/prevention** can directly reduce the number of persons utilizing emergency shelter.

The Five-Year Strategic Plan element of Cuyahoga County's Consolidated Plan 2020-24 describes the

Coordinated Entry system in more detail.

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

The Five-Year Strategic Plan element of Cuyahoga County's Consolidated Plan 2020-24 describes goals, objectives and strategies for addressing the problem of homelessness.

Within the discussion of **Priority Homeless Needs**, the Consolidated Plan document has included the CoC document: *A Blueprint for Change*, which states *the CoC has developed an approach to transform the current community response to homelessness to emphasize **prevention and rapid re-housing**.*

Among the specific strategies included in the *Blueprint for Change* plan are:

- Having a **Centralized or Coordinated Intake System** whereby all persons seeking shelter are assessed immediately to determine if there are any potential options to shelter;
- Within the shelter system provide assessment and linkages to case management and mainstream social services;

Utilize rapid re-housing resources to reduce the length of shelter stays. Funding is made available to all interested nonprofit institutions and participating units of local government who have the capacity and interest in delivering services through an open RFP process administered by the Office of Homeless Services under the supervision of the County's Office of Procurement and Diversity. These strategies have shaped Cuyahoga County's funding priorities for the use of the ESG funds. The Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services has been utilizing funds to support a comprehensive program of homeless prevention, diversion, and rapid re-housing services aimed at reducing the number of person entering homeless shelters and helping those in shelters move into housing as quickly as possible. The experience gained and lessons learned from implementing activities form the basis for the funding priorities for ESG allocation.

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

The Cuyahoga County's Office of Homeless Services, in collaboration with the City of Cleveland, will consult with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering and making policies and decisions regarding any facilities, services or other assistance that will receive ESG funding. In so doing, the Office of Homeless Services is in compliance with the requirements of 24 CFR 576.

The policies of the OHS are directed by an Advisory Board which meets no less than every 2 months

throughout the year. The Advisory Board also has committees that work closely with OHS staff to develop policy recommendations to bring before the full board for review and approval. The Advisory Board includes representation of both formerly homeless individuals and the advocacy organization that has ongoing contact with shelter residents.

In addition to the OHS Advisory Board, an oversight committee specifically review policies and monitors the performance of the activities funded. Participation by formerly homeless persons is actively encouraged.

Office of Homeless Services staff also attend meetings of the Homeless Congress, a group organized by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH). The Congress includes persons currently staying in local shelters.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

OHS maintains procedures and performance standards for evaluating the ESG program on an annual basis. For additional information see the documents prepared by OHS and refer to other sections of this annual plan and the Cuyahoga Urban County's annual Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

This Question Intentionally Left Blank.

