



# 2014 CDBG Annual Action Plan

## Expected Resources

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

#### Introduction

The City of Hot Springs has been allocated \$355,404 in CDBG funds in program year 2014. These funds will be used to fund eligible community development projects in low- to moderate-income areas as detailed in the 2014 Annual Action Plan. Given that available federal funds have historically decreased year over year the City has conservatively estimated a 25% decrease in future plan years covered under this Consolidated Plan. These are estimates only.

Program income is unpredictable and realized only when liens are repaid on properties that have previously benefited from CDBG funding either through the housing rehabilitation program as a home is sold or refinanced before the end of the 10-year forgivable soft loan, or when a demolished structure lien is repaid by the property owner or purchased by a new owner.

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	355,404	12,407	416,467	784,278	1,066,212	Prior Year Resources are allocated to housing rehabilitation as determined by the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan. Use of those funds to support objectives of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan will require prior plan year significant amendments and appropriate approvals.

**Table 1 - 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**

This Consolidated Plan leverages City staff resources for project planning, estimating and in-kind labor; State Department of Highway Transportation roadway improvement plans; West Central Arkansas Planning and Development small business loan activity and the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Strategy implementation; Not for profit home building activities by providing City assistance in vacant land identification, reduced permitting fees and infrastructure improvements; and, encouragement and support of neighborhoods to seek other grants to complement CDBG funded activities. Neighborhood associations and community organizations are encouraged, and apply for, private, public, state and federal grants to supplement CDBG improvement projects.

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

The City of Hot Springs holds liens on many vacant properties, which can be sold at the cost of the lien, and these vacant lots are often coordinated with non-profit home builders. The Housing Authority of Hot Springs indicates it is in possession of buildable sites for their future home building plans.

**Discussion**

The City does not plan to apply for Emergency Shelter, HOME or HOPWA grant funding.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing	2014	2018	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Forest Hill Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area	New Housing Units / Acquisition of Existing Units Public Facilities Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$264,404	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 900 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 8 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Added: 8 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 6 Buildings

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Economic Development Infrastructure Improvements	2014	2018	Non-Housing Community Development	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area	Economic Development	CDBG: \$30,000	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 2 Business Homelessness Prevention: 1 Persons Assisted Jobs created/retained: 4 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted
3	Fair Housing	2014	2015	Affordable Housing	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Forest Hill Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area	Public Services	CDBG: \$25,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 7980 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Planning & Administration	2014	2018	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Forest Hill Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area	Homelessness Outreach Public Facilities Public Improvements and Infrastructure Economic Development Public Services	CDBG: \$36,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 900 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 7 Households Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1535 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Added: 7 Household Housing Unit Jobs created/retained: 4 Jobs Buildings Demolished: 6 Buildings

Table 2 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>The 2014 Annual Action Plan places an emphasis on projects that address public health and safety, create suitable living environments, influence future private and public development and investment, leverage financial and in-kind resources for maximum benefit, and increase the stock of affordable housing.</p> <p>Should any of the activities described in this Annual Action Plan be completed at a cost lower than budgeted, become ineligible or are not capable of completion funds will be reallocated to other eligible neighborhood revitalization projects after application, review and approval</p>
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Economic Development Infrastructure Improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>A discretionary fund, administered by the City Manager, to provide municipal water and sewer connections and/or improvements to meet code requirements to assist business owner rehabilitation of targeted area commercial properties for the purpose of economic development/job creation, and as necessary, fund other qualifying CDBG economic development projects that result in no less than 1 new or retained, full time, long-term job per \$10,000 CDBG funded infrastructure investment. Funding must be available on a discretionary basis to meet the needs of qualifying economic development municipal infrastructure improvements as target opportunities arise.</p> <p>Should any of the activities described in this Annual Action Plan be completed at a cost lower than budgeted, become ineligible or are not capable of completion funds will be reallocated to other eligible neighborhood revitalization projects after application, review and approval.</p>
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Fair Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>An estimated \$25,000 is being allocated for third-party consultant fees to conduct and complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study to further fair housing choice in Hot Springs and remain in compliance with HUD CDBG grant requirements. This is a one (1) year expenditure in FY2014.</p> <p>At the end of the 2015 fiscal year, any unspent, uncommitted Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study funds will be reallocated to eligible neighborhood revitalization projects after application, review and approval.</p>



<b>4</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning & Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>No more than 20% of CDBG funds will be spent in any Annual Action Plan year on Planning &amp; Administrative costs. In 2014, \$36,000 is estimated for planning and administration costs including labor, required advertising, office supplies, travel, training and other expenditures necessary to achieve plan goals and meet governmental compliance requirements.</p> <p>At the end of the fiscal year, any unspent Planning &amp; Administration funds will be reallocated to other eligible neighborhood revitalization projects after application, review and approval.</p>

# Projects

## AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

### Introduction

The City of Hot Springs has identified the following priorities, addressed by projects in the fiscal year 2014 Annual Action Plan:

1. Create suitable living environments and promote decent, affordable housing initiatives
2. Encourage business / job growth through targeted infrastructure improvements
3. Provide planning & administration assistance, support and resources to promote fair housing, expand neighborhood revitalization, encourage business/job growth, and strengthen Continuum of Care service efforts

Neighborhood revitalization efforts to create suitable living environments will be primarily focused in the targeted areas of Park Avenue, Whittington Valley and the Greater Gateway neighborhoods in 2014, with additional funding available to all targeted areas for infrastructure improvements and spot blight removal.

In addition, Garland County Habitat for Humanity, with matching funds exceeding 2:1, will utilize CDBG funds to acquire lots, demolish a donated home beyond rehabilitation, and install water/sewer infrastructure as part the construction of 7-8 new, targeted area neighborhood in-fill homes utilizing or repurposing vacant or blighted lots, furthering revitalization efforts and addressing affordable housing needs for low- to moderate-income individuals and families.

A City Manager discretionary fund to improve municipal infrastructure that enables new businesses to open, or existing businesses to expand, by meeting City and/or State water and sewer capacity code requirements has been allocated with the stipulation that jobs must be created a rate of no less than 1 full-time, long-term position for each \$10,000 spent on municipal infrastructure improvements. Businesses must be located within targeted areas, and are encouraged to work with Consolidated Plan partners to attract applications from public housing, disabled, single head of household, youth, elderly, and other special needs and at risk residents.

To remain in compliance with HUD CDBG program requirements and further fair housing choice in the City of Hot Springs an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study will be conducted.

Planning & Administration costs to administer, monitor and report CDBG activities per federal HUD statutory requirements, and provide outreach assistance, support and resources to promote fair housing, expand neighborhood revitalization, encourage business/job growth, and strengthen Continuum of Care service efforts.

**Projects**

#	Project Name
1	Park Avenue Pedestrian & Public Transit Improvements
2	Market, Court and Quapaw Sidewalk & ADA Improvements
3	Baseball Trail Park Improvements
4	Garland County Habitat for Humanity
5	Infrastructure Improvements to Revitalize Neighborhoods and Encourage Business & Job Growth
6	Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study
7	Planning & Administration
8	Prospect Avenue Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements
9	Removal of Spot Blight Condemned Structures

**Table 3 – Project Information**

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

The 2014 Annual Action Plan funding allocations balance the needs and priorities of citizens and City elected leadership. The plan places an emphasis on projects that address public health and safety, create suitable living environments, influence future private and public development and investment, leverage financial and in-kind resources for maximum benefit, and increase the stock of affordable housing. These priorities were determined through a series of public participation opportunities, resident/neighborhood application for project funding, and public meetings with the City Board of Directors and Community Development Advisory Committee in which residents were directly involved.

Two (2) competitive application periods followed by City Staff review for basic eligibility and feasibility, Community Development Advisory public hearings, and City Board public meetings were held to select potential projects that met priority needs and goals after soliciting public input.

The largest obstacle to addressing underserved needs is lack of funding.

## AP-38 Project Summary

### Project Summary Information

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Park Avenue Pedestrian & Public Transit Improvements
	<b>Target Area</b>	Park Avenue Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$89,950
	<b>Description</b>	Improve pedestrian safety, mobility, ADA accessibility, Intra-City Transit convenience, and motorists' awareness of elderly and disabled residents. This project adds accessibility curb cuts, creates a pedestrian island in the overly-wide Mountain Valley street at the intersection of Park Ave, increases crosswalk markings, adds flashing crosswalk lights, installs a sheltered bus stop, and reconstructs broken sidewalk panels to meet ADA standards. These improvements serve a large elderly and disabled population accessing goods and services in a low to moderate-income area.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/0014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The goods and services located in this area are within walking distance to 4 block groups (10107003, 10107002, 10107001 and 10108001) with 427 total low- to moderate-income households. More importantly, the improvements are designed to increase mobility for elderly and disabled residents living in Garland Towers and Park Place Apartments, who during an August 2013 neighborhood survey indicated that sidewalk safety and wheelchair accessibility was a top priority.

	<p><b>Location Description</b></p>	<p>The pedestrian improvements are planned on both the east and west sides of the north end of Park Avenue from Mountain Valley to Cove and Tom Ellsworth Streets.</p> <p>The sheltered bus stop will be placed at the intersection of Oriole Street and Park Avenue where it is most convenient for elderly and disabled riders.</p> <p>10 handicapped accessibility ramps (at the intersections of Park and Oriole, Bower, Tom Ellsworth, Cove). Removal and reconstruction of 1 ramp at Pullman.</p> <p>The pedestrian island will be constructed on Mountain Valley at the Park Avenue intersection to improve safety while crossing the overly wide street.</p> <p>Crosswalk markings will be added to Mountain Valley and Park Avenue where crossing is most frequent.</p>
	<p><b>Planned Activities</b></p>	<p>In-Kind Labor from City Public Works Department to relocate bus stop from 899 Park Avenue to 873 Park Avenue at Oriole Street for increased accessibility of Garland Towers and Park Place Apartment residents.</p> <p>\$49,915 sidewalk reconstruction and installation of 10 handicapped accessibility ramps</p> <p>\$17,000 Installation of 2 solar powered crosswalk lights</p> <p>\$7,000 new covered &amp; solar lit bus stop shelter</p> <p>\$15,635 pedestrian crossing island on Mountain Valley at the Park Avenue intersection</p> <p>City staff will provide in-kind services such as estimates, detailed plans, bidding, procurement, implementation oversight, and installation labor where possible.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Project Name</b></p>	<p>Market, Court and Quapaw Sidewalk &amp; ADA Improvements</p>
	<p><b>Target Area</b></p>	<p>Downtown</p>
	<p><b>Goals Supported</b></p>	<p>Neighborhood Revitalization &amp; Affordable Housing</p>
	<p><b>Needs Addressed</b></p>	<p>Public Improvements and Infrastructure</p>
	<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p>CDBG: \$6,525</p>

	<b>Description</b>	Improve pedestrian safety, mobility, and ADA accessibility. This project adds accessibility curb cuts and reconstructs broken sidewalk panels to meet ADA standards. These improvements serve a low to moderate income area, create safe access to goods and services in the neighborhood and adjacent commercial streets and physical rehabilitation center.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The projects are located in a 57.5% LMI area serving 222 low to moderate-income households. Levi Hospital, located in the proposed project area, provides in- and out-patient physical therapy services to elderly and disabled residents.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Handicapped ramp installations/reconstruction at the intersections of Market & Prospect, Quapaw & Prospect, Market & Quapaw, Quapaw & Court, and at 321 Market. Sidewalk reconstruction to ADA standards near Levi Apartments, 322 Market, 339 Market, 410 Market and 206 Quapaw.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Installation and reconstruction of sidewalk curb cuts (handicapped accessibility ramps) and reconstruction of broken sidewalk panels to meet ADA accessibility standards on Market, Quapaw and Court streets.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Baseball Trail Park Improvements
	<b>Target Area</b>	Whittington Valley Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Improvements and Infrastructure Public Facilities
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$41,200
	<b>Description</b>	Continuation of Baseball Trail Park (formerly known as Whittington City Park) improvements to enhance the usability and recreational appeal of the neighborhood's public spaces, thereby improving the quality of life for neighborhood residents. This phase of the project includes an asphalt accessibility ramp, ADA accessible picnic tables, and renovations of the existing baseball field and dugouts.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2014

	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	<p>The Whittington Valley serves 2 block groups (10108001 and 10108002) including 350 low- to moderate-income households. In recent years, the development of three (3) Habitat for Humanity villages and new affordable home ownership in the area has increased the number of young families with children. Improvements to the park serve the needs of these LMI households.</p>
	<b>Location Description</b>	<p>The park is located at 1201 Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs.</p>
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>\$5,000 Extend asphalt pathway from the park trail to connect to the crosswalk at Whittington to enable wheelchair accessibility to park.</p> <p>\$6,200 Replace 4 damaged picnic tables with ADA accessible tables including ramps and pads.</p> <p>\$3,000 Baseball dugout structure, bench and fence reconstruction to improve safety and usability.</p> <p>\$27,000 Baseball field reconstruction including grading to specification to fill in holes that present tripping hazards, removal of existing mound and replacement with synthetic mound to improve safety, addition of adjustable bases to enable play for all ages, poured in place running lanes for safer activity surface, improvement of drainage and impact in transition areas.</p> <p>City Parks &amp; Recreation Department staff will provide in-kind services including estimates, detailed planning, procurement, implementation oversight, installation labor and ongoing maintenance of Whittington City Park.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<p>Garland County Habitat for Humanity</p>
	<b>Target Area</b>	<p>Greater Gateway Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area</p>
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	<p>Neighborhood Revitalization &amp; Affordable Housing</p>
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	<p>New Housing Units / Acquisition of Existing Units</p>
	<b>Funding</b>	<p>CDBG: \$28,400</p>



	<b>Description</b>	Garland County Habitat for Humanity will construct 7-8 single family homes during 2014. Garland County Habitat for Humanity builds and sells homes to deserving low-income families for approximately \$58,000 with a 20-year interest-free mortgage, with monthly payments that rarely exceed \$325.00, far below the Hot Springs fair market rent (FMR) of \$719/month. CDBG funding will be used in conjunction with matching funds exceeding the required 2:1 match to purchase appropriate building sites for home construction, provide infrastructure related to construction of new homes (e.g. water/sewer, electrical service, etc.), and demolition of an abandoned house on a donated lot on East Belding Street.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/1/2014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	7-8 extremely low and low income small families will benefit from the addition of these 3-bedroom affordable homes. 1 new home will be constructed as fully accessible for an elderly or disabled household. Homes are purchased by qualified applicants who fall between 35% and 60% of the median income for the area based on family size.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Lots for construction are located on 4th Street, White Street, Gaines Avenue and East Belding in Hot Springs.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	\$11,000 land acquisition of 5 lots for in-fill new home construction on 4th Street, White Street and Gaines Avenue. \$3,400 demolition of 1 donated condemned abandoned home on East Belding for the purpose of new home building. \$14,000 infrastructure for 7-8 new homes constructed.
<b>5</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Infrastructure Improvements to Revitalize Neighborhoods and Encourage Business & Job Growth
	<b>Target Area</b>	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Forest Hill Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area

	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing Economic Development Infrastructure Improvements
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Improvements and Infrastructure Public Facilities Economic Development
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$60,000
	<b>Description</b>	A \$60,000 infrastructure improvement discretionary fund for qualifying economic development and neighborhood revitalization projects. Any neighborhood, organization, or business in a targeted area may apply for funding in any amount at any time during the fiscal year using the standard CDBG application. City Staff will assist in the completion of the application, estimates or otherwise provide assistance as requested.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Infrastructure improvements will be targeted as needs arise to provide the greatest benefit for the most low- to moderate-income individuals/households/areas.
	<b>Location Description</b>	To be determined. Infrastructure improvements will be located in targeted areas as defined in the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Infrastructure improvements as targeted opportunities arise that create jobs at a rate of no less than 1 full time long term position per \$10,000 investment; or for eligible neighborhood revitalization projects.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study

	<b>Target Area</b>	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Forest Hill Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Fair Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$25,000
	<b>Description</b>	To comply with Federal HUD requirements, and further fair housing choice, the City, or its third-party agent will conduct an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/0014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	All residents benefit from Fair Housing Choice policies and practices.
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Third party consulting fees to conduct the study are estimated at \$25,000 or less. City of Hot Springs Planning & Development Department staff will assess and address actions to further fair housing based on the results of the study.
<b>7</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Planning & Administration

<b>Target Area</b>	<p>Park Avenue Area  Whittington Valley Area  Downtown  Greater Gateway Neighborhood  Forest Hill Neighborhood  Greater Hobson Area  East Albert Pike Area</p>
<b>Goals Supported</b>	<p>Planning &amp; Administration</p>
<b>Needs Addressed</b>	<p>Public Improvements and Infrastructure  Public Facilities  Public Services  Economic Development  New Housing Units / Acquisition of Existing Units  Homelessness Outreach  Emergency / Transitional Housing for the Homeless  Rapid Re-Housing  Homelessness Prevention</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>CDBG: \$36,000</p>
<b>Description</b>	<p>CDBG funds totaling an estimated \$36,000 will support Program Administration activities. Salaries, consulting fees, office supplies, travel, training, telephone, postage, equipment, professional memberships and related expenses will be paid from this line item, as will planning and outreach.</p>
<b>Target Date</b>	<p>12/31/2014</p>
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	<p>All residents benefit from the successful administration and planning of the Community Development Block Grant program.</p>
<b>Location Description</b>	

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>\$17,000 in consultant fees to administer, monitor, and report CDBG activities in compliance with Federal HUD guidelines. Outreach will be provided to ensure the success of CDBG infrastructure and facility improvements to create job growth and suitable living environments, facilitate collaboration, inspire leadership and planning skills and provide resources to develop shared visions, achievable plans and coordination amongst a wide range of groups and organizations. In addition, outreach will be targeted to address non-financially funded needs identified in this Consolidated Plan including working with the Continuum of Care to strengthen coordination amongst the broad spectrum of organizations, groups and providers serving at-risk and homeless residents.</p> <p>The remaining planning &amp; administration budget of \$19,000 will be utilized for advertising costs, office supplies, training, postage, professional memberships and other expenses related to the administration, monitoring and reporting of the CDBG program.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Prospect Avenue Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements
	<b>Target Area</b>	Whittington Valley Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$43,046
	<b>Description</b>	Improve pedestrian safety, mobility, and ADA accessibility on the South side of Prospect Avenue. This project adds accessibility curb cuts and reconstructs broken sidewalk panels to meet ADA standards. These improvements serve a low to moderate-income area.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The projects are located in a 57.5% LMI area serving 222 low to moderate-income households. Levi Hospital, located in the proposed project area, provides in- and out-patient physical therapy services to elderly and disabled residents.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The south side (only) of Prospect Avenue from the intersection of Central Avenue west to Curve Terrace/Pecan Street.

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Installation and reconstruction of sidewalk curb cuts (handicapped accessability ramps) and reconstruction of broken sidewalk panels on the south side of Prospect Avenue.
<b>9</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Removal of Spot Blight Condemned Structures
	<b>Target Area</b>	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Downtown Greater Gateway Neighborhood Forest Hill Neighborhood Greater Hobson Area East Albert Pike Area
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization & Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$25,683
	<b>Description</b>	Demolition and clearance of condemned structures to remove spot blight conditions in targeted and non-targeted areas.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2014
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	An estimated 6 condemned structures will be removed in targeted and non-targeted areas. Until the condemnations are completed, following approval of CDBG activity funding, the number and type of families is to be determined.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Location of condemnations will be determined following approval of CDBG activity funding.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Condemnation of unrehabilitatable structures followed by demolition and clearance of spot blight conditions.

## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

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

83% of funds will ultimately benefit low-income areas and residents, however at the time of this plan submission only 59% of fiscal year 2014 funds are directly allocated to a specific address within in low- to moderate-income targeted areas. The Infrastructure Improvement Discretionary Fund (17%) and spot blight removal (7%) included in this plan will be expended in LMI areas, however since the exact location is not yet known the percentage of funds are not listed by targeted area in the table below.

10% of funding is allocated to program administration and planning costs. 7% is allocated to public service to complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study. Both of these activities benefit areas of low- to moderate-income, special needs and minority residents.

7% of funding is proposed to remove spot blight. Expending this funding will be determined after approved of vacant blighted structure condemnation, which could be all or in part located in targeted and non-targeted areas with or without minority concentration.

17% of funding is a discretionary allocation for infrastructure improvements for neighborhood revitalization and to encourage business and job growth that may be applied to any of the targeted areas.

The below geographic distribution represents the known 59% distribution and does not include spot blight, discretionary, planning & administration and public service funds that will also benefit low- to moderate-income areas.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Park Avenue Area	25
Whittington Valley Area	24
Downtown	2
Greater Gateway Neighborhood	4
Forest Hill Neighborhood	0
Greater Hobson Area	4
East Albert Pike Area	

**Table 4 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

Priority projects were determined through two (2) competitive application periods. The first began on August 1, 2013 and ended September 1, 2013 with three (3) consecutive weeks of advertising and press

release. The second began March 19, 2014 and ended April 4, 2014. Interested applicants received City Department assistance while preparing applications including support from Planning & Development, Engineering, Public Works, Storm Water, Street, Parks & Recreation and other departmental staff as requested. Twenty-six (26) applications were received detailing thirty-seven (37) potential projects.

Applications were received and reviewed by the Lead Agency to ensure that they met HUD national objectives and timeliness requirements. City Departments then reviewed and scored applications based on 2014 City priorities to address public health and safety, create suitable living environments for low- to moderate-income neighborhoods and those with special mobility needs, influence on future public and private development and investment, leverage of matching funds and in-kind resources for maximum benefit, and/or increase decent affordable housing. Strongest consideration was given to projects demonstrating support for federal HUD and City of Hot Springs objectives, with a high likelihood of success, broad community involvement, doing the most good for the most people particularly those with special needs, leveraging other sources of funding with limited CDBG funding and additional efforts to expand and continue the project without future CDBG funding, and those exhibiting readiness to begin the project.

Applicants presented projects to the Community Development Advisory Committee during public hearings held September 12, 2013 and April 17, 2014. After public review and discussion projects were recommended to and approved by the City Board of Directors during public meetings held November 5, 2013 and May 6, 2014.

## **Discussion**

Following the fire at the abandoned Majestic Hotel on February 28, 2014 the urgency and importance of addressing public health, safety and blight in the Park Avenue targeted area became a priority for the City, area businesses and residents. This is demonstrated in the concentration of funding in that area.

A Downtown Revitalization Task Force comprised of business owners, property owners, developers and others with an interest in the success of the historic downtown targeted area has recently been formed. The City adopted the Thermal Basin Fire District fire code, which requires an assessment of and plan to meet fire code requirements in vacant and under-utilized downtown buildings by September 2014. It is anticipated that following this planning initiative, CDBG funding may be requested for economic development, job creation, neighborhood revitalization and/or decent affordable housing projects in FY2015 as a result of the planning occurring this year.

Whittington City Park, recently renamed Baseball Trail Park, has been an ongoing phased CDBG effort since 2011. Improvements have been made to playground equipment, restrooms and lighting in order to serve the growing population of young families in the targeted area. Investing in accessibility and baseball field improvements will continue the City's commitment to providing a suitable living environment for residents.



The City continues to work with all targeted area neighborhood associations and residents to identify areas for improvement and solutions address to needs.

# Affordable Housing

## AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

### Introduction

The City is committed to supporting non-profit initiatives to build and purchase affordable homes. In the 2014 Annual Action Plan, the City proposes \$28,400 to support Garland County Habitat for Humanity's efforts to construct 7 new affordable single-family homes.

**Production of New Units:** Garland County Habitat for Humanity constructs simple, decent affordable homes for deserving low-income families. Homes are purchased by qualified low-income applicants who fall between 35% and 60% of the median income based on family size. Homes are purchased on a 20-year, interest free mortgage which requires a monthly payment, including insurance and taxes, of approximately \$325/month, far below the current Fair Market Rental rate of \$719/month.

Over the last ten (10) years, Garland County Habitat for Humanity has used CDBG funds for land acquisition, infrastructure, and demolition resulting in 63 new, affordable homes in Hot Springs. In fiscal year 2014, Garland County Habitat for Humanity will utilize CDBG funds in the construction of 7-8 new, affordable homes on in-fill lots located in two (2) targeted areas. Habitat for Humanity currently owns 5 lots available to build on 4th Street, White Street, and Gaines Avenue. CDBG funds are needed to purchase two (2) additional lots for \$11,000, and \$3,400 to raze an abandoned house on East Belding Street, which was donated to the organization. An additional \$14,000 will be used for infrastructure such as water, sewer, and electrical installation. In addition to providing affordable housing, this effort reduces vacant lots and unsightly property, which meets neighborhood revitalization goals and citizen survey priorities. On average, one (1) home per year is made accessible to accommodate persons with disabilities.

**Acquisition of Existing Units:** The first time homebuyer education and counseling program provides down payment and closing cost assistance to qualifying low- to moderate-income families through the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration (ADFA). Approximately 70 individuals and families completed the course in 2013, and it can be assumed that at least half of those that attended pursued home-ownership. In addition to financial assistance, the program includes credit counseling, financing, home inspection, rehabilitation tax credit, and real estate education to prepare new homeowners for success. Class enrollment is promoted through the Public Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency program, special needs and veteran service providers, organizations supporting those exiting homelessness, and at City and community facilities.

Due to limited resources, no funding is designated to homeless housing assistance, rental assistance or housing rehabilitation efforts in fiscal year 2014. The strategy will be collaboration with Consolidated Plan partners to identify opportunities to meet these needs, and create full time, long term jobs which help individuals and families achieve greater financial independence.

Finally, the City will complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study, budgeted in fiscal year 2014, to assess and ameliorate barriers to affordable housing disproportionately affecting racial and ethnic groups.

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported</b>	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	7
Special-Needs	1
Total	8

**Table 5 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement**

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	8
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	35
Total	43

**Table 6 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**  
**Discussion**

Since decent, affordable homes are available in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, many of which are less expensive than median rent, efforts to revitalize neighborhoods by creating suitable living environments, and providing home-buyer education programs with financial assistance through ADFA creates a viable solution to housing with reduced cost burdens compared to rent for many individuals and families in Hot Springs. By further supporting non-profit affordable, new home builders such as Habitat for Humanity, who meet 1:2 matching fund requirements and have a proven track record of success, vacant lots are redeveloped to further suitable living environment investments and homeownership needs are met. Non-profit home builders not included in this plan receive assistance from City staff to identify vacant properties, adhere with historic neighborhood building requirements, and are eligible for reduced permitting fees to facilitate new, affordable home building.

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs operates Eastwood Gardens/Eastwood Heights consisting of 255-family housing one (1) to four (4) bedroom units, and Mountainview Towers, a 120-unit complex housing elderly, and disabled residents and 658 Section 8 rent-subsidy vouchers for privately owned homes, apartments and mobile homes across Garland County. Demand for public housing currently exceeds availability with a need for additional handicapped accessible one (1) bedroom units. 642 applicants representing 1,461 household members are on an estimated two (2) year waiting list. Eastwood Gardens and Eastwood Heights are in suitable condition. Renovations are needed in Mountainview Towers to repair and/or replace aging plumbing, update kitchens and expand living space from 350 sq. ft. to 500 sq. ft. per unit.

The City of Hot Springs Housing Authority has future plans to build additional housing units as funding allows.

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

No CDBG funding is directly allocated to meet public housing needs in fiscal year 2014. The City of Hot Springs will support non-profit efforts to construct affordable housing, including the Public Housing Authority, by reducing permitting fees, and as needed, assisting in the identification of vacant or abandoned properties and lots for home building purposes.

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

Public Housing residents that do not maintain employment or enrollment in continuing education or training programs for a period of six (6) months following initial occupancy are enrolled in the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program which helps families gain employment, economic independence, and self-sufficiency. The Family Self Sufficiency Program is a voluntary program for people receiving rent subsidies. It includes goal setting, budgeting, employment or higher education, and an escrow savings plan that matches the difference in rent as adjusted gross income rises.

The City of Hot Springs collaborates with the Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator to promote and enroll FSS program members in first time home-ownership education classes, which include Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration down-payment and closing-cost assistance for qualifying individuals and families.

In addition, businesses applying for CDBG municipal infrastructure improvement funding for economic development and job growth purposes will be encouraged to include Public Housing resident outreach in their recruitment strategy.

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

Financial and other assistance is not being provided.

**Discussion**

The Hot Springs Public Housing Authority submitted an application for CDBG funding of new affordable home building in April 2014. The 18-24 month anticipated project start date did not meet spending timeliness requirements, and the application was not selected for funding in the 2014 Annual Action Plan.

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

### **Introduction**

The City of Hot Springs remains an active member of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) Continuum of Care, communicating and coordinating with homeless, at-risk of homelessness, veteran, unaccompanied youth and other service providers. The Mayor of Hot Springs is an active member of the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (ARBos), a statewide coalition including Hot Springs and ten (10) other state CoCs.

Although the number of homeless and at-risk persons is not in decline, the organizations and programs designed to meet their needs are increasing. Over the last five (5) years greater attention on homelessness has resulted in increased emergency shelter, transition programs and services in Hot Springs. There are thirty-four (34) emergency beds for women with children and an additional sixty (60) transitional for female domestic violence victims; twenty eight (28) emergency beds for men only, ten (10) transitional for men, and twenty (20) emergency/transitional for unaccompanied youth. Additional transitional and permanent support housing is dedicated to the developmentally disabled at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.

Efforts are underway to open a shelter for veterans and their families, a domestic violence women with children shelter, and Ouachita Children's Center homelessness prevention / anti-poverty life skills education program is in progress using FY2013 Community Development Block Grant funding.

Available services include meals and food banks/pantries; GED education; independent living and job skills training; medical/dental/vision care; pre-natal specific care; non-mental healthcare prescriptions; emergency out-patient and limited in-patient mental healthcare; psychiatric, individual, family, substance abuse and peer counseling; job placement; school supplies and meals; clothing and furniture; crisis intervention and prevention; case management; and many other programs and services to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

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

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

The greatest need according to service providers and shelters is to increase awareness of existing resources available to meet the needs of the homeless through a countywide database. This project is currently underway through ProjectHOPE, using non-profit and non-CDBG grant funding. With the increase in data availability, reports and findings derived from data will be more meaningful and present a more accurate picture of the homeless population, needs and available service intervention.

The City of Hot Springs plan is to continue staff efforts working with the Continuum of Care,

area agencies, institutions that may be discharging into homelessness, and consolidated plan partners to coordinate efforts, improves HMIS data sharing and collection, and begin work toward a coordinated case management process that assesses and effectively addresses individual needs in order to end longterm homelessness.

### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

In consultations and public meetings, homelessness providers, including emergency and transitional housing providers, indicated that the need for additional shelters and services was a low priority. The City of Hot Springs has therefore not committed specific funding to add shelters in this annual action plan. Instead, the City will work with shelter providers to increase their participation in available area non-profit organization planning, operational cost estimating, grant writing and other skills classes that will help new and established shelters increase funding, effectively and efficiently plan costs, and make the most of limited funding while preserving or increasing services.

### **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**

Given the consultative input from Continuum of Care and other providers that additional shelters and services were a low priority, and that the highest priorities were the ability to share information & resources through an HMIS, increase provider planning and grant writing skills, and provide seamless outreach, the City of Hot Springs strategy focuses on coordinating collaborative conversations and efforts amongst the many separate agencies serving homeless, veterans, youth, families, housing and shelter providers, institutions potentially discharging into homelessness, and at-risk support providers, to develop an integrated and coordinated case management system that addresses the individual and complex needs of Hot Springs residents experiencing homelessness.

The City of Hot Springs will use CDBG funds to provide home buyer education classes, which include Arkansas Department of Administration and Finance down-payment and closing cost assistance, to qualifying low- and moderate-income individuals and families in an effort to decrease rental cost burdens, and help transitional homeless and public housing residents achieve homeownership. Outreach for home buying classes specifically includes veterans, public housing, LIHTC and rental assistance residents, at-risk and homeless individuals and families receiving services.

The City of Hot Springs will use CDBG funds to support non-profit home builders to increase the availability of affordable housing.

In addition, businesses applying for and receiving CDBG municipal infrastructure improvement funding

for economic development and job growth purposes are encouraged to include outreach to homeless and at-risk residents in their recruitment strategy, including those exiting homelessness, incarceration, military service, foster care and institutions; mentally, physically and developmentally disabled; employment eligible youth under the age of 18; single head of household families; elderly; victims of violence and other at-risk individuals and families that may be reached through the Continuum of Care or related service providers. By creating long term, full time, non-seasonable employment opportunities with stable and predictable income individuals and families will experience greater financial independence.

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

The City of Hot Springs plan focuses on coordinating collaborative conversations and efforts amongst the many separate agencies serving homeless, veterans, youth, families, housing and shelter providers, institutions potentially discharging into homelessness, and at-risk support providers, to develop an integrated and coordinated case management system that addresses the individual and complex needs of Hot Springs residents experiencing homelessness.

## **Discussion**

Through community-wide partnerships the City and homelessness providers are able to extend services to provide health and wellness education, physical activity/exercise opportunities, employment placement, GED testing facilities, and more.

The City works with partners to examine the causes and demographics of homelessness, assist in linking data repositories, engage discharging institutions in the prevention of homelessness coordinate and facilitate the expertise of experienced providers as mentors for newer providers to better plan and utilize resources.

Permitting fees for non-profit shelter projects are reduced or waived to reduce regulatory barriers. The City works with transition shelters, veteran's agencies, and other providers to engage those preparing for homeownership in CDBG funded first time home-buyer education classes with ADFA financial assistance. Lack of financial resources is the primary obstacle to meeting needs.



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

### **Introduction:**

In the 2009 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice conducted by a third-party agent on behalf of the City of Hot Springs several issues were identified through 2000 Census data analysis, review of public policies, and a citizen focus group session:

1. Public transportation and mobility limitations
2. Lack of public awareness of Fair Housing practices
3. Socio-economic conditions
4. Housing supply, neighborhood conditions and deteriorating infrastructure
5. Limited access to fair lending through banking and financial institutions
6. Inadequate supply of housing for homeless and special needs residents

The City of Hot Springs expanded its Fair Housing outreach by providing fair housing information brochures at city and public facilities and events, and sponsored public service announcements with media organizations that provide such services to local government.

In 2012 the City adopted Zoning Code amendments to clarify Reasonable Accommodation request standards and procedures. August 2012, the City of Hot Springs Planning Commission amended the 1990 enacted Fair Housing Ordinance No. 4054, Chapter 16 of the Hot Springs Zoning Code to be more consistent with the Federal Fair Housing Act in response to Public Policy Impediments. The amendment includes redefining dwelling and dwelling unit; adding definitions of familial status, person with a disability, physical or mental impairment, and reasonable accommodation; the creation of an additional Enforcement category Article II, Administrative Procedures and Enforcement to establish procedures for reviewing and documenting reasonable accommodation requests.

The 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan and 2014 Annual Action Plan continues the City's efforts to address and ameliorate the issues identified in 2009 by funding infrastructure projects that improve sidewalk accessibility and improved mobility, public transportation convenience, neighborhood infrastructure to create safe, suitable, livable conditions in targeted neighborhoods where housing has become more available and affordable in recent years, partnering with lending institutions to meet mutual goals, providing home-buyer education classes, and supporting home building to increase the affordable in-fill housing stock, as well as coordinating with the Continuum of Care and other plan partners to address homeless and special needs residents. The City monitors local, county, state and federal regulations, policies and ordinances that may directly or inadvertently affect fair housing choice and takes appropriate remedial action as possible.

**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**

Fiscal year 2014 funding is allocated to the completion of a new Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice study, which will serve as a baseline for assessing the effectiveness of corrective actions to date, with new socio and economic market conditions. It will also serve as a roadmap for addressing public policies that may be identified as barriers to affordable housing. The results of the AI will be shared with Consolidated Plan partners to inspire multi-agency perspectives, and as possible, implement coordinated community-wide solutions.

The City will annually re-adopt the permit fees and charges waiver for providers of affordable housing. The City will continue to offer expedited permitting for manufactured home siting via its Manufactured Home Overlay regulations with no difference in approvals whether stick/site-built or manufactured. City of Hot Springs does not have an ad valorem (“millage”) property tax on residential properties.

### **Discussion:**

The City of Hot Springs has carefully examined its public policy and those of other agencies to remove or amend policies negatively affecting the cost of developing, maintaining or improving affordable housing.

The City of Hot Springs Planning & Development Department continues to insure that all sub-grantees receiving CDBG funds had up-to-date Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans; displayed Fair Housing posters and included the Fair Housing logo on all printed materials, as appropriate; provided beneficiaries with information on protected class members and instructions on how to file a complaint. In addition, City Planning & Development staff attend state and national training sessions on Fair Housing regulations and standards to stay informed.

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

The City of Hot Springs consistently supports human services agencies, the Hot Springs Housing Authority, local developers, homeless and at-risk providers, and special needs groups in their goal to meet the underserved persons of the community. City representatives communicate with these groups regularly to understand changing needs and service demands.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City acknowledged the following potential obstacles while creating the Consolidated Plan, and determining goals and priorities:

#### **Creating suitable living environments**

- Concentration of rental homes in targeted areas; Lack of landlord investment in rental home properties
- Privately owned vacant lots and condemned buildings
- Resident consensus on neighborhood improvement priorities and strategy
- Several large vacant, severely blighted commercial buildings beyond rehabilitation
- Limited funding to accomplish all projects

By closely working with individuals, organizations and associations in each targeted area, the City will assist neighborhoods with asset and threat identification, gap and needs analysis, prioritization of projects that meet HUD, city and neighborhood objectives, planning and estimating, and in the application for funding, including but not limited to Community Development Block Grant funds.

#### **Encouraging economic development**

- Lack of owner-leasor investment in commercial properties; Added costs of rehabilitation for leasing businesses
- Fewer small business loans and stricter loan qualifications through traditional lending institutions
- Aged municipal sewer and water infrastructure

Through a well-coordinated effort between the City, Chamber of Commerce, West Central Planning & Development District, newly formed Downton Revitalization Task Force, implementation of the Thermal Basin Fire District fire codes, neighborhood and community organizations, and businesses, available small business and revolving loan funds, economic development grants, general funds and CDBG funding will be leveraged to meet the needs of growing and new businesses.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

Loss of assisted housing in 2014 was not forecasted by service providers during consultations. To foster new affordable housing initiatives, the City of Hot Springs annually re-adopts the permit fees and charge waivers for providers of affordable housing, and staff assist with vacant lot identification. The addition of 8 affordable homes in 2014 by Habitat for Humanity is being funded through CDBG for land acquisition, demolition and infrastructure. First time home buyer classes which include down-payment and closing cost financial assistance through the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration (ADFA), education of and access to low-interest loans and home rehabilitation tax credits, reduces mortgage debt enabling homeowners to make repairs and improvements to the older housing stock in low- to moderate-income areas where homes are available and affordable.

Garland County Habitat for Humanity is conducting an analysis of major and minor repair housing rehabilitation needs in 2014. Based on the results of that analysis and available funding they may adopt the A Brush with Kindness Habitat for Humanity home repair program that has been implemented in other areas of the country.

The City will coordinate Neighborhood Services department identified minor repair rehabilitation needs with non-profits, including faith-based, civic and other organizations, to ensure that to the best of abilities and resources, minor repairs that enable low-income, elderly and disabled home owners to remain in their homes are completed.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City of Hot Springs Planning & Development Department utilizes EPA-certified, licensed lead-based paint consulting firm to conduct mandatory inspections, risk assessments, laboratory testing and clearance reports for HUD-funded projects where lead-based paint is present. After evaluation, the approach to reduction may include doing no harm by repairing surfaces disturbed, controlling and/or abating hazards. The City proactively disseminates information on lead hazards and regulations to staff, public agencies, community-based organizations, non-profits, and others involved in development or rehabilitation activities.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

Investments in infrastructure to encourage new or expanding businesses, which must result in full-time, long-term jobs for low- to moderate income residents in targeted areas, which provide stable employment opportunities and increase financial independence for poverty-level families, is the strategy the City is focusing on in 2014. During consultations and market analysis, a reoccurring theme in the poverty cycle was the unpredictable income of residents in seasonal and/or part-time service industry professions, which is a dominant market in Hot Springs, particularly for those without a college degree, exiting homelessness, incarceration or foster care, veterans and female single head of household. For individuals and families exiting homelessness, the need is *decent, affordable* housing. Many exiting or at-risk of homelessness, who are also employed in seasonal or 'day to day' labor jobs, find their only option for housing to be extended-stay motels, which various service-

providers indicated as a contributing factor to continued poverty and repetitive homelessness.

By providing stable employment with predictable income, rental cost burdens will be reduced, and in conjunction with first time home buying education and financial assistance programs, the dream of home ownership can be achieved by those reaching greater self-sufficiency. The City will also collaborate with Consolidated Plan partners to continue needs assessment, and identify other initiatives designed to reduce poverty in Hot Springs.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The greatest need identified to improve institutional structure is an increased awareness of and access to information regarding services and shelters available to at-risk, special-needs, and the homeless. An information repository project is currently underway through ProjectHOPE to increase data availability and provide more meaningful data to better understand the needs versus intervention services. Also revealed during consultations was a need to foster leadership, operational and business planning skills amongst new Continuum of Care providers to develop solid business plans ensuring operational costs are accurately estimated and goals are supported by realistic sources of funding.

The City strategy is to coordinate partnerships amongst its wide range of Consolidated Plan partners, including health, mental health, homelessness, veteran, elderly, community-based, housing, and state and local government agencies to further examine the causes and demographics of homelessness and risk, assist in linking data repositories, identify and report trends impacting multiple agencies in a more timely fashion, engage discharging institutions in the prevention of homelessness, coordinate the expertise of experienced providers as mentors for newer organizations to better plan and utilize resources, provide outreach, and work with Consolidated Plan partners to examine ways to ameliorate conditions that create risk, homelessness, and chronic homelessness amongst the mentally-ill and other special-needs residents.

The Consolidated Plan objective to encourage economic development supports the Arkansas Balance of Care strategic plan goal of increasing employment of homeless entering programs by 10%. Businesses wishing to receive funding for municipal infrastructure improvements will be encouraged to include at-risk individuals and families in their recruitment strategy. City Planning & Development staff will assist in coordinating recruiting efforts between businesses and Consolidated Plan partners to achieve goals.

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

The City of Hot Springs coordinates home buyer programs with the Hot Spring Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Program Coordinator, mentally and physically disabled service providers, area real estate agents and lending institutions to further home ownership, and fair housing initiatives.

### **Discussion:**

The largest single obstacle to meeting priority needs continues to be a lack of available funding. Reduction in funding at all levels of government as well as declining donations in the non-profit sector have restricted the ability of the City of Hot Springs and its sub-recipients to wholly respond to underserved needs.

The City attempts to do the best it can with the limited resources available. The City has made progress in making the community aware of the needs of low income housing and targeting limited resources for the greatest impact toward neighborhood revitalization.

## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction:

The City of Hot Springs does not receive Section 108 funding or resulting proceeds from loan guarantees; does not have surplus funds from urban renewal settlements; does not have awareness of any monies returned to the line of credit for which planned use has not been included in a prior Action Plan; does not receive income from float-funded activities.

No fiscal year 2014 CDBG activities have been designated as urgent community development needs whose existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and because other financial resources are unavailable.

Program income is received when liens are satisfied either through the sale or refinancing of a home benefitted by the housing rehabilitation program, or the repayment of a lien placed against the nuisance abatement, demolition and clearance of condemned structures. No program income is anticipated.

#### **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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### **Other CDBG Requirements**

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
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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.

83.00%

**Discussion:**

As described in the strategic Consolidated Plan, unanticipated funds received during the plan year will be allocated to neighborhood revitalization projects in targeted areas. Should CDBG funds not be adequate to complete all projects contained in the fiscal year 2014 Annual Action Plan, reduction of, up to and including complete defunding of discretionary infrastructure improvements to encourage business and job growth is planned based on priority needs and public comment.

The City of Hot Springs is preparing a Significant Amendment to 2011, 2012 and 2013 Annual Action Plans as amended to reallocate approximately \$416,879.54 from one eligible activity to other eligible activities. Submission to HUD for review and approval is planned in June 2014.





## Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Data Source Name</b> CDBG Citizen Needs &amp; Priorities Survey</p>
	<p><b>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</b> City of Hot Springs, Arkansas Planning and Development Department</p>
	<p><b>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</b> The data set consisted of forty-three (43) rows of nominal data representing eligible HUD CDBG activities, and 5 columns of priority ranking options of No Opinion, Not Necessary, Low Priority, Medium Priority and High Priority.</p>
	<p><b>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</b> In order to ensure widespread community involvement in the development of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan the City engaged residents, particularly those of low- to moderate-income, in needs assessment and priority setting activities, including this survey.</p>
	<p><b>Provide the year (and optionally month, or month and day) for when the data was collected.</b> April 12, 2013 - May 5, 2013.</p>
	<p><b>Briefly describe the methodology for the data collection.</b> The CDBG Needs &amp; Priorities ranking survey was conducted</p>
	<p><b>Describe the total population from which the sample was taken.</b> The entire population of the City of Hot Springs, 35,604 residents, were able to complete an opinion questionnaire regarding needs and priorities of eligible CDBG activities. Both online and hard-copy formats were made widely available. Nine (9) marketing methods were used to promote online survey completion on the City website including social media, email distribution lists, community/neighborhood electronic newsletters, and public access TV channel advertisements. Over five-hundre (500) hard-copies were distributed at twenty-three (23) locations including city facilities, community centers, faith-based and volunteer organizations, retail locations, places of employment, apartment complexes, neighborhood and community association meetings, primarily targeted in low- to moderate-income areas or populations. Additionally, members of two(2) neighborhood associations canvassed door-to-door in LMI target areas.</p>

	<p><b>Describe the demographics of the respondents or characteristics of the unit of measure, and the number of respondents or units surveyed.</b></p> <p>256 responses were received.</p> <p>64.5% (165) of respondents optionally provided total household income, of which 41.2% were low-to moderate-income. Total Household Income of Respondents: 3.6% Extremely Low Income &lt;\$10,000; 5.5% Very Low Income \$10,000-\$14,999; 9.1% Low Income \$15,000-\$24,999; 23% Moderate Income \$25,000-34,999; 10.3% \$35,000-\$49,999; 20% \$50,000-\$74,999; 15.2% \$75,000-\$99,999; 13.3% \$100,000+.</p> <p>48% (123) of respondents optionally provided their age. 1.7% &lt;18; 1.7% 18-24; 23.6% 25-39; 52% 40-64; 21% 65+.</p>
2	<p><b>Data Source Name</b></p> <p>Neighborhood Services Code Violation Report</p> <hr/> <p><b>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</b></p> <p>City of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Neighborhood Services Division of the Planning &amp; Development Department.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</b></p> <p>A 1-year log of all reported neighborhood services cases in eleven (11) categories: Abandoned Automobiles, Commercial, Housing, Liens, Operation Cleansweep Requests (an education, clean-up, and code enforcement program for residents in target neighborhoods including door-to-door canvassing and City multi-departmental assistance efforts), Premise, Signage, Vacant Structure, Yard Sale, and Zoning violations.</p> <hr/> <p><b>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</b></p> <p>This report is used by Neighborhood Services staff to track resolution of code violations and citizen complaints. It is included in the Consolidated Plan to illustrate the severity of blight.</p> <hr/> <p><b>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</b></p> <p>Neighborhood services cases are recorded for all areas in the City of Hot Springs.</p> <hr/> <p><b>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</b></p> <p>January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012</p> <hr/> <p><b>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</b></p> <p>This data set is in varying phases of in-progress and complete. Neighborhood services cases remain open until resolved or otherwise determined by City staff to be in compliance.</p>
3	<p><b>Data Source Name</b></p> <p>Vacant Housing Units</p>

	<p><b>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</b></p> <p>2010 U.S. Census</p>
	<p><b>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</b></p> <p>Description of the types of unoccupied homes in Hot Springs, AR.</p>
	<p><b>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</b></p> <p>To understand the nature of vacant homes.</p>
	<p><b>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</b></p> <p>Data represents the City of Hot Springs, AR.</p>
	<p><b>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</b></p> <p>2010</p>
	<p><b>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</b></p> <p>Complete</p>
4	<p><b>Data Source Name</b></p> <p>Median Housing Value</p>
	<p><b>List the name of the organization or individual who originated the data set.</b></p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-year estimates.</p>
	<p><b>Provide a brief summary of the data set.</b></p> <p>The median value of owner-occupied housing units.</p>
	<p><b>What was the purpose for developing this data set?</b></p> <p>2010 Median Values did not auto-populate in IDIS.</p>
	<p><b>How comprehensive is the coverage of this administrative data? Is data collection concentrated in one geographic area or among a certain population?</b></p> <p>The data is comprehensive across the City of Hot Springs.</p>
	<p><b>What time period (provide the year, and optionally month, or month and day) is covered by this data set?</b></p> <p>2009 - 2011</p>
	<p><b>What is the status of the data set (complete, in progress, or planned)?</b></p> <p>Complete.</p>