

City of Hot Springs, Arkansas

HUD Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program



FY 2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Version 6

P.O. Box 700, 133 Convention Boulevard
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas 71902

CARES Act CDBG-CV Amendment 1 July 2020

Annual Action Plan
2020

1

Summary of Proposed Revisions to the CDBG-CV 2020 Annual Action Plan July 2020

NOTE: This proposed amendment includes repealing the previous 2019 Annual Action Plan amendment in order to meet U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Guidelines to amend the most recently approved Annual Action Plan, which for the City of Hot Springs is 2020.

Page 4: CARES Act CDBG-CV funding the purpose of the amendment is described in the Executive Summary.

Page 7: Citizen participation activities in the review of the original 2019 Annual Action Plan amendment and newly proposed 2020 Annual Action Plan amendment were added.

Page 23: Added CDBG-CV amendments citizen participation sentence.

Page 37: Community Development Advisory Committee meeting to review the CDBG-CV 2020 Annual Action Plan amendment was added to the citizen participation table.

Page 38: \$254,473 in CDBG-CV funds added to the Expected Resources Introduction and removed from the mention of prior year funds in the last paragraph.

Page 39: CDBG-CV funding added to Anticipated Resources table.

Page 44: Goal added to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 including Homeless, Non-Homeless Special Needs and Non-Housing Community Development.

Page 47: Goal description added for the goal to Prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

Page 48: Added CDBG-CV funded Health Services, Homeless Assistance and Meal Programs goals to project table.

Page 49: CDBG-CV public service activity reasons for allocation priorities description added.

Page 61: CDBG-CV related project descriptions and funding amounts added to Projects table.

- CV-Health Services: \$126,825 to provide funding for health services, needs and supplies resulting from COVID-19 to include, but not limited to Personal Protective Equipment and testing and medical supplies for clinics to serve low- to moderate-income and limited clientele residents. Approximately 100 low- to moderate-income and limited clientele will be assisted.
- CV-Homeless Assistance: \$76,824 to provide assistance to aid homeless and low-income individuals in the Hot Springs area with isolation/quarantine lodging, services and supplies to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. A minimum of 10 homeless individuals will be assisted.

- CV-Meal Programs: \$50,824 to provide meals on wheels / grab and go food services to approximately 100 low- to moderate-income and limited clientele households

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Hot Springs is a recipient of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an entitlement grantee of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG Entitlement program provides annual grants on a formula basis to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

The City of Hot Springs was allocated \$254,473 in Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG-CV) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis through the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, which was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, to respond to the growing effects of this public health crisis. A previous amendment in April of 2020 proposed changes to the 2019 Annual Action Plan for these additional CDBG-CV funds and coronavirus related activities. This amendment will replace the 2019 Annual Action Plan amendment and place CDBG-CV funds in the 2020 Annual Action Plan.

On February 24, 2020 HUD announced an allocation of \$433,063 in CDBG funding to the City for fiscal year 2020 beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020. This Annual Action Plan describes the activities that will be undertaken and how funds will be distributed.

As a grantee, HUD requires that the City prepare and submit an Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan is a one-year implementation strategy for each year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan, identifying how the City will meet community development and housing needs. This is the second Annual Action Plan of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

The City of Hot Springs Annual Action Plan is designed to be a collaborative process allowing residents to establish a unified vision for community development actions. It offers residents the opportunity to shape various community development initiatives into an effective, coordinated set of strategies that addresses needs and priorities without duplication. The 2020 Annual Action Plan was duly advertised and made available to all residents for review and comment before consideration by the City Board of Directors and submission to HUD.

Questions and comments can be directed to: City of Hot Springs, CDBG – Planning and Development Department, 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, AR 71901 or (501) 321-6855.

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.

Six (6) goals were identified in the amended 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan as amended:

- Create suitable living environments
- Promote decent, affordable housing initiatives
- Encourage economic development and job growth through targeted infrastructure improvements
- Support strategies to stabilize and grow the Gateway and Langston Garden communities
- Prevent and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis
- Provide assistance, support and resources to further fair housing opportunity, expand neighborhood revitalization and strengthen Continuum of Care service efforts

Activities identified in the 2020 Annual Action Plan will implement the objectives of the Consolidated Plan. To that end, the City of Hot Springs selected community-proposed projects for CDBG funding to meet high priority needs and solve identified problems. Fiscal year 2020 project locations, needs being addressed and expected outcomes are described in detail in the AP-35 Projects section of this Annual Action Plan.

The overall strategy is to reduce unsightly properties and structures, develop vacant lots into new affordable housing and public use space, while simultaneously investing in infrastructure improvements to increase the livability of low- to moderate-income neighborhoods where existing housing remains affordable and jobs can be created through targeted economic development, ultimately stimulating additional public and private investment.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

In the first year of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan between January 1 and December 31, 2019 the City expended \$385,217.84 on neighborhood revitalization activities to create suitable living environments and \$21,731 in support of affordable housing and fair housing initiatives. There was funding available to further a secondary objective of the plan to encourage economic development and job growth through targeted infrastructure improvements however, no proposals were received and therefore no CDBG funds were spent toward this objective in 2019.

While no fiscal year 2019 CDBG funds were expended in the 2019 program year to stabilize and grow the Gateway and Langston Gardens neighborhoods, data on housing vacancy in the Pleasant Street

Historic District was collected and analyzed, and the City Planning Department engaged area leaders, residents and non-profits in the creation of neighborhood level plans as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

2019 highlights include:

Creating safe, accessible pedestrian routes and improving public park facilities as a goal in creating suitable living environments in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. Projects were prioritized and proposed by targeted area neighborhood associations focusing on blocks where connectivity to existing, accessible sidewalks and public transportation routes was possible for greatest impact. Improvements addressed the urgent and important need for 20.4% of non-institutionalized residents who identify as having a disability, 17% of the population under the driving age of 16, and 14.4% of households lacking a vehicle who require safe and secure access to goods, services, school, employment and community facilities. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey Selected Social Characteristics).

Decent, affordable and fair housing was also a priority need supported in 2019. CDBG funds were used to complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study, conduct a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey on two (2) proposed Habitat for Humanity home sites, and provide HUD-certified home buyer education to sixty-six (66) residents with opportunities for state funded down-payment and closing cost assistance. These initiatives addressed markedly lower Hot Springs homeownership rates (54.5%) compared to state (65.6%) and national (63.8%), and the challenges faced by 63.1% of renters paying over 30% of household income on gross rent (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey Selected Housing Characteristics).

Non-financial support was provided to further fair housing opportunity, expand neighborhood revitalization, develop subrecipient capabilities and strengthen Continuum of Care service throughout the year. The City successfully leveraged its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds with other programs and resources from various sources including in-kind architectural and engineering services, matching funds, state and federal grants, and City of Hot Springs in-kind and gap funding.

Cumulatively, 2019 suitable living environment, home buyer education, at-risk and homeless youth projects benefitted nearly 6,000 low- to moderate-income persons. Fair housing education and outreach efforts exceeded 20,000 residents. The complete 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) outlining expenditures and accomplishments is available for review online at cityhs.net or Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm in the City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department office, 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City continually seeks to expand opportunities for participation in the CDBG program and encourages community-wide input using surveys, one-page informational brochures, legal and

newspaper notices, press releases to over twenty (20) media outlets, www.cityhs.net and social media campaigns, direct phone and email contact, television and radio broadcasts, public meetings and hearings, CDBG representative attendance at neighborhood association meetings and community events, monthly Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meetings, regular Southwest Arkansas Partnership continuum of care meetings, and as appropriate, City Board of Director meetings. All meetings are duly advertised and held in fully accessible facilities served by public transit and include information to request accommodations.

The details of the Citizen Participation process can be found in the AP-12 Participation section of this Annual Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

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

A similar amendment to include CDBG-CV funds in the 2019 Annual Action Plan was made available for public review and comment between April 29 and May 5, 2020. The Community Development Advisory Committee held a duly advertised, combined teleconference and in-person meeting on May 4, 2020 to discuss the amendment and hear public comment. Two (2) residents attended in person and nine (9) participated by phone. Comments were heard in support of the amendment and a recommendation was accepted to modify the Homeless Assistance quarantine/isolation goal to include low- to moderate-income residents who may also need temporary lodging for such purposes. The Hot Springs Board of Directors adopted the amendment in their regularly scheduled May 5, 2020 meeting. No residents attended in-person and no comments were heard over the phone.

This amendment to include the CDBG-CV funds in the 2020 Annual Action Plan instead of the 2019 plan was made available for public review beginning July 1, 2020. Comments will be accepted through July 20, 2020. A public hearing will be held on July 7, 2020 to review the amendment, reason for changing the annual action plan year, and hear public comment.

During a well-advertised October 3, 2019 Community Development Advisory Committee meeting in which fiscal year 2020 CDBG proposals were presented, three (3) verbal comments were heard: one (1) in support of foreclosure avoidance counseling and refinancing classes for homeowners; one (1) commending neighborhood associations for their efforts; and one (1) describing youth programs that would take place in the John Lee Webb House when all renovations are complete. One written comment was received in support of the prioritized list of proposals.

During a duly advertised December 3, 2019 City Board of Directors meeting two (2) public comments were heard in support of the adoption of the Community Development Advisory Committee recommendation of prioritized projects. No written comments were received.

A well- advertised Community Development Advisory Committee was held on March 5, 2020 at which time the 2020 Annual Action Plan was reviewed. Four (4) citizens attended. No comments were made. The Community Development Advisory Committee unanimously (5-0) recommended the Hot Springs Board of Directors consider the Annual Action Plan as presented.

The Community Development Advisory Committee held a public meeting on April 2, 2020 to evaluate new information regarding public safety and need for the \$52,000 proposal to replace the asphalt walking trail at Baseball Trail Park with concrete and for \$40,080 Chelsea Street Sidewalks, and consider allocating \$17,633.78 in uncommitted 2020 funds to Off-Cycle Infrastructure Improvements for Neighborhood Revitalization and Economic Development activities. Two (2) residents attended and commented. In a 4-1 vote, the Community Development Advisory Committee did not recommend the proposed changes to the Hot Springs Board of Directors. On April 24, the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association withdrew their application for CDBG funding to replace the walking trail at Baseball Trail Park having come to a satisfactory agreement with the City of Hot Springs to repair using other funding sources.

The Community Development Advisory Committee held a combined teleconference and in-person public meeting on May 4, 2020. Eleven (11) residents participated in a final review of the 2020 Annual Action Plan. Comments were made in favor of the plan. No opposing or written comments were received.

The Hot Springs Board of Directors will adopted the Annual Action Plan during their regularly scheduled May 5, 2020 public meeting. No comments were made.

The City attempts to fund programs that address priority needs in the community while keeping with the mission of the Consolidated Plan based on public input, applications received through the request for proposal process, and staff input.

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

All comments received were considered.

7. Summary

Hot Springs is a city with many unique aging and historic neighborhoods. There is a stock of decent, affordable homes available in low- to moderate-income areas. If an entire area can be improved to the public desires of a suitable living environment the odds for preservation through public and private investments increases. A suitable living environment is a function of housing and a market based economy. The greatest benefit to housing from public sector resources can be leveraged by a concentrated effort of neighborhood improvements, job growth, and affordable housing infill.

The citizen survey, public meetings and consultations ranked eight (8) of the top ten (10) priorities as neighborhood revitalization, public facility and infrastructure activities. The emphasis of this Annual Action Plan is to focus on those things for which the government has responsibility, thereby creating neighborhoods where people want to live and have the opportunity to work. This Annual Action Plan supports public safety and accessibility improvements, neighborhood revitalization, access, and actions to promote fair housing policies and opportunities for all of its citizens.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	HOT SPRINGS	
CDBG Administrator	HOT SPRINGS	Planning & Development Department
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department acts as the lead agency responsible for preparing and implementing the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.

As an entitlement grantee of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the City of Hot Springs is responsible for adhering to all grant requirements and applicable federal regulations. The Planning and Development Department as Lead Agency ensures compliance with administrative, advertising, monitoring, reporting and public participation requirements, and coordinates efforts amongst many partners including residents, neighborhood associations, businesses, public agencies, non-profits, developers, lenders and the Continuum of Care in order to meet plan goals and objectives.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Inquiries and comments regarding the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans should be directed to City of Hot Springs, CDBG - Planning Department, 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs AR 71901 or (501) 321-6855.

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

1. Introduction

The City began its citizen participation and consultation on the 2020 Annual Action Plan with an open application period soliciting proposals from the broad community between July and August 2019. In-person and telephone consultations were conducted throughout the development of this Annual Action Plan including but not limited to City departments, housing and homeless service providers, non-profit agencies, social service agencies, civic groups, the Hot Springs Housing Authority, Chamber of Commerce, mental/health service providers, landlords, neighborhood associations, and others.

Many of the consultations conducted are described in the table below, but it is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of those that participated in Annual Action planning throughout the year in monthly Community Development Advisory Committee and SWAP meetings, events such as the Homelessness Round Table and Difference Makers Community Resource Fair, presentations and discussions with area civic and special interest groups. Consultation is an ongoing process with all interested members of the community.

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

The City of Hot Springs is in contact with various agencies to ensure funding priorities are in line with current community development and housing goals. Specifically, the City Planning & Development Department maintains communication with the Hot Springs Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, and developers to discuss relevant trends in the local affordable housing market.

The City is a member of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) Continuum of Care comprised of a wide range of agencies including health and mental health, unaccompanied youth, foster care, employers, workforce training, human services, veterans, shelter, housing, disability, government, and other organizations. Through monthly meetings these varied organizations share resources and information to develop inter-agency housing and service solutions.

Working with SWAP and community partners, homeless and at-risk individuals the Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic (CCMC) provides the Bridges Out of Poverty case management community support model assesses the root causes contributing to poverty and homelessness on a case by case basis, and develops and implements customized solutions for long term housing and self-sustainability for individuals and families. By involving and educating housing, homelessness, criminal justice, employers and service providers the program is addressing the needs of sheltered, unsheltered, assisted housing and under-housed residents systemically and systematically.

A City CDBG representative communicates with the Hot Springs Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program Coordination Committee (PCC) as part of a consultative component in the development of the eight (8) year Action Plan of the Housing Authority.

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

The City of Hot Springs is a participating member of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) Continuum of Care, communicating and coordinating with the Housing Authority, homeless, at-risk of homelessness, veteran, unaccompanied youth, human services, health, mental health, job training, shelter, affordable housing and other service providers. SWAP operates under the Arkansas Balance of State (ArBOS) statewide homeless coalition.

SWAP meets monthly to discuss needs and programs such as rapid re-housing, homeless prevention, Point in Time (PIT) counts, transitional housing, emergency shelter and street outreach. SWAP members are also active in a wide range of issue-specific task forces such as Drug and Mental Health Courts, Veteran's Court, the Bridges Out of Poverty case management program, Project HOPE, Suicide Prevention and Domestic Trauma Task Forces, and other organizations whose needs and solutions are communicated to the SWAP.

In conjunction with Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic (CCMC) 2-day Poverty Summit, the City of Hot Springs hosted a half day Homelessness Roundtable in 2019 bringing together 100 community leaders to raise awareness and begin the process of developing a coordinated system-wide approach to sustainable solutions to poverty and homelessness. This was followed by a University of Central Arkansas Living on the Edge: Poverty Simulation to enlighten participants to the harsh realities of poverty, and a one-day Bridges Out of Poverty training by CCMC to empower the community to move individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency; reduce social costs related to crime, poor health, and welfare; strengthen educational attainment and job skills; enhance economic development; improve on-the-job productivity; revitalize neighborhoods; and build a sustainable community.

The CDBG Request for Proposals was announced during the July 2019 SWAP meeting. No 2020 CDBG applications were received from organizations addressing homelessness or related needs. Prior year CDBG funds are being used in 2020 to rehabilitate the Ouachita Childrens Center unaccompanied youth shelter. CDBG assisted Ouachita Childrens Center and Cutter Morning Star School 3Rs Getting Ahead for Youth program for 15-18 year olds, a 16 week group workshop to help build resources to improve life skills, will continue in 2020.

In mid-December 2019 the City of Hot Springs announced a public-private partnership Hope Works pilot program with non-profit Jackson House who connects individuals to resources. The Hope Works program combines city beautification, employment assistance and a conduit to social services for Hot

Springs homeless and at-risk populations who will be offered minimum wage to remove litter from roadways, creating a relationship the city and Jackson House believe has the potential to develop into more profound connections and long term solutions for homeless individuals. Hope Works will begin in 2020.

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

The City of Hot Springs does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) – Division of County Operations serves as the primary HUD ESG grantee in Arkansas providing sub-grants to non-profits, municipalities and counties across the state. The SWAP continuum of care works with the Arkansas Balance of State (ArBOS) statewide homeless coalition who carries out broader requirements in the design, operation and collaborative process for developing ESG applications, rating and approving submissions to DHS, and establishing priorities for funding projects in central Arkansas. Ouachita Childrens Center is a collaborative applicant responsible for administering the ARBoS awarded CoC planning grant that includes Hot Springs and Garland County.

Locally, Ouachita Childrens Center receives HUD ESG and NOFA funding as a DHS subrecipient for a domestic violence shelter and homeless youth day drop-in center that provides showers, laundry facilities, case management, counseling, education and employment services with the ultimate goal of moving clients off the street into housing and self-sustainability.

The City of Hot Springs reviews all local ESG and NOFA applications prior to submission to ArBOS, DHS and/or HUD to ensure alignment with the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and area needs.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	HOT SPRINGS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Other government - Local Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis 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?	As the lead agency, the City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department is in contact with various City Departments to ensure funding priorities are aligned with current citywide community development goals. Specifically, Planning staff meets regularly with the City Managers office, Finance, Procurement, Public Works, Stormwater, Streets, Utilities, Engineering, Parks and Trails, Neighborhood Services, elected officials and the Community Development Advisory Committee. Finance meetings are held regularly and a Complete Streets multi-departmental team meets to discuss needs, planned projects and local, state and federal funding opportunities.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Hot Springs Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs 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?	Discussions are routinely held with the Hot Springs Housing Authority Executive Director to discuss Housing Authority needs, short and long term plans to address needs, and ways in which the City and Housing Authority can leverage resources and limited funds to achieve mutually beneficial goals. The City will continue to work with the Family Self Sufficiency coordinator to promote home buyer education plans, and support the Executive Director and Board of Directors with planning and development, permit waivers for affordable housing construction, and coordination of City held vacant lots if and when applicable.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Habitat for Humanity
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City works closely with Garland County Habitat for Humanity on a variety of new affordable housing initiatives including awareness of buildable vacant lots, waiving permit fees and/or City liens for non-profit home building activities, planning, building codes, and CDBG assistance for infrastructure to support new affordable home building.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of the Ouachitas
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Regional organization

What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy	
Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	In addition to hosting monthly Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings, the United Way provides resources databases enabling organizations to meet the needs of homeless or at risk of homelessness individuals and families, sponsors Housing Summits, convenes anti-poverty workgroups and committees, and support organizations addressing homelessness and poverty in the community. The City of Hot Springs will continue to participate with the United Way to ensure the needs of the community are identified and broad based solutions developed.	
5	Agency/Group/Organization	OUACHITA CHILDREN'S CENTER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City works with Ouachita Childrens Center staff to discuss the needs of unaccompanied and at-risk youth, homeless young adults under the age of 24, the challenges young adults face when aging out of foster care, victims fleeing domestic violence and overall homeless needs identified across the state through the Arkansas Balance of State in comparison to the City of Hot Springs.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers 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?	The City coordinates and communicates continually with the CEO and Downtown Economic Development Director, and collaborates on actionable items to implement the jointly developed 2015 Comprehensive Redevelopment Strategic Plan that encompassed the targeted areas of Downtown, Park, Whittington and Gateway, as well as the non-targeted areas of Ouachita, Quapaw and Prospect. The Economic Development and Redevelopment Plan, and Neighborhood Assessments were created with input from leadership, business owner, civic, potential investor, property owner and the general public through series of meetings, workshops and open houses. The City continues the plan partnership through participation in the Downtown Redevelopment Task Force responsible for assessing and implementing aspects of the plan.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Gateway Community Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City staff meets with association leadership throughout the year to discuss area needs and priorities, grass-roots strategies to encourage rental or sale of vacant homes, re-use of vacant lots, and other community development opportunities. CDBG funding is being allocated in the 2020 Annual Action Plan for neighborhood revitalization efforts. Close coordination with the association will continue.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Park Avenue Community Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Executive Committee members of the Park Avenue Community Association were in continual communication with City Departments to discuss prior CDBG investments in the area and additional needs and priorities. CDBG funding is being provided in the 2020 Annual Action Plan to continue neighborhood revitalization efforts. Close coordination with the association will continue.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization
	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?	The President of the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association was consulted and is in continual communication with City Departments regarding the needs and priorities of the neighborhood and residents. CDBG funding is being provided in the 2020 Annual Action Plan for neighborhood revitalization efforts. Close coordination with the association will continue.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Oaklawn Park Neighborhood Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Targeted Area Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Organization
	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?	City staff attends Oaklawn Park Neighborhood Association meetings and communicate with residents to assess area needs and develop solutions. CDBG investments will be made in the LMI eligible area in 2020 to complete the Bell Street sidewalk and ADA accessibility improvement project that began in 2018. Coordination with the association will continue.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	P.H.O.E.B.E. (People Helping Others Excel by Example)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Hot Springs coordinates with the Executive Director of PHOEBE regarding the John Lee Webb House contributing structure to the Pleasant Street Historic District. PHOEBE will utilize the restored John Lee Webb House to provide youth and seniors educational and leadership training, as well as provide community cultural resources such as interpretive programming, archival collections and inter-generational oral history films to create an understanding of the past and preserve the history of the African Americans in Hot Springs. Close coordination with PHOEBE will continue.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	RA Psychle
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City works with RA Psychle to assess and address the needs of area youth and service to elderly and disabled residents in the community. Coordination of the 4C lawn care mentorship, certification and public service program will continue in 2020.

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

The City of Hot Springs recognizes the integration of transportation, education, health, housing, community and faith-based organizations, and related social services as an integral part of developing the Annual Action Plan. As many agencies as possible were consulted in the Annual Action Plan process. The City communicates with the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, Hot Springs National Park, Garland County Government, Metropolitan Planning Organization, West

Central Arkansas Planning & Development District, and other agencies as needed in the definition of needs and projects, coordination, implementation and monitoring of Consolidated and Annual Action Plan elements.

There are no Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) or HOPWA programs in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.

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	Southwest Arkansas Partnership	The Southwest Arkansas Partnership does not currently have a strategic plan however, through continued coordination with members of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership, Annual Action Plan efforts to provide decent, affordable housing and business/job growth will expand self-sufficiency and independent living opportunities. Businesses and contractors with CDBG-assisted municipal infrastructure improvement projects are encouraged to include outreach to organizations working with those exiting homelessness and foster care in their hiring strategy.
Comprehensive Plan	City of Hot Springs	Development of a new citywide Comprehensive Plan has been underway since 2019 and has included extensive public outreach activities, including preliminary development of area specific plans for portions of Gateway and Hobson area neighborhoods.
CoC Strategic Plan	Arkansas Balance of State	The 2013 Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care Strategic Plan was considered, but determined to be out-of-date. An update is underway by the lead agency, planned for release in 2020, and will be reviewed and compared with Consolidated Plan at that time.
Downtown Economic Development and Redevelopment	City of Hot Springs	The Downtown Economic Development and Redevelopment Plan was created in partnership with regional planning organizations, the City of Hot Springs, Chamber of Commerce and neighborhood associations surrounding downtown. Neighborhood revitalization and economic development activities described in the plan were considered in the development of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and subsequent 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

The City of Hot Springs consults with many neighborhood, local, regional, state and federal agencies to define needs and projects, approve and implement solutions, and monitor results of Consolidated Plan efforts.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The City of Hot Springs continually seeks opportunities for citizens to participate in the CDBG program with particular outreach to low- and moderate-income residents, neighborhoods and the organizations serving them. The City collected and disseminated CDBG information through a wide-range of outreach efforts including, but not limited to twelve (12) duly advertised Community Development Advisory Committee public meetings, two (2) Board of Directors public meetings, newspaper ads, press releases to over seventeen (17) media outlets, local radio interviews, direct emails, neighborhood association meetings, group presentations, participation in community events, coordination with non-profit, housing, homelessness, community, special needs, economic, inter-governmental, and other organizations to facilitate the dialogue of needs, priorities, services and opportunities in the community.

Throughout the citizen participation process, public and private agencies were consulted and given opportunities to provide input and apply for 2020 CDBG funding. As a result of these efforts, four (4) targeted neighborhoods, two (2) non-profits, and three (3) city departments submitted a total of nineteen (19) proposals for consideration.

In compliance with Federal regulations, the proposed Annual Action Plan was available for citizen review and comment over 30-days prior to submission. A notice of the Annual Action Plan was published twice in the local newspaper of general circulation. The 30-Day comment period was noticed for March 2 through April 6, 2020. This advertisement also provided the locations where the documents could be reviewed including online and in the City of Hot Springs Planning and Development office.

Residents actively participated in three (3) public hearings and two (2) public meetings in which comments were heard and considered regarding the 2020 Annual Action Plan and proposed projects. Not all proposed projects were awarded funds due to the amount of funding available.

Residents participated in two (2) public hearings regarding proposed CDBG-CV amendments and activities in April and July of 2020. All events were duly advertised, held in fully accessible facilities served by public transit and included contact information for additional accommodation requests.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Neighborhood Association Meetings	Targeted Areas	General and specific CDBG information was shared at neighborhood association meetings. Attendance ranged from 5 to 20 persons.	No written comments were received.	All verbal comments were considered.	
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Legal notices requesting proposals for 2020 CDBG funding were published in the local Sentinel Record Newspaper on June 30 and July 3, 2020.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	

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	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Requests for proposals and supporting application forms were published on the City's website at cityhs.net, distributed by City social media outlets, and provided in hard copy in the Planning & Development Office between July 3 and August 28, 2019.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	https://www.cityhs.net/563/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)
4	Press Release	Non-targeted/broad community	A press release was issued on June 27, 2019 to over 17 media outlets announcing the 2020 open application period and advertising 2 public meetings to discuss the application process.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	
5	Community Events	Minorities	CDBG representation at the August 2019 Difference Makers Community Resources Fair. Approximately 200 residents attended.	No written comments received.	No written comments received.	

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)
6	Direct Email	CDBG Mailing List	Direct emails were sent to 44 residents and organization on the CDBG email list on June 28 and July 29, 2019 announcing the open application period and inviting participation in the public meetings.	No written comments were received.	No written comments were received.	

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)
7	Public Meeting	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community	Duly advertised (newspaper ad, press release, direct emails, cityhs.net) Community Development Advisory Committee meetings were held on July 3 and August 1, 2019 to distribute CDBG applications and answer questions from interested parties. 16 individuals attended.	No verbal or written comments.	No verbal or written comments.	

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)
8	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	All proposals were posted online and made available for public review in the Planning & Development office on September 2, 2019. Comment sheets were provided. Social media and direct emails to applicants and other parties were used to announce the availability of proposals for public review.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	https://www.cityhs.net/563/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)
9	Press Release	Non-targeted/broad community	A press release was issued to over 17 media outlets on September 16, 2019 inviting residents to review 2020 proposals and participate in a Community Development Advisory Committee public hearing to review proposals.	No written comments were received.	No written comments were received.	

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)
11	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community 2020 CDBG Applicants	The Community Development Advisory Committee hosted a duly advertised public hearing on October 3, 2019 to review submitted applications, hear public comments and make a recommendation of prioritized projects for 2020 funding to the City Board of Directors. 25 attended.	Three verbal comments were heard in support of projects. One written comment was received in support of the proposed prioritized list of applications.	All comments were considered.	

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)
12	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The City Board of Directors held a duly advertised December 3, 2019 meeting to consider the prioritized list of applications recommended by CDAC. An estimated 25 residents attended.	No written comments were received.	All verbal comments were considered.	https://youtu.be/7nTKosML7zU

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)
13	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Legal notices announcing the availability of the 2020 Annual Action Plan and opportunities for public comment were placed in the local Sentinel Record Newspaper March 1 and March 4, 2019, in a Press Release to 17 media outlets on March 2, 2019 and online at cityhs.net.	No comments have been received.	No comments have been received.	

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)
14	Email	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community 2020 Applicants	An email announcing the 2020 allocation and Annual Action Plan for public review was sent to 44 residents on the CDBG mailing list on February 25, 2020.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	
15	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) held a duly advertised meeting on March 5, 2020 to review and hear public comment on the 2020 Annual Action Plan.	No comments were received.	No comments were received.	

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)
16	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) held a duly advertised meeting on April 2, 2020 to consider new information relevant to projects recommended for funding in the Annual Action Plan.	One verbal comment was made in support of the Baseball Trail Park walkway replacement project, and one comment noting the merit of both Baseball Trail Park and Chelsea Street in their respective neighborhoods.	All comments were considered.	

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)
17	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) held a duly advertised, combined teleconference and in-person public hearing on May 4, 2020 to review the final Annual Action Plan. Eleven (11) people participated.	Verbal comments were made in support of the Annual Action Plan.	All comments were considered.	

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)
18	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The Hot Springs Board of Directors held a combined video and in-person public meeting on May 5, 2020 to review and adopt the 2020 Annual Action Plan as recommended by CDAC.	No comments were heard.	No comments were heard.	https://youtu.be/3dB5IL_H_58
18	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Committee held a public hearing on July 7, 2020 to discuss the proposed CDBG-CV related amendment to the 2020 Annual Action Plan.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Hot Springs has been allocated \$254,473 in Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG-CV) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis through the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, which was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, to respond to the growing effects of this public health crisis. The proposed amendment to the 2020 Annual Action accounts for additional CDBG-CV funds and coronavirus related activities.

The City of Hot Springs has been allocated \$433,063 in CDBG funds in fiscal year 2020 to address obstacles and meet underserved needs. Resources will be used to fund eligible community development projects, improve public infrastructure, further fair housing, support new affordable home construction, provide home education and counseling services, and enhance coordination between public and private agencies to benefit low- to moderate-income households and areas as detailed in this 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Program income that might be received in a fiscal year and can be used on other eligible projects, is received unexpectedly, realized only when liens are repaid on properties that benefited from CDBG funding either through the 2004-2013 housing rehabilitation program when a home is sold or refinanced before the end of the 10-year forgivable soft loan period, or when a spot blight nuisance property is cleared and removed and the resulting lien is repaid by the property owner or new owner. No program income has been received to date in PY2020 and none is currently anticipated.

Approximately \$564,061 in prior year funds and \$254,473 in recently awarded CDBG CV CARES Act funding is available and committed to eligible projects that are either underway or planned in 2020. \$14,395.14 is currently uncommitted due to recent cancelled and under budget projects, and is being reallocated in a substantial amendment simultaneously with the submission of the Annual Action Plan.

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: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	433,063	0	0	433,063	1,200,000	The exact amount of Prior Year Resources may change if in-progress projects are completed under budget or if unexpected program income is received. This is the second Annual Action Plan under the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.
Other	public - federal	Other	254,473	0	0	254,473	0	CDBG-CV funds to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The City of Hot Springs CDBG program relies heavily on leveraged resources to make an impact. Public facility and infrastructure improvement projects managed by City Departments are planned, designed, estimated, bid, procured and supervised using in-kind staff expertise, and where possible, installed and maintained by City Departments. City staff meets regularly to coordinate CDBG and non-CDBG grants and Complete Streets improvements for maximum impact wherever possible. Proposed 2020 municipal projects include Baseball Trail Park, Garden Street, Park Avenue, Bell Street, Creek Street, Cedar Street Phase III, Jefferson Street, Whittington Avenue and Chelsea Street Sidewalks and ADA Accessibility.

City of Hot Springs CDBG policy requires a minimum 2:1 match for new, affordable home building projects, and a minimum 1:1 match for non-profit facility improvements and public service programs. In FY2020 this would include an estimated \$80,000 per home in Habitat for Humanity new home building.

John Lee Webb House Historic Preservation 1:1 matching funds were waived in consideration that in-kind structural and architectural service and \$110,000 in state grants can be leveraged to complete additional restoration elements.

Prior year CDBG amphitheater and sidewalk construction at the David F. Watkins Memorial Tunnel Park is being leveraged by a \$230,000 Outdoor Recreation Grant awarded by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism in late 2018, a 50/50 match to City Parks, Public Works and \$97,000 in CDBG funds.

CDBG projects on Cedar Street and Whittington Avenue are being complemented, not matched, by adjacent Whittington Avenue improvements funded by an estimated \$859,966 80/20 Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant match to City funds.

The Malvern Avenue Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements project is a multi-year phased endeavor, which includes \$120,000 in City funds, \$331,874 in Department of Transportation FTA funding, as well as \$141,241.56 in prior year CDBG funding. In partnership with the Intra-City Transit Department, this plan proposes using CDBG funds as an approved match to an existing Intra-City Transit Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) grant in which CDBG funds would be matched 4:1 by FTA funds for transportation related improvements such as sidewalk, crosswalk, bus shelter, and ADA accessibility improvements. Private investments are also being sought for Malvern Avenue Revitalization elements.

Opportunity Zones and Historic Tax Credit opportunities are useful in attracting private investment in several targeted areas to expand upon smaller CDBG investments in infrastructure, affordable housing and job growth. The Governor of Arkansas designated three (3) Opportunity Zones in Hot Springs, which are designed to attract funds to housing and economic development through capital gains investments. The three (3) Census Tract based Opportunity Zones include the CDBG targeted areas of Downtown, Whittington, Park, and a portion of Gateway. The Annual Action Plan includes infrastructure improvements in these areas.

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

Several prior and current year parks improvement and development projects are located on publically-owned property and will be completed under this Annual Action Plan period to address neighborhood revitalization and livability needs: Linden Park and David F. Watkins Memorial Park. Sidewalk, bus shelter and other pedestrian and transportation related improvements occur in public easements.

In cases where general funds or CDBG funds are used to raze and remove vacant, condemned, unsafe structures in which the property owner is unavailable, unwilling or unable to stabilize the structure, a lien is placed against the property. While the property is still under the control of the property owner rather than the City, the City negotiates lien waivers with not-for-profit affordable home builders on vacant lots the property owner may choose to donate. City staff works with non-profit affordable home builders to identify vacant lot, infill building opportunities.

Discussion

At this time, the City does not have plans to apply for Emergency Shelter (ESG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) 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	Planning and Administration	2019	2023		City Wide Project	Public Services	CDBG: \$76,910	Other: 1 Other
2	Neighborhood Revitalization	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Park Avenue Area Whittington Valley Area Forest Hill Neighborhood City Wide Project Non-Targeted Area Oaklawn Park Neighborhood	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$168,479	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3350 Persons Assisted Buildings Demolished: 6 Buildings

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Affordable Housing	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Homeless	City Wide Project	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$33,200	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Added: 2 Household Housing Unit
4	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization	2019	2023	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Greater Gateway Neighborhood	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$153,754	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1110 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19	2020	2023	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City Wide Project	Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk Public Facilities Public Services	CDBG-CV: \$254,473	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1 Households Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Persons Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 10 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	<p>Planning and administration associated with the general operation and regulatory compliance of the CDBG program to achieve plan goals and meet federal requirements. Preparation of plans, reports, environmental review records, policies and procedures; Maintenance of HUD IDIS data. Budgeting, expenditure tracking, spend down planning and reconciliation of accounts. Subrecipient and contractor technical assistance and monitoring. Preparation of legal notices, press releases, Board Action Request Forms, quotes, bids, contracts and grant agreements. Public outreach. Marketing. Creation and maintenance of project files, beneficiary eligibility and other compliance documentation. Serve as a liaison to HUD. Oversight and technical consultation with the City's Community Development Advisory Committee. Per grant requirements no more than 20% may be spent in any plan year for planning & administration. Consulting costs for an independent contractor to administer the program an average of 30 hours per week; an estimated \$10,000 for advertising office supplies, professional memberships, training and related out of town travel, and postage; funding available for Phase I Cultural Resource Study environmental reviews and required public notices as needed.</p> <p>Unspent funds will be reallocated to eligible projects in an amendment in fiscal year 2021.</p>

2	Goal Name	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Goal Description	<p>Neighborhood revitalization to create suitable living environments is a goal of the 2020 Annual Action Plan and 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan. 43% of funds are being allocated to neighborhood revitalization efforts focused in the targeted areas of Park Avenue, Whittington Valley, Oaklawn Park and Forrest Hills. Projects include pedestrian, ADA accessibility and public park improvements and citywide spot blight nuisance abatement. The following neighborhood revitalization projects are included in the Plan:</p> <p>Spot Blight Nuisance Abatement \$25,621.02 - locations to be determined Park Avenue at Tom Ellsworth Sidewalk, ADA Accessibility and Drainage Improvements \$37,875.00 - 615 Low- to Moderate-Income Residents Bell Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Supplemental \$8,792.45 - 560 Low- to Moderate-Income Residents Cedar Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Phase III \$10,261.00 - 635 Low- to Moderate-Income Residents Whittington Avenue Drainage Improvements \$44,850.00 - 1,010 Low- to Moderate-Income Residents Chelsea Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements \$40,800.00 - 1,165 Low- to Moderate-Income Residents</p> <p>Additional public infrastructure improvements categorized as Neighborhood Revitalization activities are planned and described in the Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization and Growth goal.</p>
3	Goal Name	Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	<p>Up to 18 home buyer education, credit counseling, refinance and foreclosure avoidance services \$25,000. Habitat for Humanity lot acquisition \$8,200 for approximately 2 or 3 new, affordable home building sites.</p>

4	Goal Name	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization
	Goal Description	<p>Neighborhood revitalization projects in support of Greater Gateway and Pleasant Street National Historic District stabilization and growth include:</p> <p>John Lee Webb House Brick Masonry and Ancillary Roofs Historic Restoration \$60,000 Garden Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Supplemental Funding \$29,900 Creek Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements \$32,343.75 Jefferson Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements \$31,510</p>
5	Goal Name	Prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19
	Goal Description	<p>CDBG-CV funded activities to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis.</p> <p>\$126,825.00 Heath Services: Provide funding for health services, needs and supplies resulting from COVID-19 to include, but it not limited to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing supplies and equipment for clinics to serve low- to moderate-income residents</p> <p>\$76,824.00 Homeless Assistance: Provide assistance to aid homeless individuals in the City of Hot Springs area with isolation/quarantine lodging, services, needs, and supplies as a result of COVID-19</p> <p>\$50,824.00 Meal Programs: Provide meals on wheels / grab and go food services to low – to moderate-income and limited clientele residents</p>

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Hot Springs identified the following priorities in the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, and addresses these needs with projects proposed in the 2020 Annual Action Plan:

- Create suitable living environments
- Promote decent, affordable housing initiatives
- Support strategies to stabilize and grow the Gateway and Langston Garden communities
- Encourage business / job growth through targeted infrastructure improvements
- Provide assistance and resources to further fair housing, strengthen neighborhoods and subrecipients, and improve Continuum of Care service efforts.
- Prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis

Summaries of the eligible programs and activities that will be funded during the program year are detailed in the project descriptions in section AP-38.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	2020 CDBG Planning and Administration
2	2020 Spot Blight Nuisance Abatement
3	2020 Home Buyer Education, Credit Counseling, Refinance, and Foreclosure Avoidance Services
4	John Lee Webb House Brick Masonry and Ancillary Roofs
5	Garden Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Supplemental
6	Park Avenue at Tom Ellsworth Sidewalk, ADA Accessibility and Drainage Improvements
7	Bell Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Supplemental
8	Garland County Habitat for Humanity Lot Acquisitions 2020
9	Creek Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements
10	Cedar Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Phase III
11	Jefferson Street Sidewalks and ADA Accessibility Improvements
12	Whittington Avenue Drainage Improvements
13	Chelsea Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility
14	CV-Health Services
15	CV-Homeless Assistance
16	CV-Meal Programs

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The COVID-19 coronavirus is known to be an urgent and widespread public health and safety crisis. CV public service needs were identified by city staff participating in the Hot Springs/Garland County COVID-19 Task Force with representatives from the county and state, as well as public safety and public health officials.

Community wide proposals were solicited between July 2 and August 28, 2019 as described in section AP-12 Participation with particular emphasis and outreach to engage targeted areas and agencies servicing those areas, homeless and special needs residents.

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) held a duly advertised public hearing on October 3, 2019 in which applicants presented their proposals, answered questions and public comment was heard. Twenty-five (25) attended. After public discussion, CDAC made a recommendation of projects in priority order to the City Board of Directors who adopted the recommended priority list during a public meeting on December 3, 2019.

Resolution 9453 stated that should available FY2020 CDBG funds be less than the total amount requested projects would be funded in the approved priority order up to the amount available; Projects in excess of the available amount of funding would be placed on hold for reconsideration should additional funding become available in FY2020; Should the actual allocation exceed the total amount requested, unallocated funds in excess shall be reserved for eligible neighborhood, housing and economic development infrastructure improvements where such funds may be used for projects or CDAC may recommend other allocation to the Board of Directors.

The Annual Action Plan was then developed using the prioritized list. Following the annual allocation announcement, legal notices regarding the availability of the 2020 Annual Action Plan and opportunities to review and comment were posted in the local Sentinel Record newspaper on March 2 and 4, 2020.

The Community Development Advisory Committee held a public hearing on March 5, 2020 to review the Annual Action Plan and hear public comment. Four (4) residents attended. No comments were made. No written comments were received. The committee recommended the plan to the Hot Springs Board of Directors (5-0) for consideration.

The Community Development Advisory Committee held a public hearing on April 2, 2020 to evaluate new information regarding public safety and need for the \$52,000 proposal to replace the asphalt walking trail at Baseball Trail Park with concrete and for \$40,080 Chelsea Street Sidewalks; consider reprioritization of these projects and allocate an uncommitted balance of \$17,633.78 in FY2020 funds to Off-Cycle Infrastructure Improvements for Neighborhood Revitalization and Economic Development. Two residents attended and commented. The Committee did not recommend the change in projects.

On April 24, 2020 the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association rescinded their application for walking trail replacement at Baseball Trail Park following an agreeable commitment by the City to undertake the repairs and improvements with non-CDBG funding.

The Hot Springs Board of Directors adopted the 2020 Annual Action Plan recommended by the Community Development Advisory Committee during their May 5, 2020 public meeting.

One of the biggest obstacles to meeting underserved needs is a lack of resources. The City, agencies and neighborhood associations seek alternative sources of funding to help address the needs of residents.

Efforts are made to obtain grants from Federal, state and regional agencies and to attract private investments in economic development, infrastructure, homelessness solutions and neighborhood revitalization.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	2020 CDBG Planning and Administration
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$76,909
	Description	Funding to support planning, outreach, reporting, monitoring and implementation activities to administer the CDBG program and achieve goals. Expenditures include administration consulting fees, office supplies, advertising, postage, equipment, out of town travel, training, professional members and other costs. Funds that remain unspent at the end of fiscal year 2020 will be reallocated to eligible neighborhood revitalization and affordable housing initiatives.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Planning and administration efforts impact all households that benefit from CDBG-funded activities.
	Location Description	City of Hot Springs, Planning & Development Department, 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, Garland County, AR 71901
	Planned Activities	As a recipient of U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the City of Hot Springs is responsible for adhering to all grant requirements, applicable federal regulations, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Planning and administration funding will be used to ensure compliance with administrative, advertising, monitoring, reporting and other grant requirements.
2	Project Name	2020 Spot Blight Nuisance Abatement
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$2,562,102

	Description	Demolition and clearance of approximately six (6) vacant, condemned, single family residential structures at scattered sites. Structures are generally categorized as open, vacant, dilapidated and deserted, and condemned due to the inability or unwillingness of the property owner to rehabilitate the structure to meet code requirements. These structures pose serious public health and safety risks, as well as blighting neighborhoods.
	Target Date	10/1/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated six (6) condemned structures will be removed in targeted and non-targeted low- to moderate-income areas at sites to be determined.
	Location Description	Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Demolition and clearance of vacant, condemned single family structures to remove spot blight conditions in targeted and non-targeted low- to moderate-income areas to improve public safety.
3	Project Name	2020 Home Buyer Education, Credit Counseling, Refinance, and Foreclosure Avoidance Services
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$25,000

Description	Engagement of HUD certified educators to conduct one-day classes for home buyers and home owners; provide expert advice and counseling on buying, default, foreclosure avoidance, credit issues and refinancing. Home buyer education classes will include industry professionals who guide prospective home buyers through the purchasing process and answer questions. Qualifying low to moderate income class graduates may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) and/or \$6,000 in Federal Home Loan downpayment and closing cost assistance depending on the type of loan they choose to pursue based on what is right for them. Coursework includes budgeting, available loans, working with real estate agents, appraisers, inspectors, lenders, contracts, insurance, escrows and closing. Credit and budget counseling classes help future home buyers create a budget, set goals, address credit concerns, build credit scores and assisting in preparing for home purchase and better interest rates. Foreclosure counseling helps those that are behind in their mortgage avoid foreclosure with an advocate and expert to educate and support in efforts to deal with hardship. It includes help communicating and negotiating with the lender, applying for assistance through government programs and understanding all of the options available. Similarly, classes would be provided to guide homeowners who need or are able to refinance to secure more advantageous interest rates, terms, conditions and/or lower mortgage payments while understanding the process, avoiding exorbitant fees and potentially unfair lending practices.								
Target Date	10/28/2022								
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that at least 50 low- to moderate-income residents will benefit from proposed classes and counseling in 2020.								
Location Description	100 Broadway Terrace, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.								
Planned Activities	Ongoing foreclosure avoidance counseling, and up to 18 classes over an 18 month period including home buyer, credit repair / building, and home refinancing.								
4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1612 544 1667">Project Name</td> <td data-bbox="544 1612 1442 1667">John Lee Webb House Brick Masonry and Ancillary Roofs</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1667 544 1722">Target Area</td> <td data-bbox="544 1667 1442 1722">Greater Gateway Neighborhood</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1722 544 1776">Goals Supported</td> <td data-bbox="544 1722 1442 1776">Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 1776 544 1837">Needs Addressed</td> <td data-bbox="544 1776 1442 1837">Public Improvements and Infrastructure</td> </tr> </table>	Project Name	John Lee Webb House Brick Masonry and Ancillary Roofs	Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood	Goals Supported	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
Project Name	John Lee Webb House Brick Masonry and Ancillary Roofs								
Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood								
Goals Supported	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization								
Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure								

	Funding	CDBG: \$60,000
	Description	Historic restoration of the exterior brick masonry and ancillary roofs of the John Lee Webb House, a contributing structure in the Pleasant Street National Historic District, to U.S. Department of Interior Historic Preservation standards, for future use by non-profit owner P.H.O.E.B.E. as an inter-generational leadership training facility and cultural center in the Pleasant Street National Historic District.
	Target Date	10/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The project is located in Block Group 4, Census Tract 106 in Garland County, Arkansas in the Greater Gateway Targeted Area, which includes 55 low- to moderate-income households. When restoration is complete P.H.O.E.B.E. will use the home as an inter-generational leadership training center for approximately 20 disadvantaged youth and elderly citizens each year, as well as host African American cultural and historic programs throughout the year.
	Location Description	403 Pleasant Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Historic restoration of exterior brickwork and ancillary roofs to U.S. Department of Interior standards.
5	Project Name	Garden Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Supplemental
	Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$29,900
	Description	Supplemental funding for sidewalk and curb cut ramp reconstruction to ADA accessibility standards on the Garden Street to create safe pedestrian connectivity between residents and assets in the Pleasant Street National Historic District and goods, services and transportation on the west side of Malvern Avenue.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The 100 and 200 blocks of Garden Street are located in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 115, Garland County, Arkansas with 1,110 low- to moderate-income households (76.55 percent).
	Location Description	100 and 200 blocks of Garden Street, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas

	Planned Activities	Continuation of the fiscal year 2018 Garden Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements project extending from Pleasant Street across Malvern Avenue to the Greenway, Transportation Depot and the Farmers' Market. The project consists of reconstruction of damaged sections of existing sidewalks and curb cut ramps to ADA accessibility standards for area residents to reach essential goods and services. A survey and project designs were completed in 2019.
6	Project Name	Park Avenue at Tom Ellsworth Sidewalk, ADA Accessibility and Drainage Improvements
	Target Area	Park Avenue Area
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$38,875
	Description	Continuation of sidewalk, ADA accessibility and drainage improvements on Park Avenue (phase 7).
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project is located in Block Group 3 of Census Tract 107, Garland County, Arkansas with 615 low- to moderate-income households (79.87 percent).
	Location Description	760 and 808 Park Avenue, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Sidewalk and curb reconstruction for ADA accessibility and drainage improvements.
7	Project Name	Bell Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Supplemental
	Target Area	Oaklawn Park Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,792

	Description	Continuation of the fiscal year 2017 Bell Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility improvement project to reconstruct damaged sections of existing sidewalks and curb cut ramps to ADA accessibility standards for area residents to reach goods, services and transportation, and neighborhood youth to walk safely to Hot Springs School District Intermediate School. In 2018, 2 of the 3 blocks of sidewalks and curb cut ramp ADA accessibility improvements were completed between 100 Bell Street to the intersection of Crestwood and to 210 Bell Street at the intersection approaching Henderson Street. There were insufficient funds to complete the final block of the Bell Street sidewalk and curb cut improvements through the 300 block to the intersection of Oaklawn Street. This proposal for supplemental funding would finish the full scope of the original project.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Oaklawn Park neighborhood and Bell Street are located in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 113, Garland County Arkansas with 560 low- to moderate-income households (62.22 percent).
	Location Description	300 Block of Bell Street, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Reconstruction of sidewalks, ADA curb cut ramps and gutters.
8	Project Name	Garland County Habitat for Humanity Lot Acquisitions 2020
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,200
	Description	Assistance with acquisition of vacant, buildable lots for the purpose of new, affordable home building by Garland County Habitat for Humanity for partner families earning less than 80 percent of area median income.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 2-3 lots will be able to be acquired at fair market value for the construction of new homes for Habitat partner families earning less than 80 percent of area median income.
	Location Description	Sites to be identified.
	Planned Activities	Lot acquisition for the purpose of new, affordable home building.

9	Project Name	Creek Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements
	Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$32,344
	Description	Sidewalk and curb cut ramp reconstruction to ADA accessibility standards on the 100 block of Creek Street between Malvern Avenue and the Greenway to create safe pedestrian connectivity between residents and assets in the Pleasant Street National Historic District and goods, services, food and public transportation.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The 100 block of Creek Street is located in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 115, Garland County, Arkansas in the Greater Gateway targeted area with 1,110 low- to moderate-income residents (76.55 percent)
	Location Description	100 block of Creek Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Sidewalk and curb and gutter reconstruction to ADA accessibility standards.
10	Project Name	Cedar Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility Improvements Phase III
	Target Area	Whittington Valley Area
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,261
	Description	Approximately 1,710 square feet of sidewalk reconstruction and curb cut ramp installation to ADA standards on the 200 and 2300 blocks of Cedar Street. These improvements will connect existing sidewalks to enable pedestrian access and eliminate current public safety concerns of pedestrians traversing the street. The project benefits ASMSA school students, families with children, young adults, retirees, seniors/elderly and the physically disabled in the low- to moderate-income targeted Whittington neighborhood.
	Target Date	10/29/2021

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Cedar Street is located in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 108, Garland County, Arkansas in the Whittington Valley neighborhood with 635 low- to moderate-income residents.
	Location Description	200 and 300 blocks of Cedar Street, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Sidewalk and curb and gutter reconstruction to ADA accessibility standards.
11	Project Name	Jefferson Street Sidewalks and ADA Accessibility Improvements
	Target Area	Greater Gateway Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Gateway and Langston Gardens Stabilization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$31,510
	Description	Sidewalk and curb cut ramp reconstruction to ADA accessibility standards on Jefferson Street between Malvern Avenue and Pleasant Street and the Reverend Donald James Rice Park to create safe pedestrian connectivity between residents and assets in the Pleasant Street National Historic District and goods, services and transportation on the west side of Malvern Avenue.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Jefferson Street is located in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 115, Garland County, Arkansas in the Greater Gateway community of 1,110 low- to moderate-income residents.
	Location Description	Jefferson Street, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Sidewalk and curb and gutter reconstruction to ADA accessibility improvements.
12	Project Name	Whittington Avenue Drainage Improvements
	Target Area	Whittington Valley Area
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$44,850

	Description	Construction of ten (10) small rain gardens along the northside of the 300 to 700 blocks of Whittington Avenue, HotSprings, Arkansas, at intersections with cross streets to complement Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant and City sidewalk, ADA, streetscape and drainage improvements.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The north side of Whittington Avenue is located in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 108, Garland County, Arkansas in the Whittington Valley neighborhood with 635 low- to moderate-income residents. Stormwater runoff reduction efforts will also have a positive impact on downstream residents.
	Location Description	300-700 blocks of the north side of Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Removal of existing road asphalt to a depth of 36 inches deep and 5 feet wide to construct curbed rain gardens that will capture storm water runoff in a floodplain, narrow the street thereby reducing motor vehicle speeds in a residential neighborhood, and filter stormwater runoff before re-entry into the aquifer.
13	Project Name	Chelsea Street Sidewalk and ADA Accessibility
	Target Area	Forest Hill Neighborhood
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$40,800
	Description	Installation of sidewalks, curbs, gutters, culverts and curb cut ADA accessibility ramps on Chelsea Street in the Forrest Hills targeted neighborhood between Delaware and Clairmont Streets to extend privately funded pedestrian and drainage improvements in the neighborhood for access to the Hot Springs Creek Greenway, Hollywood Park and area goods and services.
	Target Date	10/29/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Chelsea Street is located in the Forrest Hills neighborhood behind Oaklawn Race Track in Block Group 1 of Census Tract 117, Garland County Arkansas with 1,165 low- to moderate-income households.
	Location Description	300-500 blocks of Chelsea Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas
	Planned Activities	Sidewalk, drainage and culvert installation.

14	Project Name	CV-Health Services
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$126,825
	Description	Provide funding for health services, needs and supplies resulting from COVID-19 to include, but not limited to Personal Protective Equipment and testing and medical supplies for clinics to serve low- to moderate-income and limited clientele residents.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 100 low- to moderate-income and limited clientele will be assisted.
	Location Description	Hot Springs, AR 71901
	Planned Activities	Prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis.
15	Project Name	CV-Homeless Assistance
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities Housing and Services for the Homeless and At-Risk
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$76,824
	Description	Provide assistance to aid homeless and low income individuals in the Hot Springs area with isolation/quarantine lodging; homeless services, equipment and supplies to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A minimum of 10 homeless individuals
	Location Description	Hot Springs, AR 71901

	Planned Activities	Activities to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis among homeless individuals.
16	Project Name	CV-Meal Programs
	Target Area	City Wide Project
	Goals Supported	Prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$50,824
	Description	Provide meals on wheels / grab and go food services to low- to moderate-income and limited clientele residents.
	Target Date	12/31/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 100 low- to moderate-income and limited clientele households.
	Location Description	Hot Springs, AR 71901
	Planned Activities	Provide meal programs to assist those in need during the prevention and response to the coronavirus public health crisis.

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

An estimated eighty-two percent (82%) of FY2020 CDBG funding will directly benefit low- to moderate-income persons with the remaining eighteen percent (18%) allocated to program administration and planning costs which directly and indirectly benefit LMI persons.

For the purpose of accounting for 100% of fiscal year 2020 funding in the table below, Planning and Administration and Home Buyer Education are being recorded as City Wide projects. To be identified locations of Spot Blight Nuisance Abatement, Off-Cycle Infrastructure Improvements and Habitat for Humanity new affordable home lot acquisitions may be completed in targeted non-targeted low- to moderate-income areas and are also included here as a citywide geographic distribution for the purposes of this plan; Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports (CAPER) will report exact locations and targeted areas when completed.

Neighborhood revitalization and efforts to create suitable living environments will be undertaken in the targeted areas of Forrest Hills, Gateway, Oaklawn Park, Park and Whittington.

The below table does not include projects that will be completed in 2020 that were funded in prior fiscal years.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Park Avenue Area	9
Whittington Valley Area	10
Downtown	0
Greater Gateway Neighborhood	36
Forest Hill Neighborhood	10
Greater Hobson Area	0
East Albert Pike Area	0
City Wide Project	33
Non-Targeted Area	0
Oaklawn Park Neighborhood	2
Langston Gardens	0

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City seeks to allocate its CDBG funds using communitywide needs and priorities input and census data demonstrating a benefit to persons of low-to-moderate income. An emphasis has been placed on the District 1 and 2 neighborhoods of Park, Whittington and Gateway where funds will be leveraged with previous efforts and larger catalytic projects for greatest impact. In addition, program resources allocated to Habitat lot acquisition and home buyer education classes, foreclosure avoidance and credit counseling are represented as equitable geographic distributions as the locations of new home building and existing homes to be assisted are unknown at this time.

Discussion

Like many older cities, Hot Springs' low- to moderate-income block groups surround a historic downtown. Following the City's adoption of a revised fire code in late 2013, greater downtown referred to as the Thermal Basin Fire District, has experienced tremendous economic growth and reinvestment. In 2019, 32 new businesses opened, 15 commercial properties were sold, and over \$14.5 million was invested. Since 2014, 144 new businesses opened (122 are still open), 103 commercial properties sold with a total sales value over \$56 million, and there has been well over \$100 million in capital investment. This downtown reawakening and reinvestment has spurred tourism, retail, food, education, and arts and entertainment job growth, and interest in adjacent housing.

CDBG and city efforts have focused on revitalizing the targeted area residential and mixed-use corridors surrounding downtown by improving multi-modal transportation, providing enjoyable shared recreational and green spaces, supporting workforce home building, and by making the purchase of existing homes achievable through home buyer education classes with state down payment assistance opportunities. By improving infrastructure and developing desirable areas to live, work and play there is renewed interest in several targeted areas.

Despite recent infrastructure improvements and prior housing rehabilitation efforts, portions of the Gateway and Langston Gardens targeted areas including the Pleasant Street National Historic District are experiencing 51% home and business vacancies. Preliminary research indicates that vacant homes are not for sale or rent and are primarily held by out of town owners. Community feedback supports the data, and it is felt that many of the vacant homes have been willed to heirs who may someday like to return to the home in Hot Springs. Neighborhood leadership is discussing and working on grass roots solutions.

Fiscal year 2020 funds will continue sidewalk and ADA accessibility improvements in the eligible Gateway areas of Garden, Creek and Jefferson Streets to safely and cohesively connect residents and cultural resources of the Pleasant Street National Historic District to downtown, the Greenway Trail, the Farmers' Market and other goods and services. 2020 funds will also be used to continue stabilization and historic restoration of the John Lee Webb House, a contributing structure in the Pleasant Street National Historic District. When complete the house will serve as an inter-generational leadership

training space and African American cultural center. It is thought that the Malvern Avenue Gateway Improvement project, which includes prior year CDBG funds, will have the greatest catalytic impact in the Gateway area by creating a welcoming and functional streetscape that will invite business and housing development in an Opportunity Zone, and eliminate the visual barrier that the stark roadway, vacant surface lots and empty buildings have created between downtown and the Pleasant Street National Historic District.

As part of the City Comprehensive Plan, residents and stakeholders in the Gateway, Langston Gardens and Four Corners section of Greater Hobson targeted areas participated in interviews, focus groups and community discussions to begin development of neighborhood specific plans, which is expected to continue should the Comprehensive Plan be adopted.

The City continues to work with targeted areas to identify areas for improvement and develop solutions to address needs

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

CDBG funded home buyer education classes and credit counseling help make home ownership affordable for low- to moderate-income persons and families by partnering with HUD-certified class providers who provide certification for Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) down payment and closing cost assistance worth up to \$10,000. It is anticipated that at least 50 residents will attend classes in 2020. It is estimated that six (6) low- to moderate-income first time homebuyers will purchase an affordable home using ADFA assistance and others will purchase homes using other loan programs as a result of this program.

In addition to first time home buyer education classes the 2020 Annual Action Plan includes expanding HUD-certified classes to provide refinancing education and foreclosure avoidance counseling for existing homeowners experiencing undue cost burdens, unfair lending practices or a housing instability crisis.

The City has supported non-profit Garland County Habitat for Humanity affordable home building initiatives with CDBG funding since 2004. In fiscal year 2020 \$8,200.00 has been allocated to support the acquisition of at least three (3) vacant lots for the purpose of new affordable home building. \$6,800 in prior year funds is also available for lot acquisition.

Prior year funds committed to rehabilitation activities at the 20-bed Ouachita Children’s Center homeless youth shelter are expected to be completed in program year 2020.

The City waives permit fees and coordinates with non-profit home builders to encourage new affordable home building throughout the city.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	20
Non-Homeless	3
Special-Needs	0
Total	23

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	3
Rehab of Existing Units	1

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	4

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

Discussion

The City's approach to addressing affordable housing needs is two-fold: support new construction and ameliorate financial barriers preventing homeownership. CDBG funds assist Habitat for Humanity land acquisition, surveying, clearance and infrastructure, and provide home buyer education classes with Federal Home Loan and Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) American Dream Development Initiative (ADDI) down-payment and closing cost certification.

The City reduces or waives non-profit affordable home building permit fees. The City also coordinates vacant lot acquisition, waiving or reducing City property lien costs as possible, and is represented on area bank Community Reinvestment Act committees to improve lending outreach to LMI residents.

Rental cost burdens (paying over 30% of income on rent) and rental housing conditions were noted as barriers in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study. Six (6) home buyer education classes are planned in 2020. By utilizing HUD-certified, Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) and Federal Home Loan certified non-profit educators to conduct the training, low- to moderate-income graduates become eligible for ADFA American Dream Development Initiative (ADDI) down payment and closing cost assistance, ADFA low interest loans, or up to \$6,000 in Federal Home Loan forgivable 5-year mortgages.

Many homes affordable to extremely-low and low-income households are older and may have minor or major issues preventing satisfactory completion of home inspections. Some of these homes are being purchased and rehabilitated for use as short term vacation rentals removing them from the available renter and owner-occupied available housing stock. With a set supply of homes on the market it may present challenges for low-income home buyers to find a decent home that meets inspection standards.

Additional obstacles lie with a limited number of local lenders participating in programs available to assist low- and moderate-income buyers including the ADFA and Federal Home Loan fund grants, which reduces lender and mortgage options available to low- to moderate-income home buyers.

The 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study discovered homeownership disparities. About 60% of White households own their homes compared to 31% of Black households and 39% of Latino households. Households of color are 1.6 times as likely as White households to be denied for a home mortgage loan. The City of Hot Springs participates in discussions with lenders regarding Community Reinvestment Act plans and actions.

Potential interest rate increases and changes to the Arkansas Development Finance down payment and

closing cost assistance programs may negatively impact low-income home buyers. Home buyer educators engaged by CDBG remain informed of market changes and actively seek out lender program alternatives for Hot Springs buyers.

The City of Hot Springs has benefited greatly from its long term partnership with non-profit affordable home builder, Habitat for Humanity. Small, targeted CDBG investments in land acquisition, clearance, infrastructure improvements, lien and permitting fee waivers are leveraged by Habitat with in-kind and greater than 2:1 matching funds to build 6-10 homes per year.

The City will continue coordination with Continuum of Care, Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, United Way and special-needs service providers to increase homeownership and improve neighborhood-integration of special-needs individuals and their families through the home buyer education program.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs transitioned from public housing (PHA) units to housing choice project based voucher (PBV) units rented at fair market rates (FMR) through the HUD Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. Units include Eastwood Gardens and Eastwood Heights consisting of duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes of one (1) to four (4) bedroom units housing 140 households, and Mountainview Towers, a 120-unit complex for elderly and disabled residents.

Additionally, the Housing Authority administers approximately 650 Housing Choice (HCV) vouchers for privately owned homes and apartments across Hot Springs and Garland County.

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

No CDBG funds are directly allocated to public housing needs in fiscal year 2020. A prior year CDBG-funded ADA accessible bus shelter is being installed on Highrise Circle Mountainview Towers for the safety and convenience of elderly and disabled residents accessing Intra-City Transit.

In addition, the Hot Springs Police Department has a dedicated Housing Authority Officer program designed to develop closer relationships between law enforcement and the community to maintain a safe, peaceful and productive environment.

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs completed \$53M in renovations of all former public housing units. The changes improved living conditions, energy efficiency and quality of life for residents. No units were lost; displacement was avoided by temporarily moving residents in small groups to vacant units while construction was carried out in phases through 2017, 2018 and 2019. All units are currently in excellent condition.

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

Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs residents are encouraged to enroll in the voluntary Family Self Sufficiency program, which through coaching, goal setting and budgeting is designed to assist families in achieving self-sufficiency through employment and/or higher education. The program includes participation in an escrow savings plan that matches the difference in rent as adjusted gross income rises during employment. This escrow can then be used for college, home buying or other goals.

The City of Hot Springs promotes the CDBG-funded home buyer education program with the Housing Authority. Family Self Sufficiency program participants who complete the home buyer education class are eligible for up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance toward the purchase of a home, further assisting FSS families in achieving the goal of home ownership and self-sufficiency. The

Housing Authority hosts two CDBG-funded homebuyer classes at their Community Center each year to increase participation and accessibility.

The City CDBG Administrator participated in the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program Coordination Committee (PCC) with housing authority residents and area non-profits.

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

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

The City and Housing Authority work closely to discuss plans and opportunities for collaboration to leverage resources and meet the housing needs of residents. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study completed in 2019 is an example of collaborative efforts to address fair housing and housing needs in Hot Springs.

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

Introduction

The City of Hot Springs is a member of the Southwest Arkansas Partnership (SWAP) Continuum of Care (CoC) communicating and coordinating with agencies focused on addressing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, veteran, unaccompanied youth, domestic and sexual violence victim, human trafficking, human services, substance abuse, health, mental health, job training, shelter, affordable housing and other underserved community needs.

SWAP works closely with the Arkansas Balance of State (ArBOS) statewide homeless coalition who shares information and provides guidance amongst Arkansas Continuums of Care. The City of Hot Springs reduces or waives permitting fees for shelter projects to reduce regulatory barriers, offers providers project planning expertise and CDBG proposal preparation assistance, and promotes home buyer education classes with ADFA financial assistance.

Community-wide services for the homeless and at-risk include meals and food banks/pantries; GED education; independent living and job skills training; government identification assistance; Medicare and Medicaid sign-up and no cost interim medical, dental and vision care; pre-natal specific care; non-mental healthcare prescription assistance; mental health assessments and support; emergency out-patient and limited in-patient mental healthcare; substance abuse and peer counseling; housing advocacy; job placement; school supplies and meals; emergency utility financial assistance; crisis intervention and prevention; showers and laundry access; and case management services.

The SWAP Continuum of Care continues to grow and expand outreach efforts.

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

On January 23, 2020, a HUD annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count was conducted by SWAP. The PIT is an intense survey used to count the number of homeless living in Hot Springs on the streets, in shelters and areas not meant for human habitation. The survey was conducted by dozens of volunteers and organizations who asked those living on the streets, as well as those in shelters, to respond to questions related to their situation and needs. Volunteers simultaneously distributed food, personal hygiene care packages, clothing, blankets, and services information; multiple faith-based organizations opened shower ministries during the count; and, Project Hope organized basic, free wellness services including blood pressure and diabetes checks, foot care, flu and Hepatitis A vaccinations.

Garland County Unsheltered: A total of 212 homeless persons including 90 under the age of 24 were

unsheltered in Garland County the night before the January 23, 2020 point in time count, compared to 326 including in 2019 and 127 in 2018. It is felt that PIT count changes are a reflection of successful ongoing youth and chronically homeless street outreach efforts and the recent availability of drop-in centers, all of which has improved identification of homeless individuals in places not meant for habitation and trust of agencies involved in the PIT count. Additional services and PIT locations in 2020 also contributed to a more accurate count.

Garland County Sheltered: A total of 22 homeless persons were temporarily sheltered the night before the January 23, 2020 point in time homeless count versus 35 in 2019 and 88 in 2018.

Under McKinney Vento, Garland County schools reported a total of 386 school enrolled children who were temporarily sheltered, couch surfing, staying in a motel or homeless by the HUD definition of spending the previous night without shelter. This is a slight decrease from the reported 422 youth counted under McKinney Vento in 2019 in Garland County.

SWAP strives to develop better techniques for the point in time count. By involving faith-based organizations, offering health and wellness screenings, and Ouachita Childrens Center youth and Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness mental health street outreach teams to identify camps and survey those who are housed in substandard conditions, it is believed that the 2020 PIT count represents greater accuracy and outreach than an actual increase in the number of homeless individuals.

Ouachita Childrens Center launched their street outreach program for homeless youth in January 2018 and opened a day shelter later that year. Staff regularly locate, create relationships with, and offer survival kits and services to homeless youth in Garland County including shelter, case management, counseling, education and employment assistance with the ultimate goal of helping youth get off the streets and into permanent and safe environments.

Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness was awarded a HUD PATH grant to support individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Through community outreach they are providing diagnostic screening and therapeutic treatment for serious mental illness, case management services and referrals to other available programs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

In conjunction with Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic (CCMC) 2-day Poverty Summit, the City of Hot Springs hosted a half day Homelessness Roundtable bringing together 100 community leaders to raise awareness and begin the process of developing a coordinated system-wide approach to sustainable solutions to poverty and homelessness. This was followed by a University of Central Arkansas Living on the Edge: Poverty Simulation to enlighten participants to the harsh realities of poverty, and a one-day Bridges Out of Poverty training by CCMC to empower the community to move

individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency; reduce social costs related to crime, poor health, and welfare; strengthen educational attainment and job skills; enhance economic development; improve on-the-job productivity; revitalize neighborhoods; and build a sustainable community.

There are twenty eight (28) emergency and transitional shelter beds for men only at Samaritan Ministries, sixteen (16) beds for victims of domestic violence, four (4) residential and twenty (20) temporary beds for unaccompanied, neglected and abused youth at Ouachita Childrens Center. Additional emergency and transitional shelter beds are dedicated to recovering substance abusers such as Quapaw House, and supportive housing for the developmentally disabled at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.

St. Lukes and Lakeview Assembly of God Church opened as homeless warming shelters in 2018/2019 and now coordinate resources to serve the homeless and at risk across the community in times of freezing weather and throughout the week with showers, laundry and meals. SWAP and the City are encouraging additional collaboration among faith based organizations to meet underserved needs in a coordinated effort for the greatest good.

Project HOPE members meet monthly to identify and address the needs of the community and provide a framework for coordinated and collaborative efforts of a cross section of people. Committees include Human Trafficking, Suicide Prevention, Crisis Intervention and Domestic Trauma. SWAP and Project HOPE have identified a range of emergency shelter and transitional housing needs for special populations. SWAP is exploring funding opportunities for human trafficking transitional housing, rapid re-housing assistance programs, and emergency shelter for intact families. Permit fees for non-profit shelter projects are reduced or waived by the City to ameliorate regulatory barriers.

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

In mid-December 2019 the City of Hot Springs announced a public-private partnership Hope Works pilot program with non-profit Jackson House who connects individuals to resources. The Hope Works program combines city beautification, employment assistance and a conduit to social services for Hot Springs homeless and at-risk populations who will be offered minimum wage to remove litter from roadways, creating a relationship the city and Jackson House believe has the potential to develop into more profound connections and long term solutions for homeless individuals. Hope Works will begin in 2020.

Ouachita Childrens Center is in the third year of their homeless youth street outreach program and with

a HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) opened a youth day shelter in December of 2018. In 2019, staff served 230 different youth age 24 or younger and 98 over 24 providing showers, laundry facilities, case management, counseling, education and employment services with the ultimate goal of helping youth get off the streets and into permanent and safe environments. 317 survival kits were distributed.

Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness supports individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Programs include day treatment, food boxes, SNAP and Medicare sign-ups, back utility payments, rent and deposit assistance, household goods, and a walk-in clinic. In fiscal year 2019, 223 individuals entered the PATH program; 200 identified as disabled, 183 suffered from mental illness, 11 drug abuse, 50 a physical disability. 92 had been living in non-housing circumstances (street, car, etc.), 13 were referred by an emergency shelter program, 57 had been living with friends or relatives, 47 were in rental housing and 4 had recently exited incarceration. 66 were placed in non-subsidized rental housing, 13 in subsidized housing, 4 emergency shelter, 47 with family/friends, and 77 individuals were reported as staying in places not meant for human habitation (e.g. street).

CCMC offers medical, vision and dental care, and the Bridges Out of Poverty case management community support model. Working with SWAP, community partners, homeless and at-risk individuals in group settings and on an individual basis the program assesses the root causes contributing to poverty and homelessness on a case by case basis, and develops and implements customized solutions for long term housing and self-sustainability for individuals and families. CCMC reported 50 people attended the Bridges Out of Poverty Training Workshop, 166 people graduated from 19 Getting Ahead Classes, 102 inmates graduated from 11 Getting Ahead classes, 766 patient visits for medical treatment, 908 pharmacy visits, 563 referrals to specialists, 116 dental care, 38 eye exams, and 508 client visits with case managers.

Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs offers a job skills training wood shop for men housed in their transitional shelter who have graduated their 10-month resident program. The resident program helps restore a structured lifestyle, provides life skills, finance and budgeting training, employment skills and relapse prevention through a 12-step program, while finding affordable housing.

The City works with continuum of care providers to engage those preparing for homeownership in CDBG funded home-buyer education classes with ADFA financial assistance. Classes were held at the Housing Authority and the United Way in 2019.

The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs applied for fiscal year 2020 HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans. Awards have not been announced at the time of this plans preparation.

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.

Spa Area Independent Living Services provides housing advocacy for individuals exiting nursing homes and other institutions. Programs include identification of housing, coordinated funding to complete needed home modifications, and rental assistance to bridge the gap to permanent housing assistance such as Housing Choice Vouchers for those transitioning.

The Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic (CCMC) addresses the needs of the under-resourced in the community by working with local churches, non-profit groups and agencies to help those living at the margins of society develop their own resources in the broad areas of healthcare, mental health, law enforcement, food, shelter, transportation and education. Case Managers interview clients to develop individual plans to move out of poverty toward self-sufficiency. CCMC held 508 case management client visits in 2019 advocating for and helping clients access vital services and resources during times of crisis.

CCMC provides Bridges Out of Poverty Training to Garland County Detention Center inmates, reducing recidivism rates by over half and giving those exiting incarceration employment and housing goals, and positive life skills to break the cycle of poverty and crime.

The United Way of the Ouachitas manages an online system, Charity Tracker, in which area agencies communicate and cooperate for efficient, non-duplicative service delivery and collaborative response to critical needs. Several non-profits and faith-based organizations help at-risk, low-income households in times of financial instability in a variety of ways including utility and rental assistance, lunch and dinner meals, food boxes, school supplies, and resource referrals.

CDBG funding assisted Ouachita Children's Center and Cutter Morning Star School in providing 3Rs Getting Ahead for Youth program to 15-18 year olds, a 16 week group workshop to help build resources to improve lives. The program helps extremely low income youth create and manage individual academic and career plans; analyze how individuals, institutions and communities affect resources; recognize and use patterns to predict outcomes, problem solve and plan; identify strategies and resources to build resilience; and empowers students to develop their voices as they contribute and work together to make a difference. 3Rs classes will continue in 2020.

Discussion

Appreciating that there are dozens of organizations addressing at-risk and homelessness needs in Hot Springs, City leadership has focused on understanding available services and taking incremental steps to bridge gaps and promote collaboration among providers. The 2019 Homelessness Roundtable and 2020 launch of the HopeWorks program to engage individuals in part time employment and connect them with existing resources are examples of the City's approach of leveraging the current Continuum with

small investments in new approaches.

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

Introduction:

In the 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study eight (8) impediments were identified:

1. Poor rental housing conditions limit mobility and choice
2. Continued need for neighborhood reinvestment and expanded access to opportunity
3. Additional fair housing enforcement and education
4. Eviction regulations contribute to housing instability
5. An ambiguity in the City zoning codes may limit housing options for people with disabilities
6. Publicly supported housing choices are limited
7. Racial disparities exist in access to homeownership
8. Seasonal and vacation rentals may constrain affordable housing supply

Further, the Consolidated Plan Housing and Market analysis identified rental cost burdens as the single biggest housing issue in Hot Springs, which is being addressed through CDBG-assisted home buyer education and credit counseling services in the 2020 Annual Action Plan. Owner-occupied housing stability will also be supported in the 2020 plan with refinancing classes and foreclosure avoidance counseling.

The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan continue the City's efforts to address and ameliorate the issues identified by funding infrastructure projects that improve ADA accessibility, public transportation convenience, and neighborhood infrastructure to create safe, suitable, livable conditions in targeted neighborhoods where housing is available and affordable, partnering with lending institutions to meet mutual goals under the Community Reinvestment Act, funding targeted off-cycle infrastructure improvements for economic development and job creation, and supporting home building to increase the affordable housing stock, as well as coordinating with the Continuum of Care and other plan partners to address the housing needs of homeless and at-risk residents.

Using prior year funds, public education on fair housing rights and complaint procedures are included in CDBG efforts including, community events, group presentations, brochures, and online resources. Questions and concerns regarding fair housing rights are directed to the City's Fair Housing Officer for assistance. City of Hot Springs Planning and Development Department receive ongoing education on the Fair Housing Act through the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and other qualified organizations.

The City will consider a rental housing inspection program and continue examining seasonal and vacation rental home trends. The Housing Authority of the City of Hot Springs will continue efforts to recruit new landlords into participation in the Housing Choice Voucher Program and review its Affirmative Marketing Plan to consider new and creative marketing techniques to reach applicants of a wide variety of backgrounds.

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

The City of Hot Springs will amend the zoning ordinance and table of permitted uses to resolve the ambiguity and make clear that housing for persons with disabilities may be sited as specifically permitted under state law and equally with other single-family housing for unrelated persons.

No other public policies were identified as barriers to affordable housing in the 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study.

The City annually re-adopts permit fee and charge waivers for non-profit affordable housing providers. The City will continue to offer expedited permitting for manufactured homes siting via its Manufactured Home Overlay regulations with no difference in approvals whether stick/site-built or manufactured. The City of Hot Springs does not have an ad valorem (millage) property tax on residential properties. The City encourages lien waiver requests from affordable housing providers seeking to redevelop vacant lots created through the demolition and removal of vacant, condemned, nuisance structures.

Discussion:

The City of Hot Springs carefully examines public policy and policies of other agencies to identify, remove and amend those that may negatively impact the cost of developing, maintaining or improving housing.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Hot Springs will continue to work with public and private agencies to deliver community development, economic development and affordable housing solutions to its citizens as described in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

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

The largest single obstacle to meeting priority needs is a lack of available funding. The City attempts to do the most possible with the limited resources available by taking every opportunity to leverage funds, utilize in-kind services, and coordinate efforts amongst public and private agencies. The greatest benefit to housing from public sector resources can be leveraged by a concentrated effort of neighborhood improvements and job growth.

The Planning and Development Department will continue to develop new programs and initiatives, improve existing programs, utilize non-financial solutions, leverage and identify additional sources of funding to better serve those in need of suitable living environments, affordable housing and related services.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The overall strategy is to increase long-term, full-time job opportunities providing individuals and families with greater financial independence, create suitable living environments in existing neighborhoods where homes are affordable and increase home-ownership thereby decreasing the rental cost burdens and maintaining the existing housing stock. Decent, affordable home ownership is available in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, many homes being less expensive than median rent.

In addition, HUD-certified refinancing classes and foreclosure avoidance counseling will be launched in 2020 to help at-risk or in-crisis households remain housed.

2020 actions also include support of Habitat for Humanity non-profit home building projects providing housing for the elderly, disabled and families earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income on infill lots in existing neighborhoods with access to jobs, transportation, goods and services.

City staff will continue working with affordable housing developers, including Habitat for Humanity, to identify vacant lots and as needed, consider lien waiver requests to redevelop vacant lots for the purpose of new, affordable home building.

Finally, the City will continue to coordinate with its many partners to identify and implement solutions to address housing, homelessness, at-risk and special needs priorities with available funding and resources as appropriate.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Due to suspected levels of lead-based paint hazards in pre-1970's residential structures located throughout Hot Springs, the City will continue to undertake strategies requiring lead-based paint testing and abatement in all of its HUD funded housing activities.

The Consolidated Plan includes an assessment of the extent or the potential risk for lead based paint hazards in housing. However, the dangers of lead based paint, especially to children have always been known. In CDBG-assisted projects, the participants, whether homeowners, renters, landlords or contractors, are notified and advised of the hazards of lead based paint. CDBG rehabilitation of facilities in which overnight stays occur must have a lead paint inspection and risk assessment prior to bid specification write-up, which would then include appropriate actions. Contractors must possess lead paint safe work practices certification to perform rehabilitation work.

The City of Hot Springs ensures that lead-based paint hazard reduction regulations are followed, and projects undertaken with federal funds are brought into compliance with federal lead-based paint standards. The City utilizes EPA-certified, licensed lead-based paint consulting firms to conduct mandatory inspections, risk assessments, laboratory testing and clearance reports for HUD-funded housing projects where lead-based paint is suspected or present. After evaluation, the approach to reduction may include doing no harm by repairing disturbed surfaces, controlling and/or abating hazards. The City proactively disseminates information on lead hazards and regulations to staff, public agencies, community-based organizations, non-profits, contractors and homeowners.

In the event a child is suspected of having elevated levels of lead in his blood, a referral is made to the Garland County Public Health Department. The Health Department will evaluate the child's condition and pursue treatment.

The CDBG Administrator participated in a HUD Lead Hazards Control grant funding opportunity online workshop in May of 2019. An application for funding was not made at that time considering the match requirement of at least \$100,000, the fact that Hot Springs was not identified as a high need jurisdiction, and that Hot Springs does not currently provide housing rehabilitation services in which to pair the lead hazards and healthy home activities with.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City's Economic Development and Downtown Redevelopment plan has a clear focus on actions and strategies that support and nurture the City's economic infrastructure and promote its job growth viability. The approach encompasses the revitalization of Hot Springs' inner city neighborhoods including several targeted areas, in keeping with the overall mission of creating and maintaining livable and healthy communities.

The City will continue to pursue a broad array of initiatives to reduce the number of poverty level families to include:

- Working with the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce to aggressively pursue efforts to create and retain quality jobs including leveraging Opportunity Zones
- Encouraging small business development in the city's older mixed-use neighborhoods
- Advancing the City's Section 3 Economic and Employment Opportunities efforts to promote a good faith effort for contractors to hire low- and moderate-income persons by encouraging businesses and individuals to participate in the program
- Investing in targeted infrastructure improvements to encourage new or expanding businesses resulting in full-time, long term job growth
- Increasing low income household affordable home ownership to reduce rental cost burdens

CDBG-assisted 3Rs Getting Ahead for Youth Bridges Out of Poverty training will continue to be offered by Ouachita Childrens Center and Cutter Morning Star schools in 2020 to break the cycle of generational poverty through short- and long-term goal setting, resource identification and healthy life skill development. While no CDBG funds are directly allocated, the City will coordinate efforts with organizations assisting those exiting poverty through the CDBG-funded credit counseling, home buyer education, refinancing classes and foreclosure avoidance counseling services.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Hot Springs institutional structure for carrying out activities under the Consolidated Plan is in place and working well. It includes coordination and cooperation with local, state and federal agencies and organizations, as well as close interaction among internal departments.

Effective coordination exists and is improving among non-profit organizations involved in the delivery of supportive housing services, food bank/pantry, health and emergency shelter. The City has increased interactions with these organizations and within the community by actively working with neighborhood associations, community groups, service providers, economic development agencies, area schools, private investors, and non-profits to connect common interests for the greatest benefit.

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.

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

The City of Hot Springs continues to work in coordination and collaboration with multiple public and private entities including the Hot Springs Housing Authority, Garland County Habitat for Humanity, affordable housing developers, landlords, as well as neighborhood associations and non-profits in addressing the needs of low-income, special needs, and homeless populations.

Home buyer and homeowner education classes will be promoted with the Hot Springs Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Program Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity applicants, mentally and physically disabled service providers, homelessness service providers, area real estate agents, lending institutions and others to further home ownership and fair housing.

The City is also working with community organizations to identify the needs of small businesses in mixed-use and commercial corridors. Significant planning efforts between these entities continue to be coordinated by the City's Planning and Development office.

Discussion:

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. Coordination and collaboration efforts will continue to address underserved needs by leveraging funds, resources and opportunities amongst many community partners.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Program income is realized when liens are satisfied either through the sale or refinancing of a home that benefitted from the 2004-2013 housing rehabilitation program prior to the end of the 10 year forgiveness period, or repayment of a lien placed against the nuisance abatement, demolition and clearance of a condemned structure. There is no current or anticipated program income at this time.

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; and does not receive income from float-funded activities.

No fiscal year 2020 CDBG activities have been designated as urgent needs whose existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and in which other financial resources are unavailable.

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

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

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
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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.

82.00%