

City of Bloomington, Illinois PY2021 CDBG CAPER

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The City conducted a variety of community development activities in Program Year 2021/46 (May 1, 2021- April 30, 2022) designed to meet the needs of low-to-moderate income community members. Activities focused on the following areas.

1. Rehabilitation of single-family, owner-occupied housing (13 units)
2. Rehabilitation of multi-family unit housing (21 units)
3. Accessibility ramps for single-family housing units (3 units)
4. Demolition of blighted and deteriorated structures (1 unit)
5. Public service projects (6)
6. Public facility improvements (2)
7. Public infrastructure improvements (1)
8. Section 3 Job Training (1)

The majority of the activities were conducted in the City's low-to-moderate income areas.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Administer CDBG effectively and proficiently.	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other		0		50	49	98.00%
COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response	Affordable Housing Business Support/Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	25	191	764.00%			
COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response	Affordable Housing Business Support/Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	125	176	140.80%			
COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response	Affordable Housing Business Support/Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	25	105	420.00%			
COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response	Affordable Housing Business Support/Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	86				

COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response	Affordable Housing Business Support/Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	0	60				
COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response	Affordable Housing Business Support/Economic Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	30	60	200.00%			
Elimination of slum and blight conditions.	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	15	0	0.00%			
Elimination of slum and blight conditions.	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	5	3	60.00%	3	1	33.33%
Preservation of existing affordable housing stock.	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	35	37	105.71%	21	21	100.00%
Preservation of existing affordable housing stock.	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	100	34	34.00%	21	16	76.19%
Provide quality services and facilities.	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3000	635	21.17%			

Support the provision of public service activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5000	5193	103.86%	1350	3586	265.63%
Support the provision of public service activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	276		0	276	
Support the provision of public service activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	1500	1061	70.73%	300	899	299.67%

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

Housing Rehabilitation:

The City utilized CDBG funding to support rehabilitation and accessibility improvements on 56 housing units during Program Year 2021. Nine of those projects were completed through the deferred loan program. Three homeowners received grants for accessibility improvements and four homeowners received grants through Habitat for Humanity’s Brush with Kindness program, which is partially funded by the City’s CDBG dollars. The Bloomington Housing Authority received a grant to replace aged and nearly obsolete boiler systems in public housing units. This grant

supports 40 housing units. In total, \$245,196.03 was spent on housing rehabilitation to low-to-moderate income community members.

Demolition Program:

Demolition costs were again much lower than anticipated due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. One demolition project was completed during the program year. Additional challenges related to obtaining proper title to vacant/abandoned properties slated for demolition continue to lower the number of properties that can be demolished. In total, \$20,770.00 was spent on demolition activities in this program year.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure:

The City began two public facility and one public infrastructure project during Program Year 2021. One project was focused on Mid-Central Community Action's (MCCA) Mayors Manor facility, which provides housing to formerly homeless disabled community members. This project updated unit heaters and will also assist in installing ADA compliant doors. Due to COVID-19 related supply chain issues, the doors needed to complete this project are on backorder. The remaining projects in this category are related to each other. First, the City funded sidewalk and ADA building improvements to the West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP). Second, the City funded wider ranging sidewalk improvements in the area surrounding WBRP (West Corridor). Both projects are currently being completed, however, several technical challenges related to the WBRP project have slowed progress. COVID-19 Pandemic supply chain issues have also slowed progress on these projects.

The West Corridor sidewalk project services approximately 1,105 residents in the area. A similar number of residents will be served by the WBRP building improvements. MCCA's Mayors Manor facility serves 26 formerly homeless disabled community members. A total of \$41,912.68 has been spent so far and \$117,487.32 is estimated to be spent as these projects reach completion.

Public Services

Activities that support public services are a critical piece of the community's social service infrastructure. In Program Year 2021, six public service projects were funded. The Peace Meals program through the OSF Healthcare System served 1,281 Bloomington residents by providing meals to seniors. Of the 1,281 residents served 88.9% stated they ate a healthier variety of food and 89.63% indicated they can continue to live in their homes due, in part, to this service. The West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP) served 701 Bloomington community members with a

variety of programs. Programs include a Bicycle Co-Op that supports folks traveling to work, a tool library to help folks get tools to maintain their homes, and a bed blitz that builds bed frames for community members. Providing Access to HELP (PATH) had two public service programs that received CDBG funding. PATH's Homeless Services program assisted 1,175 community members with homelessness prevention interventions. This effort was extremely important given that COVID-19 Pandemic public health and economic measures such as the eviction moratorium were increasingly lifted during the program year. McLean County saw a dramatic rise in the number of community members experiencing or facing homelessness and these services were a critical portion of the social service infrastructure that directly responded to this crisis. The Emergency Services program through PATH also greatly assisted the community during this challenging time. Fifty (50) community members received assistance during the program year. Emergency funds can be used to cover the cost of rent, utilities, temporary shelter, and transportation for a period not to exceed three months. A portion of the Emergency Services program also addresses self-neglect and hoarding concerns. Recycling Furniture for Families (RF4F) served 251 community members acquire housewares and home furnishings during the program year. Of those served, 76.49% had an annual income below 30% Area Median Income (AMI). Community members in this income bracket were especially hard hit during the Pandemic. Finally, KTB Financial Services provided services to 128 community members avoid homelessness, improve food security, receive medical care, and prevent 56 and fraud among the disabled and elderly population. Public service activities accounted for \$75,506.25 of CDBG spending in PY2021.

Administrative, Fair Housing, Section 3 Training, and Planning

The City continued its partnership with Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) to provide fair housing services to income qualified Bloomington residents. This partnership underscores the City's commitment to affirmatively furthering fair housing. In Program Year 2021, PSLS completed intake services and more legal services if needed for community members facing housing discrimination or other unlawful practices. Additionally, PSLS conducted fair housing tests throughout the community to take a proactive approach to eliminating unfair housing practices. Six (6) outreach events were also conducted by PSLS during the program year. The City funded Section 3 job training opportunities in partnership with the Bloomington Housing Authority. This activity focused on career and job readiness skills, self-sufficiency, and career readiness for youth activities. The City's partnership with the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) also continued as community partners engaged in fruitful discussions and research through the Housing Staff Committee and Affordable and Supportive Housing Committee. MCRPC also has continued to provide high quality research that will be incredibly important for future planning, including the next five-year consolidated plan. The City used some CDBG funding to assist with the implementation of the CDBG program during the program year. Fair housing expenses were \$15,000.00 during the year. Section 3 training opportunity funding expenses were \$10,000.00. And planning funds were

\$31,589.57 for the program year. The City's total administrative expenses were less than 15 percent.

CDBG-CV

The City's CDBG-CV Emergency Assistance Program supported 93 households in Program Year 2021. Rent, mortgage, gas utility, and electric utility assistance to residents was provided through this program. The City is currently exploring options to exhaust the remaining CDBG-CV CARES Act funds and will complete/close activities in IDIS as this topic is discussed further internally.

PR-26 Report

The attached PR-26 report features several adjustments to reflect issues reported to HUD regarding the report in IDIS. As advised by HUD, the City made manual adjustments to correct the report. The report was not properly pulling all relevant rehabilitation activities due to a recent software update.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted.

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	2,231
Black or African American	1,080
Asian	20
American Indian or American Native	27
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5
Total	3,363
Hispanic	152
Not Hispanic	3,209

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

The total served should be 3,830 residents. Of that number 152 were of Hispanic ethnicity. In addition to the race categories above, the following categories were represented on the PR-23: American Indian/Alaskan Native and White, Black/African American and White, and other multi-race. The data that populates in this section does not match the information found in the PR-23. This issue has been present in previous CAPERs as well. The 3,830 number represents what is shown in the PR-23. Subrecipients and the City report data based on information collected for both race and ethnicity. These questions are separate on CDBG related forms and reporting documents.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available.

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	710,361	461,136

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

This total spending does not include the remaining costs that will complete public infrastructure projects from Program Year 2021. Once these expenses are reflected, the overall spending will likely exceed the annual allocation for Program Year 2021 (\$555,361.19). Activities moving forward will strive to reduce the carry-over amount from previous program years.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments.

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
LMA Preservation Area	2	34	
LMA Regeneration Area - Outside WBRP	64	33	
WBRP Service Area	34	33	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments.

Narrative

Eligibility for all CDBG programs is based on income or other qualifying national objective groups (i.e., limited clientele). The City does not restrict funds based on geography within the City's corporate boundaries, so estimating the percentage of the allocation is always difficult. The target area information is based on City single-family residential rehabilitation activities.

Based on PR-03 and PR-23 reports the total CDBG expenditure for Program Year 2021 is \$461,135.89. It is estimated that once the open public facility and infrastructure activities are completed that will climb to \$578,623.21.

Properties that are unfit for rehabilitation are typically demolished using CDBG or other state funding sources. After the structure is demolished, the City-owned land, if applicable, is then provided to Habitat for Humanity for the construction of new affordable housing stock. The City does not operate a land bank or trust but makes an effort to make City owned land zoned for residential purposes available for new affordable housing development.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City of Bloomington Economic and Community Development Department's Community Enhancement Division continues to seek ways to leverage resources to increase or enhance the level of services it provides to low-to-moderate income community members. Primary constraints are related to financial and staff resources. Staff will continue to seek partnerships and opportunities that allow for additional service or better services for our community. In Program Year 2021 the City leveraged funding from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) programs including their Single-Family Rehabilitation (SFR), Home Accessibility Program (HAP), and Strong Communities Program (SCP). SFR and HAP are housing rehabilitation programs that complement our CDBG housing rehabilitation program. SCP complements the City's CDBG demolition program as well.

The City also is the Trustee of the John M. Scott Trust, which provides grants to health care and social service organizations to meet the health care needs of residents in McLean County. This trust is administered by an 11-member commission and the Community Enhancement Division's Grants Coordinator. During this program year the Trust provided over \$700,000 in grants to organizations. This program in addition to CDBG public service spending continue to be important aspects of the community's social service infrastructure.

Federal funding separate from the City's CDBG program will come from Continuum of Care grants managed by the City and the Lead Hazard Control grant program awarded to the City. Continuum of Care funding will continue to help alleviate and prevent homelessness within the community. The Lead Hazard Control program was scheduled to be operational during this program year, but challenges related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and staffing has delayed this program from becoming operational. However, once operational it will allow CDBG housing rehabilitation funding to increase the amount of lead-based paint abatement work to be completed.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	5	5
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	5	5

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	28	93
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	3	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	46	37
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	2	1
Total	79	131

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continued to slow progress on projects through a variety of ways. The Pandemic had serious implications for contractor availability on housing rehabilitation projects. To ensure that our community members, staff, and contractors are safe, applicable COVID-19 Pandemic public health protocols were followed. Unfortunately, a high volume of COVID cases led to delays in projects as people followed these guidelines to ensure safety. However, the supply chain delays proved

to be the most significant impediment to the completion of projects. Material delays caused by supply chain issues rooted in the Pandemic also increased costs with nearly all projects.

Habitat for Humanity's construction of new affordable housing units was also hampered by supply-chain issues and problems related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Multiple new affordable housing units are nearing completion, but they will be recorded as completed in Program Year 2022 (May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023).

The City was able to demolish one property during the program year (acquisition of existing units). The City is working to accelerate the demolition process so demolition goals in the Annual Action Plan and 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan can be met.

CDBG funds supported public housing rehabilitation for the Bloomington Housing Authority led to 21 units being served (reported through one activity). The City's Continuum of Care Shelter Plus Care grant continued to support homeless individuals at Mayor's Manor in Bloomington.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City is continuing to evaluate how to operate housing rehabilitation programs given the current environment. For contractors, the City is hoping to build contractor capacity so any COVID-19 Pandemic, or future pandemic, related staffing issues will not lead to as significant of delays across projects. Material delays and costs will prove to be a larger challenge moving forward. Ways to decrease costs and increase efficiency will be considered, but there are significant limitations to this approach without funding increases from HUD. Having said this, given this program year operated in a harsh environment the City and its partners still delivered a high amount of rehabilitation work for the community.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	24	0
Low-income	8	0
Moderate-income	5	0
Total	37	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Although the City does not utilize CDBG funding to support the construction of affordable housing directly, it does donate cleared lots to Habitat for Humanity for the development of affordable housing.

Additionally, the City devotes a significant amount of annual CDBG funding to the preservation of affordable housing through rehabilitation projects.

Of the rental unit rehabilitation completed for the Bloomington Housing Authority, twenty units had households with income at or below 30% Area Median Income (AMI). One household served had an income at or below 50% AMI.

For single-family unit rehabilitation, four units were at or below 30% of AMI, seven units were at or below 50% AMI, and five units were at or below 80% AMI.

Of the 38 households served, 21 were served with rental housing rehabilitation funds provided to the Bloomington Housing Authority. The remaining were supported through single-family unit housing rehabilitation.

93 households were supported through CDBG funded rental and utility assistance provided by CARES Act funds during the program year. This exceeded the goal. All households assisted were listed under one IDIS activity.

The City continues to address worst case needs through the single-family housing rehabilitation program funded by CDBG. The rehabilitation program addresses many structures with serious code violations that present health, life, and safety issues for our community members. Disabled residents have been served through the City's partnership with AMBUCS, which builds accessibility ramps for elderly and/or disabled community members in single-family housing units. CDBG funds pay for the material and AMBUCS volunteers provide the labor to build the ramps.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

Providing Access to Help (PATH) Crisis Center serves as the lead coordinating agency for the Central Illinois Continuum of Care (CICoC). Due to the Continuum's large geographic space covered (11 counties), hubs have been implemented to best suit the needs of the communities. As such, McLean County is one of the hubs and PATH leads these monthly meetings and the Continuum's bimonthly meetings. These meetings allow for effective planning regarding the CoC's ability to reduce and end homelessness.

Through its Homeless Services Program, PATH reaches out to individuals and families experience homelessness. Through referrals from the police departments, hospitals, social service agencies, churches and truck stops, the outreach worker will make the initial contact and begin the process of assessing the needs of the client(s).

The outreach team regularly goes out into the field to known places unfit for human habitation to locate people, initiate relationships, assess needs and help clients navigate the network of resources available in the community.

The outreach worker also responds to people identified through the Coordinated Point of Entry; another role PATH plays in the effort to reduce homelessness. On a 24/7 basis, people on the streets, in shelters or in transitional housing, can dial 211 and receive immediate support, assessment and are transferred to the Coordinated Point of Entry.

With a vast database, outreach staff can make referrals to obtain local and mainstream resources such as Social Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and employment. This connection process leads individuals and families into permanent housing. Outreach services productively meets the specific outreach objectives for reducing and ending homelessness.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Salvation Army Safe Harbor Shelter provides emergency shelter and services for adult women and men who are experiencing homelessness. Safe Harbor provides case management services, a day center and meals. Showers, washer/dryers, and other amenities are offered to people through the day center when they may not meet the shelter's guidelines for bed space. The shelter also opens a warming center between October and March to provide indoor space when all beds are filled. Safe Harbor also has an employment program on site and provides transportation for job interviews. The Salvation Army's

shelter is a strong partner in the Coordinated Point of Entry that helps move people from a shelter setting into permanent housing.

Home Sweet Home Ministries, another member of the CoC, provides emergency shelter for adult women and men as well as families. There are limitations; families are generally separated to a men's side and a women's side, but it is the result of the layout of the facility. The program has been in place for over a century. The shelter stated providing Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) services and has had considerable success in moving people from the shelter into a home. RRH helps to solve the problem of separating families in the shelter facility.

Neville House is a domestic violence shelter that has room for 13 women and children. They participate in the Coordinated Point of Entry. Finally, there is a crisis shelter for children under the age of 6 if there are no family units available and a parent is unable to procure any other housing suitable for young children. They receive children into the facility 24/7.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Avoiding homelessness reduces the stress on individuals, families, and the homeless service sector. CDBG funds are used to support the Emergency Grant program. The grant is utilized to provide emergency rent/mortgage and utility assistance for individuals in imminent danger of becoming homeless. It also provides payment to local hotels for individuals experiencing homelessness. A portion of the grant assists the Self-Neglect Program by assisting with the rental of dumpsters for cleanup at properties of individuals and families in imminent danger of becoming homeless due to condemnation related to hoarding issues and other code violations.

Other sources for emergency rent or utility assistance that would prevent a family from losing housing are utilized. Townships are a part of the referral process although every Township has different guidelines. Community Action has financial assistance; they administer the LIHEAP program and other programs that address the root issues of the fiscal crisis that puts a family at risk of homelessness.

Policies do exist within the Continuum for people being discharged from institutions and systems of care. The community mental health agency is involved in the transition from a state mental health facility to the community. They provide transitional apartments, a staffed boarding house, and some permanent supportive units. A day center helps with social needs and helps the person build a support system after hospitalization. Local hospitals work with the homeless outreach program when they release a person who does not have a home to return to.

For young adults aging out of foster care or who no longer have a family to support them, have options with the Continuum. Project Oz has a remarkably successful transitional housing program where youth are placed into apartments with strong supports. As the youth gain skills and their income increases, supports fade until the youth is no longer in the program but is still in their apartment. Project Oz has a program for homeless youth that provides options when youth are being discharged from any type of facility.

The county government has created programs to meet the needs of people coming out of corrections who were homeless before incarceration. The Frequent User System Engagement (FUSE) program provides intensive case management and funding for permanent supportive housing. The program targets people who meet HUD's definition of being chronically homeless. The CoC works with the county government in providing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to identify those most in need of help (with the appropriate signed consent).

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Labyrinth House provides case management and transitional housing for women entering the community from the correctional system. The City has supported Labyrinth in the past by funding a part-time case manager and assisting with rehabilitation costs for housing units. Labyrinth can house up to ten women at two transitional housing units. Seeds of Hope is an organization focused on providing similar supportive services to men leaving corrections. Currently, the program provides case management only with the goal of offering transitional housing in the future.

Additionally, the Supportive Housing Project (SHP) supports staff positions at Salvation Army, PATH, Crisis Nursery, and Recycling Furniture for Families. These programs help both homeless and those in imminent danger of becoming homeless.

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

The main system and infrastructure we have in place to help people experiencing homelessness has been described above.

In terms of moving people to housing in the shortest amount of time, Rapid Re-Housing programs has been the avenue to success. The Coordinated Point of Entry keeps track of all the individuals on the Prioritization List on at least a monthly basis.

Outside of the Rapid Re-Housing Program, Townships and Community Action may have the funds for first month's rent and deposit. The outreach worker keeps the listing of available housing up to date

including the requirements of the property owners. This list is updated every other week and made available to everyone seeking a place to rent.

The Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) has a prioritization policy for people experiencing homelessness. The BHA also has more flexibility with entrance requirements for people experiencing homelessness when it comes to prior evictions and property owner references. Other affordable housing complexes have an understanding of the great importance of housing people quickly and have been open to receiving referrals for homeless individuals and families.

The CCoC has been recognized as ending veteran homelessness, by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This entails finding permanent placement within 90 days of being recognized as homeless. The CCoC works closely with all veteran organizations to meet this goal.

Another resource to move people quickly out of emergency shelter is Mid Central Community Action (MCCA) transitional housing program based in Bloomington-Normal. This program provides up to two years of housing and case management to individuals and families who are transitioning from homelessness and/or inadequate housing. Rent costs are based on the tenant's income, with a maximum cost of \$550 per month, and family members complete bi-weekly case management sessions with financial coaches to increase their knowledge and work toward financial stability. MCCA also serves 15 people coming from homeless at Mayors Manor Permanent Supportive Housing. These previously homeless or chronically homeless residents received short-term, medium-term, or long-term case management services, budget counseling, and self-sufficiency assessments. There are also five Shelter Plus Care beds, in conjunction with the Housing Authority, at the facility.

Chestnut Health System has Supportive Housing, Samaritan Housing, and Project Hope, all of which provide permanent supportive housing. This organization does work closely with Coordinated Point of Entry, so we have the opportunity to move people into housing as quickly as possible.

Recycling Furniture for Families assists with household items that help make the new housing a home for free.

The City of Bloomington, in conjunction with the Continuum of Care, follow several strategies for helping low-to-moderate income families avoid becoming homeless. First referrals are made to PATH's 24/7 information and referral line by dialing 211 to gain knowledge of services available and to access PATH Homeless Services if needed, which can provide limited emergency funds to help families avoid eviction or home condemnation. Second, the CoC and the City work with the Bloomington Township office, which provides emergency and general assistance. Finally, the City will continue to provide letters of support for agencies seeking federal, state, and private funding for homelessness prevention programs.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing.

In Program Year 2021, the Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) continued its reinvestment at Irvin South and McGraw Apartments. This project replaced old, obsolete boilers at two public housing buildings to ensure the preservation of safe, decent, and affordable housing for low-income residents.

Section 3 job training efforts funded through CDBG are critical to helping BHA residents move towards self-sufficiency. Jobs skills training sessions were provided, and the BHA also refers residents to a wide range of career and social service resources throughout the year.

BHA leadership is also an active participant in Housing Staff Committee and Affordable and Supportive Housing Committee made possible, in part, through City CDBG funding. Tackling larger region wide housing affordability issues will be a critical mission moving forward for these committees, and the BHA will play a vital role in developing long-term strategies.

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

The Housing Authority continues to administer a Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program for public housing residents. This voluntary program allows members of a household to save money in an escrow account when the family increases its income. This savings is paid into the account monthly as a part of the family's rent payment. Resident Services staff help the participants set self-sufficiency goals to be completed over a matter of years. The participant is allowed to tap into their escrow account for education, purchasing of a car, and even a down payment on a home. Many Housing Authority families have benefitted from this program over the years.

Through Section 3 job training programs, the City is actively funding a foundational approach to homeownership. Stable employment and finances are critical aspects of homeownership, and our Section 3 funding provides incredible opportunities for BHA residents to build that foundation. Without employment and financial stability, homeownership will likely fail. Thus, by building these skills the City along with the BHA is creating an environment to achieve long-term success in homeownership.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Bloomington Housing Authority is not categorized as troubled.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The City makes a concerted effort to keep all building permits/fees as low as possible. All approved contractors completing CDBG activities and non-profit agencies conducting housing activities are provided fee waivers. The City adopted a new zoning ordinance in early 2019 that takes affordable housing into consideration. The City also provides letters of consistency for local developers seeking tax credits for affordable housing development. Several new Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects have been approved for the area in recent years.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City's CDBG housing rehabilitation program meets an important need within the community. Without this program, many households would have to take less than favorable loans or not have access to credit at all to complete important rehabilitation to their homes to correct health, life, and safety issues per adopted City codes.

The City continues to expend close to 15% of its annual CDBG allocation on public service activities. In Program Year 2021, \$75,506.25 was spent on homelessness prevention, food insecurity for elderly residents, and neighborhood services in West Bloomington. Additionally, the City continues to serve as the Trustee for the John M. Scott Health Care Trust. This trust provided over \$700,000 in funding during the program year to address the healthcare needs of McLean County residents. The trust serves community members at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. All grants awarded focus on goals identified in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City was awarded a \$2.3 million Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grant in 2020. This grant will allow for the abatement of lead-based paint hazards in approximately 92 housing units. Delays in program implementation have come from continued challenges related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, contractor availability, and staff changes.

The City's single-housing rehabilitation program also takes steps to reduce lead-based paint hazards by following applicable federal regulations on lead-based paint hazards. Single-family units built before 1978 are tested for lead-based paint hazards before the scope of work is drafted. Lead clearance testing also takes place in these properties after rehabilitation work is completed. Community members are provided the results of the lead assessment and clearance testing along with other information about lead-based paint hazards.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City's CDBG funding helps reduce the number of poverty-level families in several ways. First, the City's housing rehabilitation program focuses on removing code violations that impact a resident's health, life, and safety. This work also protects the home of the family, which is not only their place of shelter but their primary investment. The homeowners that we serve would not be able to afford a traditional home improvement loan without pushing the household into poverty. This program provides critical relief for these families for needs that have a prohibitive cost.

Over the last two program years, the City has provided COVID-19 Pandemic rent and utility assistance through our CDBG-CV program that was funded through the CARES Act. This program dominated a significant amount of staff time and resources to manage, but ultimately provided critical relief to families directly impacted by the Pandemic and related economic impacts.

The City's Section 3 funding also provides critical knowledge and education for public housing residents. Through this program, many community members are on a better path towards achieving employment and financial stability.

Our public service activity funding also helps residents avoid homelessness, provides food security, and other critical neighborhood services that help pull people out of or prevent poverty.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City continues to evaluate how to best manage the seven grant programs currently held by the Community Enhancement Division. The seven grant programs are funded through federal, state, and local resources. The programs include CDBG, Continuum of Care, HUD Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Program, Illinois Housing Development Authority's (IHDA) Single Family Rehabilitation Program, IHDA's Strong Communities program, the John M. Scott Trust Grant Program, and the City's Overhead Sewer Replacement program. Due to staffing changes during the program year, operational structure is being re-evaluated to ensure that the most can be made of limited resources. Additionally, the City is looking at potential partnerships that may assist in that effort.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The City utilized past CDBG funding to support a regional housing study which was completed in 2017. As a result of the study, the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) has implemented a Regional Housing Advisory Committee comprised of a Staff Committee, Affordable/Supportive Housing Group, and Innovative Housing Solutions Group. The overall mission of the Regional Housing Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for housing stakeholders to interact on a regular basis, identify collaborative opportunities, and proactively address housing issues in the community. City staff currently participate on the Staff Committee and Affordable/Supportive Housing Group. Other members

of the Staff Committee include representatives from MCRPC, Bloomington Housing Authority, Town of Normal and PATH (Providing Access to Help). The Affordable/Supportive Housing Group is comprised of social service agencies with a vested interest in quality, affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

In Program Year 2019, the City funded its first grant to directly address fair housing issues. The City created a partnership with Prairie State Legal Services to support a staff attorney position dedicating a portion of her time to address fair housing complaints and training local officials and City staff on fair housing laws and practices. This program was well received and will continue to expand in Program Year 2020 to include a fair housing testing component. An analysis of fair housing impediments was included in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan public outreach and planning process through the work of program partner Prairie State Legal Services. Additionally, fair housing information and research was included in the BN Home-Regional Housing Study published in October 2017.

Additional barriers are addressed below.

1. Increased costs for residential development from fees, building materials, labor, and other inflationary pressures have substantially tightened the housing market to the detriment of low-to-moderate income residents. The City is addressing this issue by maintaining an equitable, fair list of development fees. Additionally, the City offers permit waivers for not-for-profit organizations and all Community Enhancement Division approved contractors. The City continues to partner with several non-profit organizations dedicated to providing affordable housing through new construction and rehabilitation.
2. Public transportation issues identified by the community include limited bus routes and inconvenient hours of operation. The City continues, and hopes to build on, its partnership with Connect Transit, which the primary mass transit provider in the community. The partnership will hopefully investigate opportunities for CDBG funding to improve services for Connect Transit.
3. Deteriorating road and sidewalks have made housing choices more difficult for residents. CDBG funding was used in this program year for sidewalk upgrades and that plan is moving forward in future program years. Staff and the community will investigate roads and sidewalks needs in the next consolidated plan and learn from sidewalk activities in this current Consolidated Plan.
4. Accessibility for disabled community members and the need for more permanent supportive housing has been an identified barrier as well. The City partners with AMBUCS to build accessibility ramps through the CDBG housing rehabilitation program. The City used CDBG funds to cover the cost of the material and AMBUCS provides the volunteer labor to construct the ramps. As the Administrator for several Continuum of Care (CoC) grants, the City supports a rent subsidy at Mayors Manor, which is one of several HUD funded Permanent Supportive Housing programs in McLean County.

5. Many residents were concerned about payday lenders and consumer installment loan licenses, but this issue was addressed by a City resolution in 2011 that prohibited particularly dangerous types of payday and consumer loans.
6. Rental unit price continues to be a concern. Unfortunately, due to national housing market issues and increased housing demand locally due to economic expansion, the issue has become worse for many residents. The City along with its partners are investigating ways to promote and establish additional housing options that meet the needs of all residents. The McLean County Regional Planning Commission has been studying the issue in collaboration with community partners and this will continue to guide policymakers as they confront this pressing problem.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements.

Monitoring activities for CDBG and CDBG-CV include creating and implementing a tracking system to track progress on all projects, periodic reporting requirements, providing funding on reimbursement basis only, monitoring of subrecipients, and gathering annual financial audit information for subrecipients from an outside CPA firm for compliance with generally accepted practices and principals of accounting and compliance with federal statutes and regulations. Much of the monitoring process, especially since the COVID-19 Pandemic started, has been done through grant management software.

The multitude of partnerships the City has with community stakeholders also allows the City to better plan and coordinate CDBG activities. This will expand as the planning process for the next Consolidated Plan begins and staff transitions have settled. One area the City has identified as a challenge is recruiting minority and women-owned businesses to Community Enhancement Division programs. Previous advertising efforts have not been highly successful, but as we start the process for the next Consolidated Plan this will be a focus during those planning duties.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The public comment period for this CAPER was from July 12, 2022 through July 28, 2022. A public hearing was held on July 25, 2022, during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. No public comments were made during the public hearing or during the public comment period. All public hearings are made available to community members requiring special accommodations (i.e., disability, non-English speaking). Additionally, the public hearing was made available to ensure that minority communities had the opportunity to participate in the process. Notice of the public comment period and public hearing was published in the Pantagraph on July 11, 2022. Additionally, notice of the public comment period and public hearing was provided to the PATH-O-GRAM and other community stakeholders.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction’s program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

The City’s program objectives stayed consistent throughout the entire Consolidated Plan. These objectives were based on outreach completed during the creation of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The COVID-19 Pandemic and supply-chain issues were barriers to meeting some goals during the program year, but the City is hopeful these issues will be less prevalent in the coming program year.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided.

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	1	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours					
Total Section 3 Worker Hours					
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours					

Table 8 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).	1				
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding childcare.					
Assisted residents to apply for or attend community college or a four-year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					
Other.					

Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

The City's Section 3 training provides funding for public housing residents to receive job readiness and career skill training. This training assists the community members compete for jobs and build a more secure financial future.