

City of Bloomington, Illinois PY2022 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 2022 (May 1, 2022- April 30, 2023) 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 (9 units)
2. Accessibility ramps for single-family, owner-occupied housing units (2 units)
3. Water-Sewer service for new affordable residential housing units (3 units)
4. Public housing modifications to Irvin Apartments for security camera installation (25 units)
5. Demolition of a blighted and deteriorated residential housing structure (1 unit)
6. Public service projects (6)
7. Public facility improvements (1)
8. Public infrastructure improvements (1)
9. Section 3 job training (1)
10. Fair housing program (1)

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: \$ / CDBG- CV: \$0	Other	Other	0	0		50	28	56.00%
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	4	26.67%			
Elimination of slum and blight conditions.	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	5	4	80.00%	2	1	50.00%
Preservation of existing affordable housing stock.	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	35	62	177.14%			
Preservation of existing affordable housing stock.	Affordable Housing Public Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	100	45	45.00%	22	15	68.18%
Provide quality services and facilities.	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3000	5828	194.27%			

Support the provision of public service activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG- CV: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5000	7723	154.46%	1350	2530	187.41%
Support the provision of public service activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG- CV: \$0	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	276				
Support the provision of public service activities	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / CDBG- CV: \$0	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	1500	1702	113.47%	300	641	213.67%

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 Activities

The City used CDBG funding to support rehabilitation and accessibility improvements on eleven (11) residential owner-occupied, single-family housing units during Program Year 2022. Nine (9) of the projects completed were through the City's zero percent (0%) interest deferred payment loan program. Two (2) households received grants for accessibility ramps through the City's partnership with Cornbelt AMBUCS. Additionally, water and sewer service for three (3) new affordable housing units was completed in the program year. Habitat for Humanity of McLean County

will work to construct the new affordable housing units. The housing rehabilitation activities helped alleviate health, safety, accessibility, and code violations on properties throughout the community. During Program Year 2022, CDBG funds were also used for a security camera installation project for the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington's Irvin Apartments, which assisted twenty-five (25) units. In total, \$368,095.73 was spent during Program Year 2022 on housing rehabilitation activities.

Demolition Activities

During Program Year 2022, the City demolished one (1) structure with CDBG funds. State funding was also used. The now vacant parcel will be used to construct a new unit of affordable housing. 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, \$20,764.80 was spent on CDBG housing demolition activities during the program year.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure

The City used CDBG funding to support one (1) public facility improvement activity and one (1) public infrastructure project during the program year. The public facility improvement activity supported Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements for Mid-Central Community Action (MCCA). During Program Year 2022, the City also finished the Program Year 2021 sidewalk project on the City's West side. The sidewalk improvement project slated for Program Year 2022 was delayed due to the timing of the annual entitlement funding for Program Year 2022 and limitations on construction during the winter months. The Program Year 2022 sidewalk improvement project is likely to be completed in Program Year 2023. In total, \$139,751.68 was spent during Program Year 2022 on public facility and infrastructure activities.

Administrative, Fair Housing, Section 3 Training, and Community Planning Activities

The City continued the partnership with Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) to provide fair housing services to income qualified Bloomington community members. This partnership underscores the City's commitment to affirmatively furthering fair housing. In Program Year 2022, 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 held by PSLs during the program year. The City also funded Section 3 job training opportunities in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington. This included a job and community resource fair and a career and self-sufficiency training. The City's partnership with the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) 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. Additional funds were used to support administrative needs to run the various CDBG activities in the program year. In total, \$47,046.61 was spent in Program Year 2022 to support community planning, Section 3, and fair housing activities.

Public Services

Activities that support public services are a critical piece of the community's social service infrastructure. In Program Year 2022, six (6) public service activities were funded by the City's CDBG program. The Peace Meals program operated by the OSF Healthcare System served one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six (1,776) community members by providing meals and nutrition services to seniors. Of the people served with the Peace Meal program, ninety percent (90%) community members served reported they can continue living in their homes, in part, because of this service. The West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP) served five hundred and seventy-four (574) community members with a variety of community programs. Programs include a Bicycle Co-Op that supports community members traveling to work and increasing their well-being, a tool library where clients can rent tools to maintain their homes, and a bed blitz that builds bed frames for community members in need. Partners for Community served two hundred and forty-nine (249) community members through their Recycling Furniture for Families program in the program year. This program assists community members acquire housewares and home furnishings. KTB Financial Services, Inc. served one hundred and twenty (120) community members and helped them avoid homelessness, improve food security, receive medical care, and prevent fraud. KTB Financial Services Inc. serves disabled and elderly community members. PATH served seven hundred and fifty-two (752) community members in the program year between homeless and emergency services. In total, \$74,551.40 was spent during Program Year 2022 for public service activities.

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	2,405
Black or African American	1,199
Asian	27
American Indian or American Native	33
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4
Total	3,668
Hispanic	231
Not Hispanic	3,571

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

Narrative

Data populated into this table has been adjusted to reflect the information found in PR-23 report. The total served should be 3,802 community members based on the PR-23 report. Of that number 231 community members were of Hispanic ethnicity. In addition to the race categories above, the following categories were represented on the PR-23 report: American Indian/Alaskan Native and White, Black/African American and White, American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African-American, and other multi-race.

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	860,864	673,302
Other	public - federal	0	

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The City was able to increase CDBG expenditures during Program Year 2022 compared to previous program years. The two most recent program years were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This trend is expected to continue into Program Year 2023, which should allow the City to reduce the carry-over funding amount that built up from previous program years.

The \$673,302.44 includes some public facility and infrastructure spending that was delayed from Program Year 2021. Currently, there is an additional \$184,000.00 allocated from the Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan for a public infrastructure project expected to be expended in Program Year 2023 due to delays in receiving CDBG funds from HUD, availability of contractors, and local weather constraints.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments.

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
LMA Preservation Area	34	27	
LMA Regeneration Area - Outside WBRP	2	36	
WBRP Service Area	64	18	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Eligibility for all CDBG programs is based on income, national objective criteria, other applicable Federal regulations, and other program requirements. The City does not restrict funds based on geography within the City's corporate boundaries, so estimating percentage of the allocation is difficult. The target area information is based on City single-family residential housing rehabilitation activities. Two (18.18%) of the single-family housing rehabilitation projects occurred outside of the target areas listed above, which is why the total does not equal one hundred percent (100%). The WBRP service area is within the City's regeneration area. Estimating the geographic distribution of housing rehabilitation services in the Annual Action Plan is extremely difficult given the City does not have geographic constraints on the housing rehabilitation program outside of the requirement to be within the corporate boundaries of the

City.

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 buildable, 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, contractor, and staff resources. Staff will continue to seek partnerships and opportunities that allow for additional service or better services for the community. In Program Year 2022, the City leveraged funding from Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) community revitalization grant programs. Programs leveraged in this program year included the IHDA Single-Family Rehabilitation (SFR) and Strong Communities Program (SCP). The IHDA SFR program, as the name suggests, supports housing rehabilitation on owner-occupied single-family homes. The IHDA SCP program supports acquisition, demolition, and rehabilitation of abandoned properties. With the IHDA SCP program and CDBG funds in Program Year 2022, the City was able to demolish three (3) single-family houses and create an opportunity for new affordable housing to be constructed by Habitat for Humanity of McLean County. CDBG funds also assisted in the completion of several IHDA SFR projects that required funding outside of the funding limitations of the IHDA SFR program.

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 eleven (11) member commission and the Community Enhancement Division's Grants Coordinator. During this program year the Trust provided over \$900,000 in grants to organizations. This program in addition to CDBG public service spending continues to be important aspects of the community's social service infrastructure.

The City utilized CDBG public service funding in Program Year 2022 to help support PATH and their homeless prevention and services programs related to the Central Illinois Continuum of Care. Additionally, the CDBG program will support match for the City's HUD funded Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program (LBPHRP) by utilizing CDBG funds to assist with lead abatement activities on owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing. The LBPHRP program has been delayed due to challenges related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and staff transitions, but the City will have the program operational in Program Year 2023.

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	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	15
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	5	15

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	2	4
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	22	11
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	24	15

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

Two factors contributed to the lower than expected amount housing rehabilitation activities in Program Year 2022. First, the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program (LBPHRP) did not complete work on any housing units during Program Year 2022, which eliminated the possibility CDBG funds could be used to help complete projects. Second, limitations associated with contractor capacity were encountered during the program year. A high number of housing rehabilitation projects with different programs the City administers strained contractor capacity. Contractor availability is a national issue, but particularly

acute in McLean County due to increased housing development within the county. Increasing the number of contractors participating in the City's housing rehabilitation program is a priority in Program Year 2023.

Inflation and supply-chain issues experienced during the program year also hampered progress, but, ultimately, this did not impact the number of housing units rehabilitated due to the high amount of funds budgeted for Program Year 2022. If inflation and supply-chain issues continue when the City's CDBG carry-over funding returns to nominal levels, this could pose a significant barrier to the work than can be accomplished. City staff will continue to monitor these issues to adjust future goals accordingly.

Production of new units is reflected in matrix code 04 due to the City demolishing a structure and Habitat for Humanity of McLean County building new affordable housing on the parcel. Housing rehabilitation activities are reflected in matrix code 14A and public housing modernization activities are reflected in 14C. The first table also reflects the housing rehabilitation activities supported by the CDBG program. Future annual action plans starting with Program Year 2023 reflect a more accurate alignment of goals and outcomes in the first table in this section.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City considered the factors listed above when drafting the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan. Goals were modified in the annual action plan to compensate for these factors and City staff will continue to monitor different variables to ensure future plans account for a dynamic economic environment. The City will increase marketing efforts to attract contractors and will have the LBPHRP grant operational within Program Year 2023. Assuming macroeconomic factors or other unforeseen issues do not develop, the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan's goal setting will be closer to actual results.

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	27	0
Low-income	7	0
Moderate-income	4	0
Total	38	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, the City does donate cleared lots, that are buildable, from demolition activities to Habitat for

Humanity for the development of affordable housing. These efforts are enhanced by CDBG activities that add water and sewer service to the parcels. Additionally, the City devotes a significant amount of annual CDBG funding to the preservation of affordable housing through housing rehabilitation projects.

Of the twenty-five (25) units completed through the security camera project at the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington's Irvin Apartments, twenty-two (22) households were at or below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Two (2) additional households served through this activity were at or below 50% AMI and one (1) household was at or below 80% AMI. The remaining households were served by the single-family housing rehabilitation program. Between the single-family unit housing rehabilitation program and the public housing improvements, thirty-six (36) households were assisted in Program Year 2022.

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 or elderly community members have been served through the City's partnership with AMBUCS, which builds accessibility ramps for these community members in owner-occupied 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

The City continues to provide CDBG support for the Providing Access to Help (PATH) Crisis Center through the City's CDBG public service funding. PATH 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.

Through its Homeless Services Program, PATH reaches out to individuals and families that 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. 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 CCoC, 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 provides 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.

These organizations are a part of the CCoC and a partner of PATH, which receives support from the City's CDBG program. The City's CDBG program will continue to support activities that assist homeless community members.

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 stress on individuals, families, and the homeless service sector. CDBG funds are used to support the Emergency Grant program through PATH. 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 and 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 agencies have financial assistance such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 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 CCoC 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 CCoC. 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.

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.

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 the community has 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 have been an 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 agencies may have funds for first month's rent and deposit.

The Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington has a prioritization policy for people experiencing homelessness. The Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington 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 City of Bloomington, in conjunction with the CCoC, 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 CCoC 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 2022, CDBG funds helped the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington install new security cameras at Irvin Apartments. This activity will enhance the safety and well-being of 25 public housing residents in this facility.

CDBG funds from the City also supported Section 3 activities in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington. The Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington hosted a career training program and a job (and resource) fair for public housing residents.

The Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington's 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 Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington 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 the City's Section 3 funding provides incredible opportunities for Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington residents to build that foundation. Without employment and financial stability, homeownership will likely fail and place the community members at risk of homelessness. Thus, by building these skills the City along with the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington is creating an environment to achieve long-term success in homeownership.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington 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 not-for-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 financially burdensome loans or not have access to credit at all to complete important rehabilitation to their homes to correct health, life, safety, and code compliance issues.

The City continues to expend close to 15% of its annual CDBG allocation on public service activities. In Program Year 2022, \$74,551.40 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 \$900,000 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 McLean County Community Health Needs Assessment and 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 dollar Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program 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. These challenges continued in Program Year 2022, but the program should be operational during Program Year 2023. This will help the City expand efforts to reduce lead-based paint hazards.

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 the CDBG program serves 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.

The City's Section 3 funding provided to the Housing Authority of the City of Bloomington 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.

Public service activity funding also helps residents avoid homelessness, provides food security, and other critical neighborhood services that help people achieve a better socioeconomic position.

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

The City continues to evaluate how to best manage grant programs currently held by the Community Enhancement Division. Work has continued within the Community Enhancement Division to update, upgrade, and create policies and procedures to better operate all of the grant programs, including CDBG. Significant progress was made during Program Year 2022 and the Community Enhancement Division will build on that progress in Program Year 2023. The City will continue to seek partnerships with other community stakeholders to better grant programs and the services provided.

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

community members.

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 continued 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 working on CDBG projects. 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 roads 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. City 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 current 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. The City is working with community stakeholders and homeless service providers to investigate ways to improve and modify the CICoC.

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 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. City staff completed numerous monitorings of CDBG entitlement funded subrecipients during Program Year 2022. Monitorings used HUD subrecipient monitoring checklists and reviewed financial processes, operational structure, outcome performance, regulatory compliance, and procurement methods. Subrecipients monitored in Program Year 2022 were public service or fair housing activity partners. Monitorings will continue on an annual basis. New policies and procedures have been developed related to monitoring to improve the rigor and fairness of monitorings.

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 is from July 7, 2023, through July 24, 2023. A public hearing will be held during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on July 10, 2023. Notice of the public hearing and public comment period was published in the Pantagraph on June 21, 2023. Notices related to the public comment period and public hearing were also shared on City social media, placed in the PATH-O-GRAM newsletter, and made available email correspondence to key organizations.

During the public comment period, one public comment was received. The public comment received, and the City's response is included as an attachment to this CAPER.

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 City will continue to work on mitigating challenges and turning opportunities into successes with the City's CDBG program.

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	0	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).					
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

N/A