



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
(CDBG)

2021 ACTION PLAN AMENDED

Greg Hines, Mayor

CITY COUNCIL

Ward I, Position 1, Mandy Brashear

Ward III, Position 1, Clay Kendall

Ward I, Position 2, Mark Kruger

Ward III, Position 2, April Legere

Ward II, Position 1, Gary Townzen

Ward IV, Position 1, Barney Hayes

Ward II, Position 2, Marge Wolf

Ward IV, Position 2, Betsy Reithemeyer

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Casey Wilhelm

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Donna Johnsto

The amendment will change the scope of work for the Samaritan Community Center. It was determined that the dental equipment (chairs) would not meet criteria for a Public Facility project, however, the fire suppression system would meet that criteria and would be a requirement the facility would need to open to the public. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will only pay for fire suppression equipment in areas where services for low-income would be provided. No funding will be used in the administrative/office areas of the facility.

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Action Plan is designed to be a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for community development actions. It offers local jurisdictions the opportunity to shape the various housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood and community development strategies. It also creates the opportunity for strategic planning and a resident participation to take place in a comprehensive contest and reduce duplication of effort at the local level. The strategic plan is a specific course of action for revitalization. It builds on local asset and coordinates a response to the needs of the community. It integrates economic, physical, environmental, community and human development in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion so that families and communities can work together and thrive. A strategic plan also sets forth program goals, specific objectives, annual goals, and benchmarks for measuring progress. It helps local government and residents keep track of results and learn what works. The Action Plan is a requirement of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that cities must prepare in order to receive Federal monetary assistance from HUD Programs. Ultimately, the Plan will be used to implement the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This document is the Action Plan for Program Year 2021, year four of the five-year Consolidated Plan submitted for years 2018-2022. The City will receive \$462,101 in the 2021 Program Year.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) will continue to partner with the City of Rogers and other agencies to meet the objectives set by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These objectives are: DECENT HOUSING - Assisting homeless persons obtain affordable housing; assisting persons at risk of becoming homeless; retention of affordable housing stock; increasing the availability of affordable permanent housing in standard condition to low-income

and low-moderate income families particularly to members of disadvantaged minorities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion sex, national origin, familial status, or disability increasing the supply of supportive housing which includes structural features and services to enable persons with special needs (including persons with HIV/AIDS to live in dignity and independence); and providing affordable housing that is accessible to job opportunities. The City will provide housing rehabilitation and repair for low to low-moderate income persons. The City's goals are to provide rehabilitation and repair to at least six owner-occupied homes each program year. This number could be impacted by Covid-19 again in 2021. The City will continue to look for suitable land to purchase, provide infrastructure to lots within the City limits, and work with the Department of Community Development for the construction of affordable housing. A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT - Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services; reducing the isolation of income groups within areas through spatial de-concentration of housing opportunities to low income persons and the revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods; restoring and preserving properties of special historic, architectural, or aesthetic value, and conserving of energy resources. The City will assist public service agencies who serve all categories of very lot to low-moderate income persons. These services include transportation assistance, helping physically and mentally disabled children and adults, provide help for children removed from abusive homes, and assist with child care to help parents stay at work and reduce their child-care expense. The City will also look to improve public facilities that will address the needs of the homeless, disabled, elderly, children, or low-income residents. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES - Job creation and retention; establishment, stabilization and expansion of small businesses (including macro-businesses); provision of public services concerned with employment; provisions of jobs to low-income persons living in areas affected by those programs and activities, or jobs resulting from carrying out activities under programs covered by the plan; availability of mortgage financing for low-income persons at reasonable rates using non-discriminatory lending practices; access to capital and credit for development activities that promote the long-term, economic and social viability of the community, generational poverty in Federally assisted housing and public housing. The three outcomes for these objectives are availability/accessibility, affordability, and sustainability.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

For the most part, except for housing rehabilitation, previous activities implemented have met goals and needs established by the Consolidated Plan. Covid-19 slowed our rehabilitation program to allow us to better keep up with contact tracing. To be able to do this, we could only work on one house at a time. Funds were spent in a timely manner in accordance with Department of Urban and Housing Development (HUD) regulations. The City was below the statutory timeliness expenditure ratio of 1.5 on November 1, 2020. The City has complied with their Citizen Participation Plan and submitted their 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) on time. Activities completed are as

follows: HOUSING REHABILITATION - The City of Rogers rehabilitated or provided emergency repair oneight houses in 2020. TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE - The City provided free rides each month for 94 low-income individuals who are either elderly and/or disabled and provided transportation services to Open Avenues and Sunshine School and Development Center. Open Avenues provides a sheltered workshop where clients actively learn new skills, build close relationships and provide business and industry with a reliable off-line production workforce. Sunshine School and Development Center provides therapy and learning to physically and mentally disabled children helping them to transition into public schools. Transportation services were provided to 278 individuals through these two agencies. ONE CHILD, ONE ADVOCATE - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to enable CASA of Northwest Arkansas to recruit and train volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates who in turn provide volunteer child advocacy to 76 children and their families who live in Rogers.

The City also finished their facility project with Souls Harbor in 2020. This project completed a remodel on the upstairs of their building to allow for more space to house men struggling with addiction and provide space for more private counseling for these men. At the time the project was complete, Souls Harbor had 22 men in their program. A facility project for Teen Action Support Center was also provided funding in 2020; however, construction did not start on it until 2021.

The City did their Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) prior to AFFH being replaced with Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. We are remaining committed to AFFH at this time. We have been trying to schedule a Town Hall meeting in Rogers since 2018. We had one schedule, but the Director of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission needed to reschedule to 2019 due to her schedule. In 2019 she resigned her position with the State and a new director was put in place. We had started working with the Fair Housing Office when Covid-19 brought a shutdown in the State of Arkansas. We are going to hold off until we can have an in-person Town Hall meeting versus a zoom meeting. We hope to be able to schedule this meeting later this year or in 2022.

The city stayed within their 15% cap for public services and 20% cap for administration. All financial reports were submitted on time.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City followed its Citizen Participation Plan (revised in 2020) when conducting the 2021 Action Plan process. We use many individuals and agencies in the development of the Consolidated Plan as well as the Annual Action Plan. We take all input we receive to help us analyze, measure and determine housing, facility and service needs, with an emphasis on low-mod, elderly, disabled, and homelessness. We look at resources in the City to meet these needs as well as gaps that might not be met by other resources. A Public Hearing is held in the planning process and the public is notified of this Public Hearing by a display ad placed in the local paper and on the City's website. The display ad meets the requirements of CDBG Regulation 24 CFR 91.105. The City encourages the residents of Rogers to

provide input into both the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans by attending the Public Hearing or sending in their comments. Once the plans are completed, a Public Hearing display ad will be published to allow our residents to comment on the finalized plan before it is submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A comment period is also held to allow those who cannot attend the Public Hearing to comment on the final plan. The final plan will consider and/or implement concerns and suggestions from citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties. Final review and stamp of approval to these plans will be made by the Mayor of Rogers and the Rogers City Council. The public is also given the opportunity to review the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER contains a summary of accomplishments and evaluation of progress made during the year. All Public Hearings and meetings will be held in buildings that have access for persons with disabilities. The Hearings will be scheduled during the evening to provide working individual and families a great opportunity to attend. Because Rogers has a large Spanish speaking population, a bilingual (English/Spanish) person will be made available to non-English speaking persons. Technical assistance will also be provided to those requesting assistance in developing a proposal under the plan submissions. The Citizen Participation process is also involved on any impacts to the environment with a CDBG project as well as any amendments to an approved plan. It should be noted that due to COVID-19, some comment periods were shortened in accordance with HUD regulations.

5. Summary of public comments

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

No comments were received during the pre-planning citizen participation section of the Annual Action Plan or the citizen participation section of the final plan review held prior to submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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

There were no comments not accepted for the 2021 Annual Action Plan; therefore, no comments for reasons for not accepting will be required.

7. Summary

The City of Rogers has been an entitlement City for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program since 1994. During that time, we have utilized nearly \$10,000,000 in CDBG funding to improve the quality of life for our low to moderate-income families, seniors, and persons with special needs by providing affordable homeownership opportunities, repairing and conserving existing housing, financing public facilities and infrastructure improvements, creating and retaining jobs, and funding public services that stabilize and enhance living conditions.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	ROGERS	
CDBG Administrator	ROGERS	Department of Finance
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator		
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Rogers is governed by a Mayor and City Council. All contractual matters concerning the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program are approved by the Staff Attorney and City Council prior to signature by the Mayor.

The CDBG Program is administered through the Department of Finance and the CDBG Administrator. The CDBG Administrator is responsible for administering the programs covered in the Consolidated Plan as well as the Annual Action Plan. This includes the development, implementation, monitoring and activities reporting. While the CDBG Administrator does the drawdowns, the City's Finance Director does the approval of the drawdowns. All checks are then written by Accounts Payable in the Department of Finance. The CDBG Administrator uses City Staff, residents, community and neighborhood organizations, and non-profits for their insight and expertise on housing, service, and facility projects. The CDBG Administrator also conducts meetings and public hearings to encourage public comments and to receive citizen's views to establish priorities. The City consulted with the following agencies in preparing the 2021 Action Plan: Boys and Girls Club, NWA Taxi, LLC, Ambassador Transportation Services, CASA of Northwest Arkansas, Sunshine School and Development Center, Open Avenues, Life Skills Program, Micah House, Positive Energy Affecting Recovering Lives (PEARL), NWA Women's Shelter, Nicole's House, Arkansas Athletes Outreach, and Community Clinic. The CDBG Administrator also participated in the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care comprised of numerous agencies in Northwest

Arkansas who provide a wide range of continuum care in this area. Through the Continuum of Care the City attends meetings and training provided by these agencies in meeting the needs of our low- income residents. The CDBG Administrator attends bi-yearly meetings of the Arkansas Community Development Association for additional training and participates in webinars and other training provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Community Development Association to include the Region VI Association.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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Information can also be found on the City's website at www.rogersar.gov

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

1. Introduction

The City of Rogers is the lead agency that oversees the City's Annual Action Plan. The City's Action Plan was developed in accordance with its adopted Citizen Participation Plan. The City reached out to persons with limited English capacity by having bilingual translators available at public meetings.

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

The City encourages all citizens, especially minorities, persons with disabilities, residents of public and assisted housing developments, residents living in slum and blight areas, residents in predominately low-to-moderate income neighborhoods to participate in the development of the Plan. We worked closely with local organizations that provide services to sharing grant opportunities, training opportunities, and information. The City also holds an open application process for applying for funding. The City has participated in construction/renovation of public facilities which serve our community. Public Hearings were held August 25, 2020 and April 25, 2021 for planning and finalizing the 2021 Annual Action Plan.

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

As a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care the City coordinates and works with other agencies to address the needs of the homeless. Northwest Arkansas has made some significant investments in shelter expansions and support programs designed to reduce the number and plight of homeless people. We are continuing to coordinate gaps by addressing capacity, occupancy, future housing needs, support services received, chronic homelessness, numbers turned away from shelter/services, and the number of homeless on waiting lists for housing/services. In Year 2020, the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care designated homeless youth as a priority and to get veterans homelessness down to 0%. The Rogers' Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator serves on the youth homeless council.

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

The City receives no ESG funds.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Boys and Girls Club of Benton County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Child care for low income children in Rogers
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Boys and Girls Club is contacted by phone, emails, and meetings and is one of the best sources of information on child care needs within the City to enable parents to continue their employment. Boys and Girls Club have been funded in the past with both service and facility projects as a result of this consultation.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Positive Energy Affecting Recovering Lives (PEARL)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Recovery services for those in recovery
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	PEARL was contacted by email and meetings. As of a result of these consultations, items were addressed that were needed in their housing facility that supports their clients and provides them a safe and affordable living environment.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	NWA Taxi, LLC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Transportation
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Northwest Arkansas Taxi provides the City valuable information on the needs of our residents to get to their medical appointments and help with quality of life. Information is gained from calls, emails, meetings, and trip logs provided to the City each month. As of result of this consultation, the City can make sure its citizens who have no means of transportation can get to their appointments and have a quality of life.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Ambassador Transportation Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Transportation

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ambassador Transportation Services, like Northwest Arkansas Taxi, provides the City valuable information on the needs of our citizens to get to their medical appointments and help with quality of life. Information is gained from calls, emails, and trip logs to the City. As a result of this consultation, the City sees that the citizens who have no means of transportation can get to their appointments and enjoy quality of life.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Child Welfare Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	CASA keeps the City informed of children who have been taken out of their homes because their parents need rehabilitation of some kind to be able to be a parent. By working with CASA we are able to meet needs of children who are going through a very difficult situation and meet their educational and health needs as well as provide a need of being wanted and loved until that adult/adults can step back into being a parent. We communicate with CASA through calls, emails, letters, and meetings.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Open Avenues
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Employment Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for mentally and physically disabled adults

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Open Avenues is consulted because of their help with special needs people in Rogers. As a result of visiting with the agency director, we were able to see some specific needs of this agency that could be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Open Avenues is consulted by phone, emails, letters, and meetings.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Benton County Sunshine School
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for Disabled Children
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Sunshine School and Development Center was contacted as they are the lead agency for disabled children in Rogers. They provide a place where children can learn to mainstream into public schools. They provide valuable information as to the needs of developmentally challenged children. We consult with this agency by phone, email, letters, and meetings.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Souls Harbor NWA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Souls Harbor has been consulted by phone, emails, letter and meeting. As a result of this consultation, the City has been made aware of not only service needs, but facility needs of the transitional housing facility for men in recovery.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Micah's House NWA dba Micah 6:8 Ministries
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing for Young Men who have aged out of Foster Care
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	We have consulted with this agency through email and meetings. As of result of these consultations, we know the building can be purchased which will enable a capacity increase in young men housed at this facility. They presently have a waiting list.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Arkansas Athletes Outreach
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for Youth

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Arkansas Athletes Outreach just recently opened in Rogers. Consultation was done with this agency by email, letter, phone, and meetings. It is a youth development organization that focuses on developing student athletes physically, mentally, and emotionally. We felt like there were youth in Rogers who would be unable to use this facility because of lack of income for the fees associated with the club. Through coordination we were able to address these needs as well as facility improvements to help AAO expand into several kinds of sports.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for Women, Men, and Children fleeing violence in their homes
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter was consulted by phone, emails and meetings. As a result of these consultations, we were made aware of the need for more facilities to provide safe shelter for those in need. We discussed purchasing a new shelter with some remodeling needed to open as a transitional housing facility as well as funding needed to provide hotel rooms for those waiting to move into shelter.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	Lifeskills Programs
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services for Teens
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for Children and Teens

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Lifeskills was set up to mentor children and youth and give them a safe place to come after school and on weekends. These kids are from low income families and most of them are from our Hispanic population. In visiting by email, phone, letter, and meetings we were made aware that the center provides some athletic training for a fee, however, many of the kids who come do not have the extra money to participate in boxing, wrestling, karate, etc.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Nicole's House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for Women Coming out Prison
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consultation has been made with Nicole's house through email, phone, letters, and meetings. Nicole's House is a transitional living facility helping women coming out of prison return to their communities as law abiding citizens. These women have no income when they come to Nicole's House and many are not trained for employment. These women stay at Nicole's House for one year, obtain employment, and are able to save their wages since they have no rental/utility expenses. The City has helped with rent and utilities for Nicole's House to allow more of their funding to go towards the women and not worry about keeping this facility open.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Clinic NWA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Services for Transportation

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Community Clinic was consulted by phone, letters, emails, and meetings. Their biggest need right now is getting their clients to the clinic. Many of them have no means of transportation or a vehicle that is not operational and if operational, they have no means to buy gas. A great number of these clients are from the Hispanic/Pacific Islander communities. Missing these appointments jeopardizes the health and well-being of these individuals.</p>
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

The City of Rogers did not exclude any agency from the consultation process that would have been able to provide input on the development of the City's 2021 Annual Action Plan.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care	Coordinating a community response to end homelessness in Northwest Arkansas which is also a goal of the City of Rogers.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

City Staff and Rogers elected officials are all involved in the planning of the City's Annual Action Plan. They provide a key role in the formulation of the projects and integrating the City's goals and objectives into the program development. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator attends meetings which enables the City to build relationships with State and local agencies that support the CDBG Program. Rogers is a member of the Arkansas Community Development Association (ACDA) comprised of entitlement cities and state agencies which gives the City another opportunity to coordinate with other local and state governments in the implementation of their Annual Action Plan. The CDBG Administrator also participates in the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care meetings and training.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The City of Rogers conducted the Action Plan process in accordance with their adopted Citizen Participation Plan to formulate the 2021 Annual Action Plan. Discussion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program process started in August 2020. Applications were accepted between August 25, 2020 and October 2, 2020. The City encouraged participation by low and moderate-income persons particularly those living in slum and blighted areas of the City, as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and in areas where CDBG funds are proposed to be used. The City took steps to encourage participation of all its residents, including minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities. The City is able to provide translation for our Spanish speaking population. All meetings were conducted in buildings that were accessible to persons with disabilities. The City, on an annual basis, will make available to residents, public agencies and other interested parties, information that includes the amount of assistance the City expects to receive, including specific grant funds and available unspent prior year funds. The City will also disclose the range of activities undertaken and the amount of funding for each activity. The City has posted the Citizen Participation Plan as well as the current Consolidated and Action Plans on the City's website in hopes of generating more participation. All information received in this process is used to help develop all City plans associated with CDBG.

A Public Hearing was held August 25, 2020 for the purpose of obtaining view of citizens, public agencies and other interested parties that will or may be affected by the 2021 Program Year Action Plan. Another Public Hearing was held April 30, 2021 to allow public review and comments on the 2021 draft Action Plan and a comment period was held from May 1, 2021 through May 30, 2021. The draft was also available on the City of Rogers' website and at City Hall. A notice was published in the Northwest Arkansas Democrat/Gazette and on the City's website on April 23, 2021.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Hispanic</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Low Income Individuals and Families</p>	<p>No one attended the Hearing held August 25, 2020 or attended the Hearing held April 30, 2021. Another Public Hearing was held on July 5, 2022 for amending the 2021 Action Plan. No one attended that meeting.</p>	<p>No comments were received at any of the Public Hearings.</p>	<p>Since no comments were received, there were no comments not accepted.</p>	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
2	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Persons with disabilities Residents of Public and Assisted Housing Low Income Individuals and Families	A display ad was placed in the newspaper for the August 25, 2020 and April 30, 2021 Public Hearings. a display ad was also placed on June 26, 2022 for the Public Hearing to be held July 5, 2022 on the amended 2021 Action Plan	No comments were received as a result of these ads.	Since no comments were received, no comments were not accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Internet Outreach	<p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p> <p>Low Income and Individuals and Families</p>	<p>Public Hearings were placed on the City's website on August 25, 2020 and April 30, 2021. The draft Action Plan was also posted on the City's website on April 23, 2021. A Public Hearing was placed on the City's website on June 26, 2022 concerning the amended 2021 Plan. The Amended Plan was also placed on the website.</p>	<p>No comments were received.</p>	<p>Since no comments were received, no comments were not accepted.</p>	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Anticipated resources would be income that comes from a house sale prior to the lien being removed and rebate funds we receive from local utilities for putting in energy efficient HVAC units and energy efficient windows. None of that revenue, called program income, is known at this time. We have no carryover program income from Program Year 2020.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	462,101	0	0	462,101	469,130	All funds will be used to rehab single family housing and provide services to low income individuals and families. All expected Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the Consolidated Plan will come from CDBG funding and program funding.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	public - federal	Public Improvements Public Services	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 1 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Many of the non-profits applying for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding receive funding from other areas to make their programs work. The City and its partners leverage local, State, foundation and private resources. The City will use its \$455,391 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Program to address the needs listed in the Action Plan. The City will continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity, Office of Human Concern, faith-based organizations, businesses and individuals on the City's housing rehabilitation projects. The City will also partner with local organizations and non-profits on their service and facility projects.

The City does not require funded projects provide "matching" funds; however, if funding from other sources other than CDBG will be used, we require our applicants to list those amounts and the source of that funding being used.

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

There is no public owned land available for acquisition or use in the 2021 Action Plan. The City will continue to look at public property available for affordable housing, economic development, and open space use.

Discussion

The amount of available funding through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will not be adequate to meet the housing and/or public service needs in Rogers. We will use all resources available to address the needs of the community and continue to work with our partners to leverage all available resources.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator

Table 2 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Decent Housing
	Goal Description	The City of Rogers has a goal to keep our housing stock in good condition by providing housing rehabilitation on single family homes owned by our low- income individuals and families. We do what is necessary to make these houses warm, safe, and dry and correct all code violations that are discovered on our initial site visit.
2	Goal Name	Public Service - Transportation Assistance
	Goal Description	The City provides transportation for low income people in the City limits of Rogers. These are residents who have no means of transportation to get to doctor's appointments, pharmacies, buy groceries, or do the activities that are essential to quality of life.

4	Goal Name	Public Service - Boys & Girls Club
	Goal Description	This goal is set up to provide scholarships to low income children who need a place to stay after school and in the summer to allow their parents to work. Many of these children are also in need of extra tutoring and having computers available to them to do their school work. By not having child care expenses, this frees up more of the family income for food, clothing and shelter.
6	Goal Name	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	Goal Description	This goal will provide a voice for children in Rogers by providing Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to abused and neglected children from Rogers. A CASA volunteer is assigned to each child and this volunteer will visit the foster home or shelter and visit with the child to ensure the child is safe, happy, and receiving appropriate medical, psychological, and educational services. This advocacy will also reduce the number of placements a foster child experiences prior to finding a permanent home.
9	Goal Name	Administration
	Goal Description	Administration is set up to provide for costs associated with the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.
17	Goal Name	Public Facility - PEARL
	Goal Description	Pearl, Positive Energy Affecting Recovering Lives (PEARL) is a recovery house for women. The facility owned by this organization needs a new roof, windows, HVAC unit, gutters, and a French drain to reduce flooding on the property in heavy rains. A half bath also needs to be remodeled into a full bath to allow the facility to have two full baths to meet the needs of their clients.
18	Goal Name	Public Facility - Samaritan Community Center
	Goal Description	This project will provide fire suppression system for the new Samaritan Community Center Building. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will be used to provide this system in the areas of the building that provide the services to our low-income individuals. No CDBG funding will be used in the administrative offices.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Rogers makes their funding allocation decisions based on an open application process in accordance with their Citizen Participation Plan. All applications are reviewed for completeness and eligibility by Staff. On-site visits are made to discuss the application and eligibility for each program for which funds were sought. Once projects are determined, this information is given to City Council for their approval prior to submitting to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Funds are awarded to eligible activities that support the goals as well as address the priority needs stated in the Consolidated Plan. All allocations awarded to activities are contingent upon the City's receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for that Program Year.

Projects for 2021 and reasons for allocation priorities and obstacles addressing these needs are listed below:

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
2	Public Facility - PEARL
3	Public Service - Boys and Girls Club
4	Samaritan Community Center - Amended
5	Housing Rehabilitation
6	Transportation Assistance
7	Administration

Table 3 - Project Information

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

The allocation of funds for those activities listed in the 2021 Action Plan are closely aligned with the needs identified in the need assessment and housing market analysis in the City's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and through input contributed by stakeholders and residents who participated in the development of the 2021 Action Plan.

Because the primary national objective of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is to benefit low-income residents, CDBG Program funds will be targeted to individuals and families that are low and moderate income. Funds will also be targeted to include special needs population as well as the elderly and the homeless. By targeting these groups, we not only provide a benefit to these

individuals and families, but we benefit the City as well. While not all of the housing applications are located in low mod census tracts, they are all low income. The transportation assistance riders are located throughout Rogers, but are all low income. The rationale for assigning funding priorities is consistent with the evaluation criteria set forth in the Consolidated Plan. The City of Rogers administers a competitive application process for all CDBG funded programs on an annual basis. The City's objectives are to fund programs and services to the greatest extent possible, keeping in mind that service projects are subject to a 15% cap. The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources. The City sometimes receives application requests that are higher than the entitlement funding or we receive more applications than we can fund. Most of these applications fall into the service category. With our 15% cap, we are really limited to the amount we can fund for service projects. To illustrate this point, the City received funding applications in the amount of \$231,740. With the 15% cap, the City will be allotted \$68,759 to spend in Program Year 2021. The City does partner, when feasible, with other non-profits to leverage the City's funding allocation.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	Target Area	Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	This project will provide advocacy to Rogers' residents who have been taken out of their homes because of abuse or their parents can no longer parent because of addictions. This program ensures the child is safe, happy, and receiving the appropriate medical treatment, educational services, and psychological counseling. Parents will also be helped to overcome their abusive ways and to get them to a place where their children can come back and live with them.
	Target Date	12/31/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We anticipate 25 people will be impacted by this program. All families will be low income.
	Location Description	We do not have the addresses at this time of the children who will be assisted with this grant. Because of the nature of the grant, we will not be able to put addresses in IDIS once those addresses are known. We will have access to see those on our monitoring visits.
Planned Activities	We will provide advocacy to abused and neglected children from Rogers. They will be visited at their foster homes or shelters to make sure they are receiving appropriate medical, psychological, and educational services. These funds will help reduce the number of placements a foster child experiences prior to finding a permanent home or being able to go back and live with a parent or two parents full time.	
2	Project Name	Public Facility - PEARL
	Target Area	Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Public Facility - PEARL
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$56,500

	Description	PEARL, Positive Energy Affecting Recovering Lives, is a recovery house for women. The existing facility needs repair. A new roof, windows, HVAC system, and gutters are needed. The half bath needs to be remodeled to make a full bath to allow the facility two full baths. A French drain needs to be placed around the facility to reduce flooding in heavy rains and eliminate standing water that occurs during these heavy rains.
	Target Date	12/31/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that at least 30 women will live in this facility during the recovery year. Many of these women have children or families that are waiting to be reunited with them once they finish the program. Based on those numbers, this project could impact 75 to 100 lives each year.
	Location Description	Because of the nature of this project, the project address will not be entered into IDIS. The office address for Pearl is 201 South 20th Street, Rogers, AR 72758.
	Planned Activities	We will place a new roof, energy efficient windows, energy efficient HVAC unit and new gutters on this facility. We will also remodel a half bath and make it into a full bath. We will also look at placing a French drain to help with flooding in heavy rains.
3	Project Name	Public Service - Boys and Girls Club
	Target Area	Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Public Service - Boys & Girls Club
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$9,000
	Description	This project will provide funding for scholarships for low income children to attend the Boys and Girls Club After School and Summer Programs.
	Target Date	12/31/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We anticipate to impact 250 people by providing child care at no expense to low income families.
	Location Description	We will not have addresses until fall, but once enrollment starts, addresses of these families will be available at the CDBG Office at Rogers City Hall.

	Planned Activities	Scholarships will be provided for low income children to attend the Boys and Girls Club after school and during the summer freeing up family income to help with food, clothing, and shelter costs. At the Club these kids will be provided tutoring and have access to computers to work on homework and become more familiar with computer technology. They will also be provided supervised sports and will learn character education and skills that will carry them through the rest of the educational years and into the work force.
4	Project Name	Samaritan Community Center - Amended
	Target Area	Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Public Facility - Samaritan Community Center
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000
	Description	Samaritan Community Center provides many services to low income residents including food, hot meals, dental care, counseling, and snack packs and backpacks for students. This funding will be used to provide the fire suppression system for this facility in the areas that provide the services to our low-income individuals and families. No funding will be used in the administrative office areas.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated 2,207 people will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	2910 South 8th Street, Rogers, AR 72756
	Planned Activities	Provide fire suppression system for Samaritan Community Center in the areas of the building that provide services to low-income individuals and families.
5	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Decent Housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
	Funding	CDBG: \$221,601

	Description	This project provides housing rehabilitation on single family, owner occupied homes in Rogers. While in these homes, we correct all code violations and make sure that the house is warm, safe, and secure. This works usually consists of replacing old heating and cooling units with energy efficient HVAC units, upgrading windows to energy efficient, making sure all exterior doors are fire proof, providing new roofs and guttering systems as well as making sure every home is equipped with smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in kitchen/living room, halls, and bedrooms.
	Target Date	12/31/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We expect to do at least eight homes in 2021. Number and type of families will not be known until applications are received and processed. Our homes will all be low income houses.
	Location Description	Once we have addresses, these will be provided in IDIS system.
	Planned Activities	Work will consist of new energy efficient HVAC units, new energy efficient windows, making sure all exterior doors are fire proof, providing new roofs and guttering, as well as making sure each house has smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. We also replace floors when needed. Any home with leaks will be mold tested before construction starts and again after work has been completed. If house was built before 1978, lead based paint testing will be done if work will disturb paint in any way.
6	Project Name	Transportation Assistance
	Target Area	Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Public Service - Transportation Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$4,000
	Description	This activity will provide funding to provide transportation assistance to residents who have no means of transportation or money to pay for transportation to get them to the places they need to go to help with their quality of life.
	Target Date	12/31/2021

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate 90 people will receive transportation assistance through the City's Care Program. All of these individuals are low income.
	Location Description	Addresses will be available at the Community Development Block Grant Office in City Hall.
	Planned Activities	We will provide transportation assistance for our low- income residents to make doctor appointments, go to the pharmacies, buy groceries, and be able to do the things that makes for quality of life.
7	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	Census Tracts Low Income Individuals or Families
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$16,000
	Description	This activity provides funding for the administrative costs to operate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.
	Target Date	12/31/2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This is administration costs to operate the Community Development Block Grant Program. All the families impacted by the 2021 Grant are low income individuals and/or families.
	Location Description	All the addresses will be listed in the projects in which they are funded. This is just administration.
	Planned Activities	Funding will be used for salaries, office supplies, postage, and any training or travel associated with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

The City of Rogers is part of one of the fastest growing regions in America, Northwest Arkansas. Northwest Arkansas is headquarters for three Fortune 500 companies--Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, and JB Hun Trucking. It is also home to many companies that sell products to Wal-Mart. The University of Arkansas, a recognized research institution and academic excellence is located in Fayetteville, one of the major cities comprising the Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan area. Beaver Lake provides swimming, boating, kayaking/canoeing, fishing, water sports, and hunting amenities with 487 miles of shoreline. Northwest Arkansas is also home to the Ozark Mountains.

The City is a well-developed community providing affordable housing, expanding employment opportunities, supporting new and existing businesses, and enhancing neighborhood vitality. The City also has neighborhoods with poverty. There are 12 census tracts within the City limits of Rogers with seven of those tracts having low-mod areas (LNMAS). These areas range from 51% to 71% low income.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects proposed for 2021 will have an impact on many residents of Rogers. The housing projects will benefit low and moderate-income persons and prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions. The service and facility projects will benefit low to low-moderate-income persons and special populations to include the elderly and physically and disabled/handicapped persons.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Census Tracts	
Low Income Individuals or Families	100

Table 4 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically is to meet the primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which is to benefit low-income and moderate-income residents per the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards.

Discussion

The City strives to improve low-income residential neighborhoods, especially those with high concentrations of minorities and other protected classes. These improvements bring the areas up to standards equal to other areas of the City and make the neighborhoods safer and more desirable to live. We also strive to make sure our low-income residents with special needs have the services and the

facilities they need to improve their quality of life.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

One of the biggest needs is affordable housing. The City is committed to provide affordable housing of choice to our low-to-moderate-income families. We make educating the public on fair housing issues and rights and affirmatively further fair housing a priority. In the height of the housing construction, the new construction approach was the high-end market homes. Land prices had escalated to a point that the cost of land precluded the building of affordable housing. When the housing market crashed, most of the available homes in the City were not considered affordable housing. As we have moved through the housing boom we saw developers start to build smaller homes to meet the needs of our families who needed affordable housing. An area near downtown Rogers has also become a tiny home neighborhood that has homes ranging in prices from \$35,000 to \$55,000. Another subdivision of tiny homes has been approved by the City's Planning Commission; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, construction has not started. The building boom has come back to Northwest Arkansas. Our City government is still committed to making affordable housing in Rogers a priority.

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

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	10

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

Discussion

The City of Rogers does not receive funds that can be used for new construction and cannot really make a difference in providing affordable housing through new construction. However, we can continue to bring our affordable housing stock to good condition through our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) rehabilitation program and implement ordinances that allow for affordable housing in Rogers. We are also working with our Community Development Department to see if there are ways we can partner with affordable home builders by using our CDBG funding to provide infrastructure in affordable

housing subdivisions. Over the past years, we have consistently used the majority of our CDBG funding to rehab existing houses to preserve the housing stock, and help keep our low- income residents in structurally sound homes that are warm, safe, and dry. This program has also allowed our elderly and disabled to remain in their homes by providing rehabilitation activities that improve accessibility as needed, remove dangerous code deficiencies, remove lead-based paint hazards and mold remediation, and improve the quality of life and property values for those residents.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

There is no public housing authority in Rogers, Arkansas. Rogers falls under the Siloam Springs Housing Authority. The City has no representation on this Housing Authority Board of Directors. The Siloam Springs Housing Authority is a Section 8 agency serving Benton County. According to the most recent VMS Report that I could get, the Siloam Springs Housing Authority manages 359 active housing choice vouchers. The voucher program has an annual turnover of 29%. The average voucher holder has received housing benefits for five years and has been on the waiting list an average of 22 months. The average voucher household contains 1.9 persons and has a household income of \$12,812 per year. The biggest percentage age group was 25 to 49 years. This group made up 38% with 33% headed by a person 62 years or older, 27% were headed by a person 51 to 60 years of age, and 2% headed by a person 24 or under. Of the group 62 and older, 3% of households were headed by a person 85 years of age or older. Children were in 36% of the households with 32% of those households headed by a female. Of all the households, 85% were headed by female. Minorities made up 14% of voucher households, and 33% had at least one person with a disability. The average monthly tenant contribution to rent was \$307 with the average Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) expenditure at \$411.

The PHA's policy is to serve customers without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, having AIDS, physical handicap, or disability.

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

The City of Rogers does not have a Public Housing office. All Section 8 vouchers are handled out of the Siloam Springs Housing Authority. The City does have 1,248 units of low-income apartments available and 186 housing units that receive rental assistance. At least 62 of those units designated for elderly only. Another 72 senior units are scheduled for future construction when Federal funding is available. We have one 60-unit complex for elderly that is not all qualified as low income, but they will lease to someone qualified as low income as long as they are next on their waiting list. These units are all energy star rated. In checking with the Siloam Springs Housing Authority, there are 130 people living in Rogers in Section 8 housing. The City will continue to work in any endeavor it can to assure availability of affordable housing. We will continue to stay connected with the Siloam Springs office.

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

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator attends and is involved in any meetings and workshops to encourage involvement in management and participation in homeownership. The Housing Authority that oversees Section 8 housing is the Siloam Springs Housing Authority. This PHA covers all of Benton County. The City works with this agency in helping people find housing in Rogers.

We have also offered to provide the agency space in City Hall for any town hall meetings they might wish to have with the residents of Rogers who live in low-income housing or needing low-income housing.

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

The Siloam Springs Housing Authority is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

Ongoing communication with the public housing authority and agencies will continue in order to identify needs and opportunities to further address preservation of existing affordable housing units and to assist Section 8 residents who live in Rogers.

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

Introduction

The City of Rogers does not anticipate any private or public funding resources in 2021 that specifically targets homeless needs and/or prevention. We will, however, continue to partner with the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care to address the needs of the homeless. The purpose of this coalition is to reduce and/or end homelessness in Northwest Arkansas. There are several organizations in this area that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The City is involved with those agencies. The City has been involved in the point-in-time count conducted by HARK at the end of January each year. This headcount provided specific information regarding the various services and programs, a listing of the number of beds available and the number of persons needing housing, funding involved in housing the homeless, and placement of the homeless. Specific subpopulations targeted include individuals and families who are chronically homeless, individuals and families at risk of homelessness, veterans and their families, individuals and families who are experiencing domestic violence, individuals living with HIV-AIDS, and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old.

Currently, the Continuum of Care provides emergency shelters, transitional shelters and safe havens in Northwest Arkansas to meet the needs of our homeless. The Continuum of Care provides the leadership, coordination, planning, and mobilization of resources to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in Northwest Arkansas. They will provide homelessness prevention and diversion, emergency, transitional and rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, case management, supportive services, and emergency response. The Continuum of Care has adopted a Coordinated Entry and Assessment-Based Housing Referral System that will maximize the housing resources by matching people to housing based on needs. They will continue to locate and engage individuals living on the streets and encourage them to accept services, treatment, and housing.

The Continuum of Care will expand its rapid rehousing focus, providing housing stabilization, counseling, rental assistance, security and utility deposits, and/or payments for rent or utilities to enable our individuals and families to move from homelessness into stable housing.

The City of Rogers worked with a non-profit to secure a home in Rogers to be used for individuals and families coming out of homelessness. They will live in this home up to 18 months giving them time to get back on their feet and move completely on their own. A donor gave this group a new 1,400 square foot house in Rogers. It has been named Tapestry House. This non-profit has worked with the Continuum of Care to find this family/individual to move into this house. With the gift of this home, they no longer need Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) resources to help make Tapestry House a reality. From the perspective of the CDBG Administrator, it was a privilege to work with this

group and learn more about finding the resources needed in this area to end homelessness.

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

Rogers coordinates street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness through the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care and in collaboration with local nonprofit organizations. One of the key strategies is to address chronic homelessness and provide outreach in this prevention. The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is represented by agencies that specifically target the homeless and assist individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependency services. Part of this outreach is education of both the service providers and the communities to assist in eradicating homelessness.

The City and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator has participated in past homeless counts. The counts were conducted in conjunction with Hark at the Center for Collaborative Care and the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care. During this count, individuals and families in need of assistance were able to fill out forms explaining the help they would need to get out of their situation of being without a home. Outreach teams were trained to be sensitive and to ensure there was an outreach presence on the streets and walk-in services. We engaged with people and encouraged them to accept services, treatment, and housing. The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care has put in place a system that approaches a more uniform response, increased effectiveness with engagement, and increased focus on housing placements. They know there must be visibility in places where populations experience homelessness to have an effective outreach. They know you can either engage the community or you can ignore the problem. They have chosen to engage the community.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The largest cap in meeting the needs of the homeless is the need for additional emergency shelters and transitional housing with support services. Safe havens are also needed in this area. The City will continue to be involved with agencies that provide this service and help in any way we can to help facilitate the construction of these facilities and/or provide services. We want to make sure the needs of individual and families experiencing homelessness, including women and families fleeing domestic violence and unaccompanied youth are met. The City receives no emergency shelter grants, but we are aware that emergency housing provides short-term accommodations for individuals and families who have immediate housing needs, assess level of need, and provide case management assistance in obtaining appropriate housing. Transitional housing helps households move toward self-sufficiency by providing supported semi-independent living for a period of up to 24 months.

Northwest Arkansas has emergency and transitional housing programs specifically designated for survivors of domestic violence as well as housing programs dedicated to youth experiencing homelessness. Veterans also have options for emergency shelters and transitional housing. Community

Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been used in the past to help meet needs of the 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 City of Rogers is not an agency who has the resources or staff to take on this project. We can be involved and provide support in areas that we are able to lend our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to assist in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living. We will continue to support and be involved with the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care to meet the goals of moving homelessness to permanent housing with rapid re-housing assistance, see that our veterans and their families fall into permanent housing and do whatever we can to end the homelessness cycle. The Continuum of Care is committed to identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable for housing placement, however, it should be noted that the major need for the homeless is resources.

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

Families living below the poverty level and those on fixed income are often unable to afford to maintain their homes, which puts them at risk of becoming homeless. The City will continue to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support housing rehabilitation. We will also continue our ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers. We feel it is imperative to keep our housing stock in good shape and to prevent anyone from becoming homeless due to the condition of their home. We don't have a large problem with youth living in existing foster care and residential facilities being discharged with no housing in place; however, we need to make sure that adults being discharged from jails and other systems of care are not homeless upon release. We are seeing an increase of youth homelessness that are not associated with foster care or in residential facilities. They are just living wherever they can find a place to lay their heads--some in cars or in the woods. Our Continuum of Care has made this a priority and working with agencies and churches to not have any of our youth in these situations. They have also developed and implemented policies around discharge planning from healthcare institutions to keep anyone being discharged from becoming

homeless.

The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is the agency for **homelessness**. The mission of the Continuum of Care is to coordinate resources to build a collaborative system that addresses core issues of homelessness and **poverty**. The Continuum of Care is designed to assist individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families experiencing homelessness and to provide the services needed to help such individuals move into transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term **stability**. More broadly, the program is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; improve data collection and performance measurement tailoring its program to the particular strengths and challenges within the **community**. Membership in the organization is open to homeless persons or formerly homeless persons, service providers, governmental representatives, civic organization, and others committed to increasing the availability and quality of services to persons or families who are experiencing or who are near **homelessness**. The Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is governed by a Board of Directors that formulates, implements, and monitors the policies of the organization in order to carry out its **purpose**. It is the policy of the Board to comply with all municipal, state, and Federal regulations regarding the operations of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care and the Board.

The City continues to assist persons with special needs who are not homeless through several programs in the 2021 Action Plan. We provide funding to provide child care and recreation programs for our low-income families and **individuals**. We also provide transportation assistance for our elderly and disabled children and **adults**. We also provide support for our youth who are no longer able to live with their parent/parents because of abuse and drug dependency in their **homes**. We also assist those parents with breaking that cycle of abuse and dependency in order to get their children restored back into their **homes**.

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

Introduction:

Rogers maintains its commitment to preserve, maintain, and increase the stock of affordable housing. Housing affordability is a key component to the quality of life of Rogers' residents. Barriers to affordable housing can lie in several things--displacement of residents due to economic pressures, lack of public investment in specific neighborhoods (including services and amenities), deteriorated vacant structures and land, location and type of affordable housing, inability to access existing housing, location and access to proficient schools, lack of income, availability of affordable units in a range of sizes, lack of communication between residents and those who develop, residential foreclosures, residential evictions, age and condition of housing, and lack of fair housing outreach and enforcement. All of these things are due to banking, finance and industry regulations, socio-economic situations, neighborhood conditions, and policy legislation and enforcement. A barrier can also mean that more than 30% of household gross income is spent on housing, including utilities.

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

Housing prices in Rogers seem to go up and down along with the economy. At one time it was difficult to find new affordable housing and once more affordable housing was being built within reach for the low to moderate-income families and individuals, getting qualified became a barrier to the prospective low-income home owner. Home loan requirements are difficult for the low-income individual or family because many of the banks now require a 20% down payment making it difficult for many.

The City, through its Community Development Department, is working on a plan to increase the amount of affordable housing in Rogers over the next 10 to 20 years. Community Development is looking at amending the Rogers Municipal Code which could require inclusion of a specific number of affordable units in a range of sizes in the new downtown Rogers' housing development. Tiny homes are seeing a rise in the City with development approved by the City for a "tiny home" subdivision near downtown. These homes are selling between \$40,000 and \$70,000. Another "tiny home" subdivision has been approved by the Rogers Planning Commission. We should see construction began in 2021 or 2022. The City will look for incentives for affordable housing developments. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office is looking at ways CDBG funding can be used to help with those incentives and/or assist with new affordable housing. The City will continue with their housing rehabilitation program using CDBG funds with hopes to increase the number of houses we do in our Five- Year Consolidated Plan covering years 2018-2022. This supports our low-income families/individuals and helps them to

maintain their homes.

The City of Rogers supports provisions for affordable housing. Our goal is to maintain an affordable housing inventory for low- and moderate-income persons and households. We also look at providing housing needs for seniors and persons living with disabilities, and we work with agencies that provide supportive housing.

Additional information about the City's efforts to eliminate barriers to affordable housing can be found in the Strategic Plan, SP-55, of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan.

The City's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) is also available to the public.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The Assessment of Furthering Fair Housing identified goals and priorities for the City of Rogers. The City will implement strategies to meet underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards on older housing rehabilitation projects, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing. The City will partner with other City agencies, regional and State agencies, fair housing advocates, housing developers, service providers, lenders, funders, and investors.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources and timeliness of receiving the funding. Sometimes we have projects ready to go, but we have to delay them while we wait on funding. Because of that we carry forward funding from each year to allow our service projects that are relied upon by so many to continue operating. We try to make sure the projects that will have the most impact is done first. One of the biggest obstacles to meeting underserved needs is the 15% cap on service projects. We have to be very careful on who we can provide a service to as our cap eliminates us from helping everyone that applies and qualifies for help. Applicant request amounts are generally higher than the entitlement amount because of the 15% service cap. Eliminating the cap or at least raising it would give us additional funds we need to meet the underserved needs of our community. The City does partner, when feasible, with area non-profits to leverage the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. We also know where other agencies might have funds available where we can send people to those agencies to seek help when funding is not available through the City of Rogers.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City of Rogers has a housing rehabilitation program to foster and maintain affordable housing. In this program we do basic systems repair, provide energy efficient windows to include screens and doors to include storm doors, energy efficient HVAC units, insulation, any electrical or plumbing work needed to bring house to code, and any work needed that is a health or safety hazard. We make homes handicap accessible for our elderly to allow them to be able to stay in their homes. We do mold and lead based paint testing when needed. The City will try to foster new affordable rental and homeownership housing opportunities in Rogers. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator is working with the City's Community Development Department on ways we can make it easier for the development of affordable homes through partnerships and offering incentives for the

developer to be profitable in building affordable housing.

The City of Rogers uses a large portion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation for housing rehabilitation. Any housing unit we rehabilitate that has been identified as lead hazard, we will remediate. All Federal Regulations will be followed, and we will comply with all lead-based paint hazard reduction requirements including risk assessment, notifications, using the appropriate level of control/mitigation measures, and obtaining clearance for houses found to contain lead paint that will be disturbed by the rehabilitation program. The Renovation, Repair and Painting Laws were enacted in 2008. Since April 2009, this law has required contractors to attend training for certification regarding the potential lead-paint or lead dust. Companies and individuals working on renovations that disturb paint in homes built before 1978 must be certified by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. All persons conducting the lead hazard control work must successfully complete an approved eight hour "Lead Safe Work Practices" (LSWP) class. This class will provide workers with information they need to understand that lead-based paint can create health hazards and that using proper work practices can control hazards. Proof of LWSP training will be required prior to commencement of lead-hazard control work. Testing for lead-based paint will be done prior to any bidding or rehabilitation. Testing will be done by a qualified firm. Applicants for housing rehabilitation found to contain lead-based paint will receive priority funding status for the cost of the remediation.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Rogers believes education and job opportunities are paths that lead families out of poverty. We are aware that to reduce the number of poverty-level individuals and families we must increase the opportunities for the low-income by creating jobs and workforce development as well as providing essential services, educational outcomes, housing security and affordability, and economic security. Using our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding we will continue existing programs that promote a stable living environment and reduce dependency. We know housing is a significant financial burden. We will continue providing housing rehabilitation and home repairs to help the low-income remain in their homes. This program not only promotes a stable living environment and reduce dependency, but prevents homelessness, financial hardships and possible institutionalization. The City will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods, with the greatest number of low-income residents. The City will also continue to provide services such as transportation assistance and child care to our low-income individuals and families.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City will provide sub-recipient training prior to the execution of sub-recipient agreements. Staff will participate in HUD-sponsored training opportunities as they become available. When appropriate, the City will include sub-recipients to attend training to strengthen their understanding of the rules and

regulations applicable to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The City will maintain its webpage with up-to-date information as a resource for our sub-recipients as well as our residents.

The City of Rogers is the lead administrative agency for the CDBG Program. The Mayor, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator provide fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and their Federal grant. The Administrator is responsible to see that all reports are submitted timely. These reports include HUD-272, Federal Cash Transaction Report, HUD-2516 and 2516-A, Contract and Subcontract Activity, HUD-471, Semi-Annual Labor Standards Enforcement Report, and Section 3, Summary Report. The Section 3 report is submitted with the Consolidated Annual Performance Review (CAPER) each year. The City of Rogers also acts as the final authority for the appropriation of funds for Annual Action Plan activities following recommendations to the Rogers City Council. Within each of the funding areas where the City is partnered with a non-profit agency, all activities will be completed and managed with those agencies involved.

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

The public and private agencies are collaborated with in developing the City's Five- Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. City department heads, Mayor and City Council are also involved in all plan development. The City of Rogers does have limited resources to address the many priorities identified in making collaboration a key success to meet the needs of our residents. The City will continue to seek cooperative working partnerships to leverage the City's 2021 Program Year allocation.

City Staff and representatives of the local public housing authority, private housing resources, health service providers, social service agencies, as well as agencies that deal with youth and homeless communicate and work well together for the benefit of the residents of Rogers. The City shares timely news announcements through press releases. Notices of special interest to social service agencies are forwarded to agency representatives by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator.

Discussion:

The City is committed to continuing its participation with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as profit and non-profit sector, to reach the needs of target income individuals and families in the City of Rogers. The City will continue to work on improvements and services for our low-income residents.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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

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

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

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate- income Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%

The City of Rogers strives to use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on the extremely low to low-income individuals and families. The City has no activities deemed "Urgent Need" in the 2021 Action Plan. The CDBG funding housing rehabilitation program are grants to the homeowner. Only way program income is generated is through a later sell of the property and rebates received by utilities for using energy efficient HVAC and windows in the rehabilitation. We also get rebates with installing new insulation. All housing rehabilitation houses a Deferred Loan Agreement (DLA) filed at the Benton County Courthouse which keeps the property from being sold until the DLA has been released. The DLA is pro-rated each year until the DLA is released.

