



# Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2022

*Prepared by*

*The Rogers Community Development Block Grant Office*

*For Submission to*

*The Department of Housing and Urban Development*

## 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.

Program Year 2022 is the fifth year of the current Five Year Consolidated Plan (2018-2022). Communities develop their own programs and funding priorities based on local needs using HUD's established guidelines to define projects/activities that may be undertaken to ensure each project/activity meets one of the national objectives of the CDBG Program. This report describes the use of \$469,130 CDBG funds in 2022.

Housing rehabilitation continues to be a focus for using CDBG grant money to meet the City's housing goals of decent housing and objective of benefiting low and moderate income persons by improving the quality of owner housing which will increase the availability of permanent in good standard condition at an affordable cost and retain affordable housing stock. The City spent \$132,564 on housing rehabilitation. This cost also included funds spent on rehab administration and the City's paint program. The homes that we do ranged from very low to low-income. Two homes had female head of household; three were disabled or had someone living in the home that was disabled; two were married with children; and two were single. One homeowner was considered elderly. Work completed on these homes included correcting code violations, energy efficient windows, doors and storm doors, energy efficient HVAC, and roofs. Smoke/carbon monoxide detectors (hard-wired) were installed where needed. All homes with suspected water damages and leaks were tested for mold and safe practices were used to clean and remediate those areas. Follow-up testing was done when work was completed. No lead based paint testing was done as all the homes were built after 1978.

The City funded seven public service projects meeting the City's goals of suitable living environments and benefiting low and moderate-income persons by improving and increasing access to services. We partnered with Community Clinic to provide transportation to patients who had no means of transportation. We partnered with Boys and Girls Club (Rogers Unit) to continue providing scholarships to low-income children in Rogers to attend their after school and summer programs. CASA received a grant to provide advocacy to Rogers' children taken from their homes because of abuse. We partnered with Sunshine School and Development Center to provide transportation to their facility for disabled children needing therapy and schooling. Nicole's House received a grant to provide transportation for the clients in their shelter to get to and from work. Open Avenues partnership provided transportation for disabled adults to get to work each day. Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter received a grant to provide housing for women and/or children when the shelter was at capacity, however, that grant will not be issued until 2023. The City also continued their transportation assistance program for our low-income residents to maintain their quality of life, however, it was funded with previous year funding.

The City funded five public facility projects in 2022; however, we did not get started on any of those projects. We did finish up the PEARL project, funded in 2021 coming under budget by \$1,941. Unless we can find a smaller project, we will drop these funds in line of credit and amend the 2021 Plan to use those funds in 2023. The other public facility projects will be started in 2023 due to changes in scope of work, one grant possibly not needed, and one has been delayed due to extended health leave. One is out for bid, and bid documents are being prepared for two of these projects.

**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
Access to Publicly Supported Housing	Public Housing Authority Access	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1	0	0.00%			
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	8000	0	0.00%	1428	0	0.00%

CARES Act Funding Goals	Public Services	CDBG-CV: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4459	27	0.61%			
CARES Act Funding Goals	Public Services	CDBG-CV: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0				
CARES Act Funding Goals - Public Facility	Public Facility	CDBG-CV: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	30	0	0.00%			
Decent Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	13	26.00%	8	9	112.50%
Encourage Development of Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	5	0	0.00%			
Increase Accessible Housing Units for Disabled	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	4	0	0.00%			

Preserve Affordable Housing in Downtown Rogers	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	40	0	0.00%			
Provide Fair Housing Outreach and Education	Public Service, Fair Housing	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	100	0	0.00%			
Public Facilities	Public Facilities	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		14039	0	0.00%
Public Facility - AAO	Public Facility	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	300	0	0.00%			
Public Facility - PEARL	Facility for Women in Recovery	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	30	0	0.00%			

Public Facility - Souls Harbor	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	25	0	0.00%			
Public Service - Boys & Girls Club	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1100	612	55.64%			
Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	Public Service - CASA of Northwest Arkansas	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	275	0	0.00%			
Public Service - COVID Vaccine	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	500	0	0.00%			
Public Service - Open Avenues	Public Service - Open Avenues	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1000	0	0.00%			

Public Service - Sunshine School & Development	Public Service - Sunshine School & Development Center	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	405	0	0.00%			
Public Service - Transportation Assistance	Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	90				
Public Service - Transportation Assistance	Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Public Service - Transportation Assistance	Transportation Assistance for Elderly and Disabled	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	500	0	0.00%			
Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	1181		182	1181	648.90%
Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		696	0	0.00%

Public Services	Public Services	CDBG: \$	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	0	0		0	0	
Public Services - Community Clinic	Public Service - Community Clinic	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	85	0	0.00%			

**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 and emergency repairs comprised 28% of the grant funds spent for Program Year 2022. Applications received in 2022 and unable to start will start in 2023 using 2022 funding.

The City allocated 15% of their funds for service projects. We spent 12%. All service projects were completed except transportation assistance the Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter. We always carry over money each year for transportation assistance to keep that program running until we receive new funding. Because of how Covid-19 impacted transportation, we already have enough funds to carry that program through 2024. Arkansas Women's Shelter received another grant prior to receiving our grant for the same scope of work. We will allow those funds to be spent in 2023 when the other funding is depleted. Impacts of the service projects are as follows: CASA, 74; Boys and Girls Club, 699; Sunshine School and Development Center, 204; Community Clinic, 137; Nicole's House, 29, Open Avenues, 38, and transportation assistance, 90.

The completed PEARL facility impacted 30.

Administration accounted for 16% of the 2022 grant.

We did finish up two CARES Act service projects in 2022.



## 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)

	<b>CDBG</b>
White	1,049
Black or African American	21
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	19
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,116</b>
Hispanic	483
Not Hispanic	633

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

### Narrative

According to the 2021 Census Quick Facts, 45% of Rogers' population is a minority race. Hispanics make up 34% of that population. As the table above indicates, 49% of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) participants (including Hispanics) were part of the minority population assisted. The Census Quick Facts for 2021 shows 54.6% non-Hispanic, 1.7% of the population black or African American, 34.4% Hispanic, 3.8% Asian and/or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, .7% American Indian or American Native, and 14.1% labels as more than one 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	469,130	324,671
Other	public - federal	43,058	43,058

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

### Narrative

### Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Census Tracts			
Low Income Individuals or Families	100	100	Meet all criteria for CDBG funding regardless of where they live

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

### Narrative

In Program Year 2022, the City of Rogers supported core service activities that addressed community-wide concerns and needs, facility projects that provided services to our low-income individuals and families, and housing rehabilitation projects to keep our low-income residents in their homes by making them warm, safe, and dry.

None of our 2022 facility projects were able to start. Two of the projects had a change in scope of work and went through the amendment process. One project is on hold until a decision is made on what to do with an existing building. An architect has recommended tearing down the building in lieu of rehab and rebuild on the property where old building was located. If they go this direction, we will reallocate those funds to housing rehabilitation. One project is out for bid and should be completed by end of March 2023. Two projects are in the process of getting specifications written so we can go out for bids.

## 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 only receives CDBG funding as well as some program income from energy rebates and payoff of deferred loan agreements. The amount the City receives makes it difficult to leverage our funding, but we continue to look for ways to make that work. In the past we have purchased land for the development of the first Habitat for Humanity Subdivision in the State of Arkansas, partnered with Open Avenues to help open a new facility that provides employment and care for disabled adults, partnered with the City to build sidewalks in our census tracts where over 51% of the population were low income, partnered with Souls Harbor to rehabilitate a building that houses men with addictions and who are homelessness. We have also partnered with the Teen Action Support Center to assist in the renovation of space at the Non-Profit Center in Rogers to allow this agency to move all their programs into one building which will allow teens to get all their needs met in one location. We also renovated a facility for women coming out of incarceration. This facility was located in a single-family subdivision and were given permission by the City through conditional use permitting to operate this facility.

## 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	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 11 – 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	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	4	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to support the rehab of low income owner-occupied single-family housing units, however, one did not finish until 2023 and will be reflected in that Program Year. At the end of 2022, we had applications to get ready to bid in 2023 and those also will be submitted with the 2023 CAPER. The number of assisted units fluctuates from year to year depending upon how many applications were received. Although the supply chain is better than 2021,

we are still seeing delays in getting windows and doors shipped which slowed down the time from bid opening until construction starts on many of our projects.

**Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.**

The City of Rogers will continue to make housing rehabilitation a priority in their future Annual Action Plans. The City would like to see a more realistic timeline for completing applications in the year they were received; however, we don't always receive the application in time to process, inspect, bid and complete construction within the funding year nor do we have all the funds available to do all the work requested. Some years we have to wait on program funding to be dispersed before we can start our projects. This year release of funding did not impact our housing rehabilitation program as we carried over funds from 2020 and 2021 due to COVID. Our housing rehabilitation program shut down in March of 2020 and did not resume until summer of 2020. When we did start back up, we only did one house at a time.

**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	0	0
Low-income	4	0
Moderate-income	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 13 – Number of Households Served**

**Narrative Information**

Safe, warm, and dry houses will continue to be the factor in the City of Rogers' efforts to earmark funding for housing rehabilitation each Program Year. We also look to make the house more energy efficient by installing energy efficient HVAC units, windows, doors, and add additional insulation, when needed.

## **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 of Rogers continues their commitment to decent and affordable housing to address the homelessness situation and those at risk of becoming homeless. The City has worked with the HARK Collaboration Group and the University of Arkansas in their point in time count which is done in January of each year. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator also worked with a group called Tapestry House. This group purchased a house, with a donation by an individual, in Rogers for the sole purpose of housing a homeless individual, couple, or family to help them get on their feet by providing a very low rent house for occupancy. Tapestry House works with Continuum of Care and HARK groups in selecting an individual, couple, or family for the Tapestry house. The City is also a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care, a coalition of Northwest Arkansas cities and agencies, who have teamed together to set goals of targeting the homeless. This coalition assists individuals with accessing mainstream mental health and chemical dependence services as well as many other needs which include assessments of individuals, chronically homeless as well as veterans living on the street who typically do not access shelter or other homeless services. Part of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care is education of both the service providers and the communities to assist in eradicating homelessness. The CDBG Administrator attends those meetings and the City will do whatever it can to help this group meet their goals. The City's CDBG Administrator also serves on the Youth Council Board to address youth homelessness in Northwest Arkansas. By funding the rehabilitation of Souls Harbor and PEARL facilities, some of our CDBG funding directly supported homeless men and women. You can either choose to engage the community or you can ignore the problem. The City of Rogers does not want to ignore the problem.

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

There are several organizations that exist in Northwest Arkansas that serve families or persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Four of these agencies have received funding in the past and with 2022 CDBG funding. These agencies are Seven Hills Homeless Shelter, CASA, Souls Harbor, and PEARL. CASA and Souls Harbor received 2022 funding. CASA provides placement for children removed from their homes due to an at risk situation in their homes. Souls Harbor is a transitional living facility for men who are addicted and in most cases homeless. PEARL provides a place for women coming out of jail and/or prison to live while trying to get their lives back on track and have a safe place to reside where there is accountability. Without facilities such as this, most of these women would end up homeless. There are different kinds of shelters to address shelter and transitional housing needs for homeless households in Northwest Arkansas. We have overnight shelters that can somewhat meet food needs and be a place to find out if they would be willing to participate in case management or receive

more intensive services that ultimately could lead to interim housing. Interim housing helps to reduce the amount of time people spend homeless with a goal to get into permanent housing as soon as possible. Permanent supportive housing helps clients to maintain residential stability. Many of these clients may have serious and persistent disabilities such as mental illness, substance abuse disorders, HIV-AIDS, all of which can contribute to chronic homelessness. Safe Havens are housing programs for individuals who are difficult to engage in services. We know the ultimate solution to ending homelessness is permanent housing closely aligned with supportive services that ensure housing.

The Homeless Needs Assessment and Point-In-Time Count has been a tool to better prepare the City to assist the homeless, and help them make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The City of Rogers has met with organizations interested in bringing transition facilities to Rogers; however, those organizations have not moved forward with any projects. The City receives no ESG funds.

**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**

The City of Rogers is not an agency that can take this on. We do know the circumstances that cause homelessness include eviction, loss of income, insufficient income disability, housing cost increases, being discharged from an institution, irreparable damage or deterioration of housing, and family violence. All we can do is to be involved and provide support in areas that we are able to lend our CDBG funding to assist in making the transition to permanent housing and independent living and preventing these individuals and families from becoming homeless again.

**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 continues its ongoing efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units in Rogers to help rehabilitate homes that would otherwise be destined for condemnation or in need of major repairs. We feel it is imperative to keep our housing stock in good shape and prevent anyone from being homeless due to the condition of their home. We are seeing more youth homelessness. We

are also seeing families with increased medical bills due to COVID and hardships put on these individuals and families due to quarantines in 2020 and 2021. We want to make sure our people in residential facilities can be discharged with housing in place. We also need to make sure adults being discharged from jails and other systems of care are not homeless upon release. We need to make sure that we can continue to meet the needs of our youth as the population increases each year in the Northwest Arkansas Metro Area. This will require good coordination from all agencies involved with homelessness. Our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan provided CDBG funding to support activities that provide services and/or eliminate homelessness.



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

### **Actions taken to address the needs of public housing**

The City of Rogers does not have a Public Housing Office. All of Benton County falls under the Public Housing Authority of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. All Section 8 vouchers are handled out of the Siloam Springs Office. The City does have 755 units of low income housing available with 56 of those units available for elderly only. Another 72 units for elderly are planned in Dixieland Gardens when Federal funding becomes available. Some of the newer complexes built for low-income are energy-star rated. The City continues to work in any endeavor it can to assure there is affordable housing in Rogers. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator tries to stay in contact with the Siloam Springs Housing Authority and refers any residents who contact us for low income housing or Section 8 vouchers to the Siloam Springs Office. We do get complaints from time to time about the distance from Rogers to Siloam Springs which is difficult for our low-income residents in need of public housing or Section 8 vouchers. It is 33.6 miles from Rogers to Siloam Springs and depending upon traffic could take as long as one hour to make the trip.

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

The CDBG Administrator attends and stays involved in any meetings and workshops to encourage involvement in management and participation in homeownership.

### **Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs**

Siloam Springs Public Housing Authority is not designated 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 primary barriers to affordable housing are housing affordability and lack of developers interested in developing affordable housing. For several years, Rogers saw a drop in home prices that put more homes within reach for the low to moderate-income individuals and families; however, the number of available homes left on the market after the housing crisis has pretty much diminished. We are now seeing prices escalate and less affordable homes on the market. The economy has definitely improved in Northwest Arkansas compared to other areas in the United States. The City has encouraged development of housing for low-income by being as flexible as they can be with zoning laws to encourage the developer to look at developing lower price homes in the \$150,000 or below price range. We are starting to see a little of that development being discussed. We are working with the Community Development Department to see how we can partner with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and the developer to make affordable subdivisions more appealing. We are looking at amenities that could be paid with CDBG funding such as street lights, curb and gutter, etc. We are also looking at bringing affordability in our downtown area with new construction. The City has two areas developed for tiny homes that sell in the \$35,000 to \$100,000 price range.

The City will look at land and zoning changes to increase density in planned developments earmarking some of the development to be affordable. We will look at any vacant properties that might be sold at a low price to be used for the creation of affordable housing.

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

The major obstacle to meeting all of the identified needs is the lack of funding resources to meet the underserved needs of low-and moderate-income people. Applicant request amounts are generally much higher than the entitlement amount especially when it comes to the public service 15% cap. The City, when feasible, partners with other non-profits to leverage their funding applications. We continually reassess our policies and make adjustments in response to changing market conditions and service needs. In the past two years, the City has shifted greater resources towards our housing rehabilitation program to keep our existing older housing stock in good condition. This keeps these homes from falling into disrepair and presenting hazards to the residents.

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

The Residential Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) emphasizes prevention of childhood lead poisoning through housing-based approaches. To reduce lead-based paint hazards, the rehabilitation of housing units built prior to January 1, 1978 includes a lead-based paint testing and risk

assessment. Where lead-based paint is identified, the City ensures that developers and contractor incorporate safe work practices or abate the lead-based paint as part of the scope of work to effectively reduce lead-based paint hazards to children in accordance with 24 CFR Part 35.

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

The City continues with their existing programs that promote a stable living environment and helps to reduce dependency. The City did four housing rehabilitations and emergency repairs to help the low-income remain in their homes. Our housing program promotes a stable living environment and reduces dependence and also prevents homelessness, financial hardships and possibly institutionalization. We will continue to work to maximize program dollars and opportunities in neighborhoods with the greatest number of low-to-moderate-income residents. The partnerships that the City has with its non-profit agencies helps to provide services that could go a long way in providing that level. Transportation assistance impacts our low-income elderly and disabled residents in that it allows them to use the money they need for transportation on other needs of their lives. The City works to promote the independence and well-being of individuals, support families and strengthen neighborhoods. We use CDBG funding to provide services for low-income residents with the objective of providing basic needs and improving their quality of life as well as the quality of life for all residents in the City. We support agencies that address critical and emergency human service needs of low-income persons and families. We support programs that support positive outcomes that promote and help maintain self-sufficiency and meet short-term and long-term needs.

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

The Mayor, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator provide fiscal and regulatory oversight of all CDBG funding sources and Federal grants. All reports in 2022 were submitted timely. Funds were drawn down and checks written in a timely manner. The City did not meet their drawdown percentages prior to the November 1, 2022 deadline. Much of that was due to some changes in scope of work that needed to be done after the Action Plan was submitted, a major illness with one of the agencies that were providing specifications for the bidding process, and getting bid packages together to meet dates set aside for construction. One of the 2022 projects may be reallocated due to the building not being structurally sound enough for use. Also, the City did not receive their funding until September of 2022 giving us a short time frame for spending. We will be timely November 1, 2023. All of our funding in 2022 was designated for low income.

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

The City sought partnerships to leverage 2022 funding. If the cap on public service could be lifted, we would have been able to see more partnerships. Much of our needs in Northwest Arkansas are service needs and the cap makes it very difficult to provide those services. The CDBG Administrator is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Continuum of Care organization. The membership of this

organization consists of the majority of the housing and social service providers in Northwest Arkansas. The City is definitely involved with non-profits and organization that are working to address poverty through community engagement.

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

For many households, low or no income is a major factor in preventing their exercise of housing choice. Minority populations in the City of Rogers are confronted with an ever high percentage of their populations living in poverty compared to Whites. Households experiencing a severe lack of income and those unemployed typically face limitations in fair housing choice. The City and local Chamber of Commerce are continuing work on expanding job opportunities through the recruitment of corporations, the provision of incentives for local corporations seeking expansion opportunities, and other activities aimed at reducing unemployment and expanding the base of high income plus provide jobs that support persons with high school educations, GED's, community colleges and technical schools. Recruiting such industries can assist in increasing the local tax base while serving to provide necessary income for more persons to earn a living wage and improve their ability to qualify for home ownership. The City is also working to increase public awareness of fair housing rights and legislation.

As part of the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan process, the City selected a contractor to do the City's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) report. In developing the report, the contractor convened focus groups with fair housing and community organizations and the real estate industry. The contractor also met with key City department heads and sister agencies to learn about their efforts to affirmatively furthering fair housing. The contractor developed recommendations for action items which serves as the Fair Housing Plan for the City. The AFFH report was completed in August of 2017 and is located on the City's website. The City is working to meet most of the goals established for 2018-2022.

As a way to further fair housing in the City of Rogers, the City has tried to work with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission to do a town hall meeting in our City. This was originally scheduled for 2018, but the Fair Housing Director in Little Rock requested that due to her schedule, we reschedule the town hall meeting to summer of 2019. Cancellation was done before any preparations for the meeting had been made. Then in the summer of 2019, the Fair Housing Commission Director resigned her position to move out of State and the interim director wanted to wait until they had someone in place before attempting to schedule a meeting. In 2020, COVID-19 hit. The Arkansas Department of Health issued guidelines preventing gatherings of more than ten people. We looked at virtual, but it was determined the cost versus those who would attend did not justify having a meeting at this time. With COVID numbers still occurring, we feel like we need to push this town hall meeting into the next Consolidated Plan reporting period, 2023-2027.

## **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**

The City of Rogers established procedures to monitor the use of Federal grant funds. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office administered all activities in compliance with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. All agencies receiving funding entered into an agreement with the City of Rogers and were monitored by the CDBG Administrator. All housing rehabilitation activities followed bidding requirements except those that were deemed emergency and required immediate attention. An emergency is when a health and/or safety issue is at hand. Work was permitted through the City's Risk Reduction Department. Inspections were held prior to the start of the work, during the work, and at the end of the work before final payment was made. Any code violations found at initial inspection were added to the scope of work. The City's transportation assistance program was monitored to make sure all recipients of free rides in 2022 met all the income requirements established by HUD. A file was set up for each activity and documentation for that activity was made a part of the completed file used for HUD monitoring. All other City service projects were also monitored before closing out the project. Three City employees--Accounts Payable, Finance Director, and CDBG Administrator--oversaw the handling of the City's CDBG funds. This provides a good check and balance for these funds. The City's public facility projects were also bid projects, inspected by the Risk Reduction Department, and monitored by the CDBG Office. The CDBG Office was also part of the City's annual audit and all paperwork concerning the audit was filed in accordance with Federal guidelines. Project files can be destroyed in five years unless a Deferred Loan Agreement (DLA) has been filed on the property. The file will not be eligible for destroying until the DLA has been released from the property. The City made sure all grantees that performed services for the City complied with all applicable Federal regulations governing their administrative, financial and program operations. To ensure this, technical assistance was provided to all subrecipients and monitoring was done. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and IDIS continue to be used as effective monitoring resource documents. They serve as accurate measures of performance in terms of eligible beneficiaries served, program target areas, and dollars identified for the project. The City also submits an annual Section 3 Compliance Report with each CAPER.

## **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.**

To ensure our residents' priorities and needs are addressed in the Action Plan, the City holds at least two public hearings each year. An initial public hearing was held for the 2022 Action Plan on August 5, 2021 and a final public hearing was held on July 5, 2022. Another Public Hearing was held on August 22, 2022

which was our initial Public Hearing preparing the 2023 Action Plan. This gave us two Public Hearings in the 2022 Program Year. The 2022 CAPER was ready for public review and comments on February 27, 2023. We make sure our residents are fully informed concerning the City's CDBG grants and how that grant money is appropriated. The public hearings were held in a building that had access for persons with disabilities. The hearing was scheduled after work to provide working individuals and families a greater opportunity to attend. Because Rogers has a large Spanish speaking population, a bilingual (English/Spanish) person was made available to non-English speaking persons. Copies of these plans were placed in four locations in Rogers to be viewed as well as online making accessibility to the plans easy for our residents.

The CAPER for the 2022 Program Year was also placed at four locations as well as online and a 15-day comment period was given to our residents prior to submitting the CAPER to HUD.

### **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.**

There have been no significant changes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program objectives. The City does not plan to change its programs as a result of any experiences we have encountered. We will continue to provide services to our low-income residents, promote fair housing, help with homeless prevention, providing funding for facility and infrastructure needs, and continue our housing rehabilitation 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.**