



**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
HUD FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
HOME Investment Partnership (HOME)
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**

Lee County Board of County Commissioners

Human and Veteran Services

Cecil Pendergrass, Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Roger Desjarlais, County Manager

Marc Mora, Assistant County Manager

Roger Mercado, Director, Human and Veteran Services

Executive Summary

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

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 Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan has been completed in compliance with Federal regulations and through consultation with stakeholders and program staff. A variety of projects have been identified throughout the plan, which are intended to assist in the provision of housing, community development, assistance for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and neighborhood revitalization. These projects are being undertaken in accordance with the objectives, outcomes, and goals specified in Lee County's 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

Evaluation of past performance

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

Lee County has faced several challenges in the recent past that have created additional needs. On September 30, 2022, a category 5 hurricane made landfall on Lee County, FL. Hurricane Ian was one of the strongest storms to ever make landfall in the United States. The catastrophic destruction from Ian left the community devastated and compounded the existing strain on resources. The need for additional affordable housing units was highlighted in the already limited housing market. To this end, Lee County has framed the available HUD funding to strengthen non-profit housing development with HOME funds. This will provide for non-profit developers to add additional affordable units in the county. Lee County will use CDBG funds to provide down payment assistance for a second year in this plan. The success from the first year of homeownership assistance allowed a greater number of households to utilize HUD funding to obtain affordable housing. CDBG funds will also be used for non-profit capital improvements to increase the support of non-profit service providers.

As the community emerges from the hurricane, the Covid-19 pandemic and inflation continues to rise nation-wide, the economic impacts of households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income are significant. Those needs include additional affordable housing units, rental assistance, economic support, and expanded behavioral health services.

In addition to needs resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, other community needs were identified through a gaps analysis that was completed for Lee County in 2019. The three dominant gaps identified were in the areas of behavioral health, housing, and transportation. Staff consulted the community

consulted during the planning process evaluated past project outcomes. Through this consultation, it was determined that the continuation of many of the previous year's projects was also essential.

Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in a variety of avenues. Lee County welcomes input during two dedicated public meetings. The draft plan is published on the Lee County website, and public notice to review the plan is published in the NewsPress with contact information for county employees. The public is encouraged to comment throughout the consultation process.

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.

Feedback from the public mentioned an immense need for affordable housing, transient housing for youth out of foster care, transportation assistance, food, mental and substance abuse resources, animal care needs and affordable childcare. The public also stressed the need for affordable housing for the workforce in the community mentioning that they were unable to live where they work due to the cost of living and the lack of affordable childcare. Aging community mentioned a shortage of affordable housing and a need for more transportation services due to increase demand and inflation. Many with pets are unable to find an affordable place to live due to increase cost of rent, pet fees and pet restrictions. In addition, the public stressed the need for affordable veterinary services, reliable transportation and access to home laptops and Wi-Fi. Lastly, the public mentioned revising zoning regulations and a need for increased code enforcement since the hurricane. Solutions that were mentioned included public services such as after school programs, workforce development needs and programs, financial counselling courses, "Do's and Don'ts of cohabitating in a safe manner", more bus passes, down payment assistance, rental assistance.

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

All comments were accepted and considered in the planning process.

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	LEE COUNTY	
CDBG Administrator	LEE COUNTY	Human and Veteran Services
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator	LEE COUNTY	Human and Veteran Services
ESG Administrator	LEE COUNTY	Human and Veteran Services

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Lee County Human and Veteran Services (HVS) is responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan. Lee County's entitlement consists of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs, all of which are administered by HVS managers in several departmental program areas, with clerical and fiscal support. Sub-recipient contracts with Urban County and nonprofit agencies are monitored by HVS, but fieldwork is completed by City of Bonita Springs, Village of Estero, City of Sanibel, Town of Fort Myers Beach, or nonprofit agency staff.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Questions and correspondence relating to the Consolidated Plan should be directed to Clare Molloy, Operations Manager, Lee County Human and Veteran Services by mail at 2440 Thompson Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901, by phone at 239-533-7905, by fax at 239-533-7960, or by e-mail at CMolloy@leegov.com.

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

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(I))

Coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies occurs on a regular basis to provide coordinated client services, and for the development of this plan. The Bob-Janes Empowerment Center and Low-Demand Shelter continues to provide an example of this community-wide coordination. The Triage facility is jointly funded and managed by Lee County Human and Veteran Services, Center for Progress and Excellence and SalusCare, and partners with local law enforcement and homeless service providers. Staff from local non-profit service providers, Lee Health, law enforcement agencies, and public housing agencies regularly meet and carry out efforts to address community needs, such as the assisted implementation of the CoC's 2019-2028 Strategic Plan.

In 2020, Lee County Human and Veteran Services identified the need for increased capacity in Street Outreach and Coordinated Entry. Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant funds were used to support creation and implementation of outreach teams in partnership with six local law enforcement organizations, and Centerstone, a local behavioral health provider. These teams were deemed the Housing, Outreach and Treatment (HOT) teams to signify their intent within the CoC. This partnership expanded outreach capacity throughout Lee County area. To improve services available after regular business hours, Lee County Human and Veteran Services also contracts with Center for Progress and Excellence, the local operator of the Mobile Crisis Unit, to offer 24/7/365 access to the CoC's Coordinated Entry process.

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.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services is the Lead Agency for the Continuum of Care, and has spearheaded the local effort to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act provisions. There is continuous coordination between Lee County, the Lee County Homeless Coalition, and the Continuum as a whole, to address the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This includes discharge planning, identifying needs and gaps in the community, evaluating system and project performance, establishing system-wide written standards, and researching project models and funding sources. Lee County Human and Veteran Services is leading continuous efforts for rapidly re-housing persons who are experiencing homelessness. Most recently HVS spearheaded a 100x100 housing campaign aimed at housing 100 households in 100 days. The Continuum of Care exceed that goal by housing 124 households, and have begun another campaign during which the CoC is expected to far exceed the 100 household goal.

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

As previously noted, Lee County is the Lead Agency for the Continuum of Care and is in continuous consultation with the Continuum Governing Board and General Membership, including consulting on ESG Planning. Continuum members continue to support the current ESG program structure, in which Human and Veteran Services administers a portion of the ESG allocation to provide outreach and rapid re-housing assistance to eligible households and allocates remaining funds for shelter operations.

In 2017, the Continuum of Care Governing Board established new project performance targets and approved continuum-wide written standards. In September 2019, the Board approved the transition to a single point of entry model for Coordinated Entry, in accordance with CPD Notice 17-01. ESG projects are monitored annually, and outcomes are included in system performance measures. The Lee County Continuum of Care Governing Board was consulted during May 2023. During that time, members supported the continuation of the Rapid Re-Housing programs administered by Human and Veteran Services and the Center for Progress and Excellence through the Bob Janes Empowerment Center. In August of 2021 to better balance provider caseloads, the Lee County Continuum of Care Governing Board discussed and approved adjusting case management thresholds to Coordinated Entry referrals. By doing so, a wider variety of clients are referred to case management and are given the opportunity to access ESG, ESG-CV, and ESG-RUSH funded housing services.

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	Affordable Housing Committee/Lee County Community Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consultation was completed via email. A variety of feedback was received, most highlighting the need for affordable, safe housing options to support a sustainable debt-to-income ratio. Other solution-oriented suggestions included increasing housing subsidy amounts to assist with mortgage reductions, public transit available in more areas with attainable housing, and ensuring bi-lingual assistance was available in all steps of the assistance process to provide equity.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	FL-603 Lee County Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Other government - Local

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy 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?	A consultation with the CoC Governing Board was completed. The feedback from this organization highlighted a rate of increasing homelessness in elderly households and households with children. A variety of potential barriers to housing were discussed, including lack of housing stock, lack of housing subsidy, and the destruction from Hurricane Ian.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consultation was completed via email. This organization mentioned the need for additional housing vouchers and increased safety precautions in existing public housing developments.

4	Agency/Group/Organization	Lee County Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consultation was completed via email. Feedback in the areas of actions to address the needs of public housing, increase affordable housing stock and the efficacy of the housing authority was provided.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Lee County Board of County Commissioners
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Families with children 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?	Consultation completed via email. Feedback included the need for affordable housing in the community, highlighting the expanded need since Hurricane Ian. An identified barrier to increasing affordable housing availability is the demand and cost of land, as well as financing restrictions. Suggested approaches to overcoming these barriers are housing models where families have financial stake in the process or tax relief benefits.

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

Input was solicited from a broad variety of stakeholders. No agency types were intentionally excluded from consultation.

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	Lee County Human and Veteran Services	The Lee Continuum of Care implemented a Strategic Plan in April 2019. The CoC's strategic plan emphasizes permanent housing and the provision of supportive services.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

A number of organizations were consulted in the creation of the 2023 Annual Action Plan. Lee County hosted two public hearings, consulted 4 local committees and published this plan for public comment in a locally circulating newspaper. A majority of the comments received focused on lack of affordable housing stock, which has heightened since Hurricane Ian, and the need for additional public transportation options. This feedback impacted the allocation of the budget into a variety of housing focused projects.

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 Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	There were 7 members of the public at the meeting and 4 staff members from the county.	Comments were focused on affordable housing and transportation services.	All comments were accepted.	
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	There were 11 members of the public at this meeting and 4 staff members from the county.	Comments were focused on workforce housing in the community and the various challenges that come long with rental housing.	All comments were accepted.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

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	3,085,111	50,000	0	3,135,111	0	
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,095,673	65,000	0	1,160,673	0	

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: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	276,288	0	0	276,288	0	
Continuum of Care	public - federal	Admin and Planning Financial Assistance Housing Public Services Rapid re-housing Rental Assistance Services TBRA Transitional housing	0	0	0	0	1,400,670	
General Fund	public - local	Admin and Planning Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Public Services Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services	0	0	0	0	2,243,536	

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- CDBG CV	public - federal	Other	0	0	0	0	575,943	
Other – Community Services Block Grant	public - state	Admin and Planning Financial Assistance Housing Public Services Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services	0	0	0	0	228,126	
Other – Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)	public - state	Admin and Planning Financial Assistance Rental Assistance Services TBRA	0	0	0	0	269,400	
Other	public - state	Admin and Planning Financial Assistance Services	0	0	0	0	523,797	
Other	public - state	Admin and Planning Homebuyer assistance Housing Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance	0	0	0	0	381,245	

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 - state	Admin and Planning Housing Public Services Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services	0	0	0	0	148,500	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

Federal funds will leverage other funds by referring identified at-risk households or homeless households to appropriate programs for prevention or re-housing. Services provides are funded with Lee County General funds, Continuum of Care programs, HOPWA and CSBG. Additionally, State SHIP funds are used to assist low-income persons with down payment assistance and provide match for HOME funded projects. ESG will be matched with County General funds, as well as other resources documented by sub-recipients. Some CDBG funds will be concentrated on neighborhood revitalization and will be used in the targeted areas noted in this Consolidated Plan. These funds will be leveraged with private funds gathered by neighborhood organizations through fundraising.

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

There are no publicly owned lands or properties that are currently identified for projects in this plan.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Affordable Housing Development	2019	2023	Affordable Housing		Affordable Housing	HOME: \$990,673	Rental units constructed: 10 Household Housing Unit
2	Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	2019	2023	Affordable Housing		Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$428,073	Rental units rehabilitated: 1 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 13 Household Housing Unit
3	Down Payment Assistance	2019	2023	Affordable Housing		Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$225,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 3 Households Assisted
4	Housing and Services for Persons who are Homeless	2019	2023	Homeless		Housing and Services for the Homeless	ESG: \$276,288	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 400 Persons Assisted
5	Public Services for Community Revitalization	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development		Housing and Services for the Homeless	CDBG: \$450,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2300 Persons Assisted
6	Infrastructure Improvements	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development		Public Facility Improvements	CDBG: \$462,003	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 300 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Economic Development	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development				
8	Public Facility Improvements	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Public Facility Improvements	CDBG: \$1,020,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 30 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing Development
	Goal Description	The development of affordable housing will be completed through sub recipient agreements with non-profit organizations using HOME and/or CDBG funds. Units may be added through new construction, acquisition, and/or acquisition and rehabilitation, as allowable by 24 CFR Part 92 and 24 CFR 570, respectively. Funding allocated includes \$165,000 in HOME-CHDO funds and \$825,673 in Non-Profit Housing Development funds.
2	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
	Goal Description	Housing rehabilitation and reconstruction will be completed by HVS using CDBG funds. The City of Sanibel will also carry out rehabilitation activities for affordable rental housing located on the island. Funding allocated for this goal is \$400,000 in CDBG administered by HVS, and \$28,073 administered by the City of Sanibel. Goal outcome indicators are based on the rehabilitation of 1 unit by the City of Sanibel and 13 units by HVS.
3	Goal Name	Down Payment Assistance
	Goal Description	Down payment assistance (DPA) will be provided by HVS through CDBG and SHIP funding. Funding allocated for this goal includes \$225,000 in CDBG funds. Households anticipated to be assisted through SHIP DPA are not included here within but will be reported to funders through other reports. Goal outcome indicators are anticipated to be as follows: 10 homebuyers assisted.

4	Goal Name	Housing and Services for Persons who are Homeless
	Goal Description	<p>Housing and services for persons who are homeless will be provided through sub recipient agreements and by Human and Veteran Services (HVS). Housing and services provided by HVS will include rapid rehousing through ESG funds and Tenant Based Rental Assistance through HOME funds. Sub-recipients will provide overnight shelter at the Bob Janes through ESG funds, and the coordination services through CDBG funds.</p> <p>Additional housing and services will be provided through CoC, State Unified Homelessness, HOPWA, LIHEAP and general funds. Funding allocations and households anticipated to be assisted through CoC, State Unified Homelessness, HOPWA, LIHEAP and general funds are not included here within, but will be reported to HUD and other funders through other reports.</p> <p>Funding allocations are an estimated \$60,000 in HOME funds, and \$276,288 in ESG funds. Goal outcome indicator estimates are 5 households per year served with HOME TBRA funds, 10 households per year served with ESG rapid re-housing funds through Lee County Human and Veteran Services, and 400 persons being served through ESG funded street outreach.</p>
5	Goal Name	Public Services for Community Revitalization
	Goal Description	<p>Proposed activities will be used to support services for persons who are experiencing homelessness. Funding estimate is based on the allocation of approximately \$450,000 in CDBG administered by HVS.</p> <p>Goal outcome indicators for public services administered by HVS are based on an estimate that 20% of residents in the identified low- and moderate-income target areas will benefit from public services each year, resulting in approximately 1,895 persons benefiting per year. Approximately 400 persons who are experiencing homelessness will be served through public services to benefit persons who are experiencing homelessness. Funding and goal outcome indicators for housing rehabilitation and reconstruction completed in these areas are reflected in the Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction goal.</p>
6	Goal Name	Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	No funds will be allocated to infrastructure projects in the 2023 Action Plan.
7	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	No funds will be allocated to economic opportunities in the 2023 Action Plan.

8	Goal Name	Public Facility Improvements
	Goal Description	Improvements to public facilities to make necessary improvements and expansions to facilities owned by non-profit organizations. Funding estimates are based on an average allocation of CDBG funds for \$1,020,000 for public facilities improvements administered by HVS and community partnerships. Goal outcome indicators as based on the number of non-profits who will be assisted with public facility improvements.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Lee County plans on completing 14 projects in 2023.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Housing Delivery
2	CDBG Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
3	CDBG Bonita Springs Public Facilities
4	CDBG Estero Public Facilities
5	CDBG Sanibel Rental Rehabilitation
7	CDBG Program Administration
8	CDBG Community Public Services
9	CDBG Homeownership Assistance
10	CDBG Non-Profit Capital Improvement

Table 7 - Project Information

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

There were no identified obstacles to addressing the underserved needs. Hurricane Ian's landfall in September 2022 highlighted the outstanding critical needs of the population.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Housing Delivery
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,000
	Description	This project is in support of the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. Funds will be used to pay for staff salary and soft costs associated with housing rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	No direct beneficiaries will result from this project.
	Location Description	This project will be undertaken in association with the housing rehabilitation and reconstruction program in target areas, as well as in unincorporated areas of Lee County.
	Planned Activities	This project is in support of the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program. Funds will be used to pay for staff salaries and soft costs associated with housing projects.
2	Project Name	CDBG Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	Rehabilitation and reconstruction housing units in Lee County. Rehabilitations will continue to be completed in target areas, as well as non-target areas, of Lee County. Funds will be used to pay for construction costs associated with housing rehabilitation and reconstruction.
	Target Date	9/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 15 homeowner housing units will benefit from this project.
	Location Description	This project will be undertaken in target areas as well as in unincorporated areas of Lee County.
	Planned Activities	Rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing units in Lee County. Rehabilitations will continue to be completed in target areas, as well as non-target areas of Lee County. Funds will be used to pay for construction costs associated with housing rehabilitation and reconstruction.
3	Project Name	CDBG Bonita Springs Public Facilities
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Public Facility Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$277,999
	Description	The city of Bonita Springs plans to make public facility improvements with the CDBG Urban County allocation.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 200 people will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	This activity will be undertaken in the Bonita Springs area.
Planned Activities	This project will involve construction or rehabilitation of public facilities in Bonita Springs, primarily multi-use paths and low- and moderate-income areas within Bonita Springs.	
4	Project Name	CDBG Estero Public Facilities
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Public Facility Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$134,004
	Description	This project will provide public facility improvements in the Village of Estero.

	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 25 individuals will benefit from the public infrastructure improvements.
	Location Description	This project will take place in the Estero area.
	Planned Activities	This project will involve construction or rehabilitation of public infrastructure in Estero, primarily bus stop shelters in low- and moderate-income areas within the Village of Estero.
5	Project Name	CDBG Sanibel Rental Rehabilitation
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$28,073
	Description	The City of Sanibel will use this Urban County allocation to rehabilitate rental housing.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately one rental unit will be rehabilitated.
	Location Description	This project will take place in the Sanibel area.
	Planned Activities	This project will consist of the rehabilitation of one affordable rental housing unit located within the City of Sanibel.
6	Project Name	CDBG Program Administration
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Public Services for Community Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Community Revitalization
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,035
	Description	This project will be for program administration costs.
	Target Date	9/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	No direct beneficiaries will result from this administration project.
	Location Description	This project will be undertaken by Lee County Human and Veteran Services in Fort Myers, FL.
	Planned Activities	This project will include activities for the administration of the CDBG Program.
7	Project Name	CDBG Community Public Services
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Public Services for Community Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Community Revitalization
	Funding	CDBG: \$450,000
	Description	This project will consist of public services for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 2,000 people will benefit from the public service activities.
	Location Description	The project will be undertaken in communities located within Lee County.
	Planned Activities	This project will consist of operating expenses for behavioral and social services, and additional public services for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons.
8	Project Name	CDBG Homeownership Assistance
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Down Payment Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$225,000
	Description	This project will consist of homeownership assistance for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons.
	Target Date	9/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 3 households will benefit from this project.
	Location Description	This project will be undertaken throughout unincorporated Lee County.
	Planned Activities	This project will provide direct financial assistance to low- and moderate-income homebuyers.
9	Project Name	CDBG Non-Profit Capital Improvement
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public Facility Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,020,000
	Description	This project will consist of capital improvements for non-profit organizations that serve low- and moderate-income persons.
	Target Date	9/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 5 public facilities will be assisted. Beneficiaries will be determined upon receipt of applications.
	Location Description	This project will consist of capital improvements for non-profit organizations that serve low- and moderate-income persons. Project location will be determined on receipt of applications, but may be undertaken in target areas or other areas of unincorporated Lee County.
Planned Activities	This project will consist of capital improvements for non-profit organizations that serve low- and moderate-income persons. Activities and beneficiaries will be determined upon receipt of applications.	

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

CDBG funds will be used in unincorporated Lee County, the City of Bonita Springs, the City of Sanibel, the town of Fort Myers Beach and the Village of Estero.

Some CDBG funds will be concentrated on community revitalization, and therefore, will be used in the targeted areas noted in the Consolidated Plan. HOME and ESG funds will be used countywide. Maps indicating the low income and minority, including Hispanic, concentrations are attached to this plan.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
North Fort Myers	
Central Fort Myers	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

In order to assist as many residents as possible, the County dedicates only a portion of the funds to specific areas. These designations are based on the partner municipalities' urban county agreement requirements in the case of Bonita Springs, Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach, and Estero. In other locations, funds are allocated to areas meeting the low to moderate-income designations as issued by HUD. Those areas have been designated by the County as target areas, and each has a revitalization plan that is used for project planning purposes.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	100
Non-Homeless	50
Special-Needs	0
Total	150

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	35
The Production of New Units	11
Rehab of Existing Units	15
Acquisition of Existing Units	5
Total	66

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

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Lee County has two housing authorities, The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers (HACFM) and the Lee County Housing Authority (LCHA). Both housing authorities were consulted and provide continuous collaboration to meet the needs of Lee County residents.

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

LCHA has submitted its application to proceed with the conversion of Pine Echo I & II. This will be a RAD conversion to Project Based Vouchers. As part of the conversion, LCHA is working with contracted architects and engineers to rehab and modernize each of the 142 units. The scope of work to be done will result in the temporary relocation of our current residents. However, every effort is being made to ensure that they remain onsite during the renovations. The residents will not incur any costs related to relocation and LCHA has made the residents aware of this through our required resident meetings.

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers' (HACFM) affiliate, Southwest Florida Affordable Housing Choice Foundation (SWFLAHCF) Inc. has converted its 142 NSP units to Project Based Voucher units. This will allow a larger clientele base creating more housing opportunities to not only the Very Low-Income clients but also to the Extremely Low Income clients whose income falls at or below 30% of the AMI.

HACFM added an additional 72 units to its inventory stock at The Homes at Renaissance Preserve, which completes the projects development.

HACFM continues to promote a safe living environment for all residents. HACFM continues to partner and works with the local police department to add enhanced security at all properties. HACFM will add several security enhancements to Southward Village, a public housing development with 200 units. Such enhancements include but are not limited to added security lighting, high-definition cameras, road closures to create a one way in and one way out of the development and the installation of a guardrail on the outer perimeter of the development. HACFM and Fort Myers Police Department (FMPD) are working to open a Police Substation at Southward Village, The Landings at East Pointe, and The Homes at Renaissance Preserve.

Lee County Human and Veteran Services is actively coordinating with HACFM and LCHA.

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

Public Housing residents have the benefit of voluntary participation in the Lee County Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency program, which provides one-on-one counseling and guidance in the areas of

employment, secondary education, credit counseling, and homeownership counseling. As LCHA is striving to convert all of its Public Housing units over the next two years, to Project Based Vouchers, the residents will qualify for choice mobility. This means that after 24 months, they have the option to request a regular Housing Choice Voucher when available. LCHA still has a goal of providing the option of the Homeownership Voucher Program (HVP). As we have so many changes occurring over the next two years, it may be 2025 before we apply for the HVP option.

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers has active tenant associations at three of the public housing properties to encourage resident participation and involvement.

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

HACFM and LCHA are high performing agencies in both Public Housing and Section 8. Neither is designated as troubled.

Discussion

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

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

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

Increasing the number of outreach staff to engage, assess and refer persons experiencing the lack of housing to services that would assist them with permanent housing solutions. Funding provided as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic was used to significantly enhance street outreach and coordinated entry services. Human and Veteran Services has a total of 8 street outreach team members. These individuals were hired with the intent of addressing the specific needs of those experiencing homelessness in the community. Two of the outreach workers hired have “lived experience” or having directly experienced the trauma of becoming homeless, providing them insights into the many of the challenges faced by those trying to become housed. Two street outreach workers have significant experience as mental health and substance abuse counselors, focusing on clients battling addiction. One street outreach worker has an emergency services background and has been specifically working with our local EMS and hospital emergency system to address those high utilizers of health services. Human and Veteran Services has also partnered with our local mass transit bus system, LeeTran, in dedicating an individual to address the transportation issues of those experiencing homelessness.

Most recently, street outreach efforts were expanded through the implementation of Housing Outreach and Treatment Teams. Many Continuum's of Care (CoC) across the U.S., leverage partnerships with local law enforcement agencies to conduct street outreach to persons who are experiencing homelessness. This effort, often referred to as Homeless Outreach Teams or HOT Teams, has many models. In Lee County, HOT teams are referred to a Housing, Outreach, and Treatment Teams to encapsulate the scope of services being provided. These teams are possible through collaboration between Lee County, Centerstone, and local law enforcement, including Lee County Sherriff's Office, Cape Coral Police Department, Fort Myers Police Department, Sanibel Police Department, Lee County Port Authority and Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department.

Lee County's HOT Teams consist of a law enforcement officer and behavioral health professional. Teams conduct street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness, with the main goal of connecting individuals and families to housing and services. HOT Teams conduct assessments, provide referrals for housing and shelter, and connect households with behavioral health and other supportive services. In addition, Coordinated Entry services, which aim to connect individuals and families to permanent housing resources were expanded to be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week through a partnership with Center for Progress and Excellent, the local behavioral health agency which also operates the Mobile Crisis Unit. This partnership provides connections to housing and also crisis assessment outside of regular business hours.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The provision of emergency shelter at the Bob Janes Empowerment Center and Low-Demand Shelter helps to address some of the needs of individuals who are homeless. The HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance program also supports the housing needs of individuals and families who are homeless, by providing a permanent housing solution instead of emergency shelter. As additional funding sources become available, Lee County may engage other community partners for the development of additional projects or programs. Emergency shelter and transitional housing needs may also be addressed through grant funding opportunities, such as the competitive Continuum of Care process, and through other state or local funding streams.

Lee County uses the coordinated entry process to prioritize those who are most vulnerable. Implement more low-barrier practices to assist with ease of entry. Several non-profit organizations and Lee County Human and Veteran Services have rapid rehousing projects that engage and assess the needs of program participants and responding with wrap around services. Such services include connection to training, employment search, behavioral health services, etc.

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 plan's goals of providing homeless housing and services will help to prevent homelessness, re-house, or otherwise permanently house persons who are homeless. The Lee County Continuum of Care has established written standards for prioritization to ensure that persons with especially high needs are linked with adequate housing and supportive services. Additionally, the implementation of the coordinated entry process ensures that persons who are homeless are rapidly linked with appropriate housing resources and support. Ongoing collaboration between service providers and the Continuum of Care, and frequent reviews of HMIS data facilitate the implementation of strategies to reduce the length of time a person experiences homelessness.

These goals will be supported through the use of ESG funding which is used to engage and rapidly re-house persons who are homeless. Other than the funds available through this process, permanent housing needs may be addressed through other resources identified elsewhere in this plan, and through other grant funding opportunities, such as the competitive Continuum of Care process, and through other state or local funding streams.

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.

Human and Veteran Services and other local agencies provide many programs and services aimed at preventing homelessness and stabilizing clients. These programs include job training, job readiness, financial management courses, and active case management. Several homelessness prevention programs active throughout the County provide assistance with rent and utilities to ensure that persons who are extremely low-income do not become homeless. These programs have streamlined the application, assistance, and referral process for persons who are homeless by participating in the coordinated entry process implemented by the Continuum of Care. In addition, discharge-planning agreements are in place with the local foster care agency, mental health and substance abuse provider, jail, and hospital. These agencies refer clients to appropriate service and housing providers to ensure that they are not discharged into homelessness. Agency communication and cross sector planning are crucial to ensuring wrap around services are provided effectively.

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

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

At this time, there are no identified public policies that create barriers to affordable housing. Lee County recently implemented affordable housing incentives as part of the 2017-2020 Local Housing Assistance Plan in an effort to encourage the development of additional affordable housing. Lee County continues to invest NSP program income to create additional affordable housing through the rehabilitation and sale of foreclosed homes to eligible homebuyers.

In addition, quarterly reports are collected from regional partners to evaluate the actions taken toward addressing barriers to fair housing, as noted in the Analysis of Impediments. Actions taken toward eliminating these barriers will include providing accessibility and modifications in housing units. Lee County has collaborated with other local governments and the public housing authorities to update the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). The updated AI is attached to Lee County's 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan.

Advocacy and education, as well as meeting with elected officials, are ways to increase the available affordable housing in Lee County.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Actions planned include using CDBG, HOME, and state funds to provide owner occupied housing rehabilitation assistance and down payment assistance. In addition, HOME funds are being allocated for CHDO and Non-CHDO housing development to facilitate the development of additional affordable housing units. Lee County has implemented the HOPWA Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA), which is projected to house about 10-15 of the most vulnerable HIV/AIDS households. Partnerships with the Public Housing Authorities and other local housing providers will provide additional resources to foster and maintain affordable housing through new construction, rehabilitation, and referral to currently available units.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Homes built prior to 1978 where painted surfaces will be disturbed will be inspected for lead based paint. If lead is detected during the inspection, an assessment will be completed, followed by abatement.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The County has allocated funds towards targeted activities that aim to improve the economic standings for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The County recognizes that addressing poverty requires both short-term and long-term investments. In the short term, the County will use CDBG funds to provide crucial human services such as public health services, community educators, and services for the elderly. In the long term, the focus will shift towards developing housing and supportive services to create lasting improvements for those living below the poverty threshold.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Institutional structure is not deemed lacking. Gaps in providing programs or services that meet the priority needs will be evaluated on an annual basis, but at the onset of this planning cycle, there are no identified gaps to implementation. Continued coordination will help to ensure an effective institutional structure.

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

Lee County works to bring together different groups and agencies, including private housing and social service agencies, when appropriate for both specific projects and for overall planning. In addition, the County works with local housing agencies to leverage resources to meet housing, infrastructure, and other service needs throughout the County. Human and Veteran Services is currently partnering with the Public Housing Authorities and local service providers to utilize existing and apply for additional HUD

Mainstream Vouchers, which will facilitate enhanced collaboration among service providers.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

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

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(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	1,034,545
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.	99.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

Not applicable.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

Lee County has elected to use Recapture as the primary method of ensuring affordability for low-to moderate income homebuyers; however, resale provisions will be used when HOME funds are

provided directly to a developer to reduce the development costs thereby making the price of the home affordable to the buyer. Any recaptured funds will be deposited in a HOME Trust Fund, (depending on original source of funds), to be utilized for any eligible activity within Lee County. The full version of the Lee County Resale and Recapture Policy is available at Human and Veteran Services.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

Any recaptured funds will be deposited in a HOME Trust Fund (depending on original source of funds), to be utilized for any eligible activity within Lee County, expanding the number of affordable housing units. Depending on the circumstances of recapture, the affordability of the units may be waived (such as the case in a foreclosure). In the case of resale, the unit will be resold to an eligible buyer, preserving affordability. The full version of the Lee County Resale and Recapture Policy is available at the Human and Veteran Services.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

Not applicable.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).
6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).
7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.220(l)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

The existing Lee County Policy and Procedure manual and CoC Written Standards and Coordinated Entry Policies will be used to outline standards for the ESG rapid re-housing project. CoC Written Standards and Coordinated Entry Policies are attached to this plan. In general, eligibility will be determined prior to providing assistance. Applicants must have incomes at or below 50% of the area median income. Households must meet the HUD definition of homelessness under Category 1,

any subsequent CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) eligibility requirements, and any additional funder eligibility requirements. Once meeting the rapid re-housing eligibility requirements, households are then prioritized by Lee County's target populations. Income inclusions, income exclusions, and documentation standards can be found in the referenced manual. Verification and documentation of eligibility will be maintained in participant case files. Provided the requirements of each individual self-sufficiency plan are met, eligible households can receive 50 percent rent subsidies for six months. Exceptions may be made to the duration of assistance after management review and approval. For the shelter operations component of ESG, standards for assistance will be detailed in the subrecipient provider contract and will stipulate eligible expenditures, beneficiary reporting requirements, and other procedural components of the program.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.
3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

Lee County has determined the programs to receive assistance and their allocations based on comments received by the public and in consultations during the planning process, as well as staff review of program success to date. A portion of the ESG allocation is provided to the Center for Progress and Excellence to support rapid-rehousing activities at the Bob Janes Empowerment Center and Low Demand Shelter.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The requirement has been met.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Performance standards for ESG evaluation are completed through HMIS reporting to ensure that metrics have been met.

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

Summary of public comments 2023

Lee county held two virtual public hearings to allow for public comment. Feedback from the public mentioned an immense need for affordable housing, transient housing for youth out of foster care, transportation assistance, food, mental and substance abuse resources, animal care needs and affordable childcare. The public also stressed the need for affordable housing for the workforce in the community mentioning that they were unable to live where they work due to the cost of living and the lack of affordable childcare. Aging community mentioned a shortage of affordable housing and a need for more transportation services due to increase demand and inflation. Many with pets are unable to find an affordable place to live due to increase cost of rent, pet fees and pet restrictions. In addition, the public stressed the need for affordable veterinary services, reliable transportation and access to home laptops and Wi-Fi. Lastly, the public mentioned revising zoning regulations and a need for increased code enforcement since the hurricane. Solutions that were mentioned included public services such as after school programs, workforce development needs and programs, financial counselling courses, “Do’s and Don’ts of cohabitating in a safe manner”, more bus passes, down payment assistance, rental assistance.

Grantee Unique Appendices





