

HUD Consolidated Plan and Strategies

Annual Plan

FY 2015

(January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015)

Cuyahoga County Urban County, Ohio

February, 2015

Prepared with the assistance of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cuyahoga County Urban County, Ohio FY 2015 ANNUAL PLAN

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

AP-15 EXPECTED RESOURCES	3
AP-20 ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	7
AP-35 PROJECTS.....	10
AP-38 PROJECT SUMMARIES	12
AP-50 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.....	23
AP-55 AFFORDABLE HOUSING	26
AP-60 PUBLIC HOUSING.....	27
AP-65 HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES	28
AP-75 BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.....	33
AP-85 OTHER ACTIONS.....	34
AP-90 PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS	37

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources - 91.420(b), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of Con Plan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	3,369,298	535,000	0	3,904,298	13,400,000	Annual allocation is a conservative estimate based on recent allocations and federal budget deficit reduction trends. Program Income is based on recent years. All program income is held in one of three revolving loan funds.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,829,447	200,000	0	2,029,447	7,250,000	Annual allocation is a moderately conservative estimate based on recent annual allocations. Program income is based on recent experience. Prior year resources are due to limited utilization of rental rehab funds available in 2014.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	298,155	0	0	298,155	1,025,000	Annual allocation is a conservative estimate based on recent annual allocations. ESG funded activities do not produce program income.

Table 1 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

HOME matching requirements are met by utilizing accumulated match from prior year activities, especially rental housing development which has leveraged large amounts of investment from other countable sources.

Housing construction and renovation activities funded by HOME typically leverage tax credit equity and loans from other funding sources far in excess of the HOME funds invested.

ESG match requirements are met with local government contributions, foundations philanthropic donations and charitable event fundraising sponsored by homeless shelter providers funded with county ESG.

Cuyahoga County has adopted a five-year economic development plan, with annual updates, to guide its investment of local resources for job creation through economic development. Housing and community development activities are noted in this plan, although the county economic development plan is not intended to provide the level of needs analysis achieved in the Consolidated Plan. While no other funding is certain, Cuyahoga County leadership has publicly stated a commitment to use local tax revenues to make up to \$100 million of funding available for loans to private businesses in support of job creation through economic development. Additionally, Cuyahoga County leadership has publicly stated its intention to use local tax revenues to provide up to \$50 million to local communities throughout Cuyahoga County to defray their cost to demolish blighted, vacant, and abandoned structures which depress property values and hamper development.

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

County government does not itself own substantial amounts of vacant land or buildings suitable for redevelopment in the suburban communities for which this plan is developed. Several suburbs have acquired ownership of vacant residential lots through a land banking program, and Cuyahoga County has established an innovative Land Bank which holds an increasing number of vacant houses and vacant lots for redevelopment. Land Bank owned houses do not remain vacant for long periods; they are either renovated for re-occupancy, or demolished if the cost of needed repairs would make renovation and re-occupancy economically unsound.

Discussion

Finalized 2015 HUD Allocations

The section below describes actions the County would take if 2015 HUD funding was greater or less than estimated funding in the Draft Consolidated Plan. In mid-Feb., HUD published the 2015 entitlement

allocations. CBDG and ESG funding levels were greater than estimated, and budgets were increased according to the Draft Plan methodology. HOME funding was less than anticipated, and budget cuts were made as outlined in the Draft Plan.

Draft Plan Provisional Budgets and Contingencies

Programming described in the FY 2015 projects and Annual Goals and Objectives is based on conservative funding estimates for CDBG, HOME, and ESG.

As the 2015 Draft Action Plan was being prepared, Congress and the President had not agreed upon appropriation legislation for most federal departments, such as HUD. The Dept. of Development has budgeted for expenditures to cover administration, staffing and program activities that may be incurred before submission of its FY 2015 Annual Action Plan. This conforms to CPD Notice 14-015 (Oct. 21, 2014), advising grantees “not to submit its consolidated plan/action plan until the FY 2015 formula allocations have been announced.” Given the lack of appropriation legislation by Congress, a portion of 2015 budget expenditures will be incurred before the grant agreements are executed (permitted under 24 CRF 570.200(h), Reimbursement for Pre-award Costs). To provide the required public disclosure of the County’s intent to use unobligated carry forward funds as necessary for such pre-award costs, the regulatory provisions for incurring pre-award costs under 24 CFR 570.200(h)(1) will be discussed at the public hearing. This may also include using unobligated carry forward funds for housing and community development program operating costs and administrative operating costs, as well as operate loan programs including housing, economic development, municipal grant, and commercial revitalization.

The Dept. of Development uses approved staffing levels set in the County 2014-15 biennial budget. For CDBG eligible operating activities, funds are reserved in the appropriate section of the 2015 Annual Plan budget items. These are pre-award costs and are noted as such in the proposed activity descriptions. These expenses are monitored for compliance with OMB Circular A-87, “Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments.”

If the actual 2015 allocation is less than the estimated budgets presented here, the 40% reserved for the Competitive Municipal Grant Program (CMGP) will be reduced to 40% of the actual CDBG entitlement funding award. Funding will also be reduced in the CDBG financed single-family housing rehab program. HOME programming will be proportionately reduced in all HOME activity line items. ESG funding will be reduced in the budget allocated to Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing activities.

If the actual allocation for 2015 is greater than the estimated budgets presented here, first, the estimated amount reserved for the CMGP will be increased to the full 40% of the actual CDBG entitlement funding award. Additional funding will then be applied to ensure that mortgage foreclosure counseling is funded at its historical level of \$250,000. Remaining funding will be added to single-family housing rehab activities, including a possible pilot program for accessibility modifications, and a possible study of eligible code enforcement activities. Additional HOME funding will be applied to provide tenant based rental assistance to a targeted population in consultation with the County’s Office of Homeless

Services, not to exceed \$200,000. Remaining HOME funding will be used to proportionately increase all other HOME activity line items. ESG funding will be applied to Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing activities.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Cuyahoga Urban County	Affordable Housing Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs	CDBG: \$1,548,603 HOME: \$2,029,447	Rental units constructed: 40 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 40 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 60 Households Assisted Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 16 Households Assisted
2	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness	2015	2019	Homeless	Cuyahoga Urban County	Homelessness	ESG: \$298,155	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 40 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 400 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 1000 Persons Assisted Housing for Homeless added: 300 Household Housing Unit
3	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Cuyahoga Urban County	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$1,800,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 7000 Persons Assisted
4	Increase Economic Opportunities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Cuyahoga Urban County	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$300,000	Businesses assisted: 15 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Provide Needed Public Services	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Cuyahoga Urban County	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$156,280	Homelessness Prevention: 100 Persons Assisted Other: 200 Other

Table 2 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	<p>The Cuyahoga Urban County will administer activities to improve, maintain, and expand owner- and renter-occupied housing. The activities may include - but may not be limited to - down-payment assistance; rehabilitation; new construction; weatherization and energy efficiency improvements; home modifications for disabled persons and elderly homeowners to assist them to remain in their homes; and rental assistance.</p> <p>Some activities under this goal will utilize HOME funds provided by HUD and administered by the Cuyahoga Urban County as the lead jurisdiction.</p>
2	Goal Name	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Goal Description	<p>In carrying out all of its homeless assistance programs, the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services works in close collaboration with the City of Cleveland’s Department of Community Development and homeless service providers. The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) manages the local Continuum of Care programs, which are funded by HUD. It also administers ESG funds received directly by Cuyahoga County through this Consolidated Plan application.</p> <p>Cuyahoga County intends to combine its 2015 ESG funds with those received by the City of Cleveland and any ESG funds allocated to Cuyahoga County by the State of Ohio’s Department of Development, to support prevention and rapid exit programs administered through the Office of Homeless Services.</p>

3	Goal Name	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Goal Description	<p>The Department of Development will work with the 51 communities that comprise the Urban County to assist in improving the quality of life by investing in projects nominated by communities in the Competitive Municipal grant program. Projects awarded funding meet the announced criteria and improve quality of life by improving neighborhood streets, investing in upgrading deteriorated public infrastructure and senior centers that meet HUD guidelines.</p> <p>In communities with ITA areas, the Department works with an agency to perform litter control services in public right-of-ways to reduce the blighting effect of litter and improve the livability of neighborhoods.</p>
4	Goal Name	Increase Economic Opportunities
	Goal Description	Provide reinvestment of economic development revolving loan funds to foster additional creation or retention of jobs for persons who are principally low- and moderate-income.
5	Goal Name	Provide Needed Public Services
	Goal Description	Utilize CDBG funds to provide counseling services to low- and moderate-income persons on budgeting and home maintenance for potential home buyers. As noted in section AP-15, the County has significant non-federal resources to apply for public services regardless of incomes. The Department of Development attempts to use their resources for programming that complements their ongoing affordable housing initiatives. This also includes landlord tenant counseling. If available administrative funding permits, consideration will be given to commissioning a study of CDBG-eligible actions to improve the targeting and delivery of code enforcement services in low- and moderate areas and Improvement Target Areas within Urban County communities.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

The attached projects are proposed for 2015 (**Table 3**):

#	Project Name
1	Competitive Municipal Grant Program
2	Storefront Renovation Program
3	Economic Development Loan Program
4	OPEN/BLANK
5	Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Program
6	Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Program
7	Energy Efficiency Improvement Program
8	Downpayment/Homeowner Assistance Program
9	Lead and Other Hazards Remediation Program
10	CHDO Project Funding
11	Housing & Community Development Program Staffing (Non-Admin)
12	Affordable Rental Projects Program
13	ESG15 Cuyahoga County - DOD
14	General Community Development Administration (Admin)
15	Community Capacity Building
16	Fair Housing Programs and Activities
17	Homeownership Training & Housing Counseling Program
18	Targeted Assistance Program

Table 3 – Project Information

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

The Cooperation Agreements currently in force with the 51 local communities participating in the Urban County in program year 2014 provide that *“not less than forty percent (40%) of the total Urban County Entitlement Funds for Cuyahoga County will be expended by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the participating political subdivisions to finance, through a Municipal Grant Program, eligible Community Development activities and projects in said participating political subdivisions”*.

This commitment to expend funds on behalf of municipalities is realized by the Competitive Municipal Grant Program. There are two elements to the county’s Municipal Grant Program. 1) the Competitive Municipal Grant Program under which communities submit applications for CDBG funding that are scored under a point system disclosed when the application begins. These projects must be eligible under the CDBG regulations and meet a national objective and 2) a Public Works Sewer Maintenance Program in which CDBG funds supplement existing sewer maintenance funds to investigate sewer inflows and make repairs to damaged and cracked storm and sanitary sewer lines. Neighborhoods selected for sewer investigation and repair must be low/moderate income areas and are in cities that

have signed agreements with the county's Department of Public Works for sewer maintenance purposes. Expenditures in the second aspect of the Municipal Grant Program have been used in situations where CDBG expenditures must be made to meet HUD requirements for timeliness. Under this program communities submit applications for CDBG funding that are scored under a point system disclosed when the application begins. In the Competitive Municipal Grant Program, communities are encouraged to coordinate their proposed CDBG activities with other investments occurring in their communities in an attempt to obtain more synergistic investments. To take advantage of the full 2015 construction season, the competitive applications were rated, ranked, and recommended to County Council in the fall of 2014. All recommended projects first underwent environmental review before awards were announced.

All other programs operated by the Department of Development require an application from an individual for a homeowner rehabilitation loan, from a family for down payment assistance, from a business to apply for a commercial revitalization/rehabilitation loan/grant, or from a business to request assistance to expand its operations. The new county government is attempting to coordinate/concentrate activities with other investments, both public and private, to increase the quality of place and quality of lives for the citizens of Cuyahoga County. For example, the Department of Development used CDBG administrative funding from 2013 to pay for additional recommendations to the Economic Development Plan to identify areas where investment is occurring and opportunities for additional investment will have synergistic affects.

Reductions in HUD funding present the greatest obstacle in meeting underserved needs.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Competitive Municipal Grant Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,347,879
	Description	At least 40% of the CDBG Entitlement grant is committed to assisting participating jurisdictions. This commitment is fulfilled through this project. Funding is for eligible activities under codes 1-5,10,15,17 & 20 and also includes potential national objective codes 570.208(a) (1), (2) and (4) and 208(b)(1). If any repayments are received from communities, the amounts will be included with 40% for distribution.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 7,000 residents of low and moderate income eligible areas.
	Location Description	N/A
	Planned Activities	03J Water/Sewer Improvements; 03K Street Improvements; 03F Parks, Recreational Facilities; 03E Neighborhood Facilities; Public Facilities and Improvements (General); Senior Centers all 570.201(c)
2	Project Name	Storefront Renovation Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$181,000
	Description	Providing assistance to commercial businesses and/or property owners. The Storefront Program Revolving Loan funds will be allocated to rehabilitate storefront projects. The revisions to the program were made in consultation with urban county government leaders. Pre-agreement costs would be made available through existing CDBG RLF proceeds on hand.
	Target Date	12/31/2015

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 20 businesses
	Location Description	Businesses make application for storefront renovation funding.
	Planned Activities	14E Rehab; Publicly or Privately-Owned Commercial/Industrial Businesses
3	Project Name	Economic Development Loan Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Increase Economic Opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,000,000
	Description	Loans are provided to for-profit businesses primarily in Urban County communities to stimulate the creation or retention of low/moderate income jobs and/or removal of slum and blight conditions. Loans are recommended by a loan review committee and then approved by the County government. Expenditures from this project includes loan proceeds, a portion of 108 repayments on existing debts, credit reports, appraisals and loan filing fees. Approved 108 capacity is in excess of 4 million dollars and will expire in 2015 unless re-authorization is approved by HUD.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 9 jobs/positions
	Location Description	Urban County wide to businesses or firms that apply. If benefit to Urban County residents can be ascertained, a project located in other Cuyahoga County entitlement communities may be considered from Project 3 funding.
Planned Activities	18A ED Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profits 570.203(b) 18C Micro-Enterprise Assistance	
4	Project Name	OPEN/BLANK
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	

	Funding	
	Description	Project left blank/open to allow the order of 2015 projects to be consistent with prior year project numbers.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Project left blank/open to allow the order of 2015 projects to be consistent with prior year project numbers.
	Location Description	Project left blank/open to allow the order of 2015 projects to be consistent with prior year project numbers.
	Planned Activities	Project left blank/open to allow the order of 2015 projects to be consistent with prior year project numbers.
5	Project Name	Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$557,278 HOME: \$350,969
	Description	To provide loans for needed home repairs to income eligible recipients. Included in budgeted items will be HOME Program funds. The Senior Slip & Fall Program that assists seniors to allow them to stay in their homes in cooperation with local health departments has proven to be very successful and will be included as an element of the application for housing rehab assistance. If CDBG funding permits, a pilot program for accessibility modifications to the homes of low-income disabled persons and seniors will be carried out. Consortium partners rehab efforts are also included in the funds budgeted and units assisted. Pre-agreement costs would use existing funds on hand.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 75 Households
	Location Description	CDBG funding is available Urban County wide to homeowners. HOME funding is available in the area of the HOME Consortium - the Urban County and the Cities of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood and Parma. Each jurisdiction has their own eligibility criteria for HOME funding. Rehab of multi-family structures is considered based on meeting eligibility criteria.

	Planned Activities	14A Rehab; Single-Unit Residential 570.202 14B Rehab; Multi-Unit Residential 570.202
6	Project Name	Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$86,280
	Description	Due to the continued high foreclosure rate in the Urban County, funds will be allocated to counsel persons in danger of losing their homes. Non-profit organizations will provide this service via contracts with HUD certified and well regarded firms. Full funding for this activity is dependent on HUD's allocation of CDBG funding to Cuyahoga County.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 100 households
	Location Description	Urban County communities
	Planned Activities	05U Housing Counseling
7	Project Name	Energy Efficiency Improvement Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$67,954
	Description	This program provides heating unit repairs for low-income homeowners and tenants. A portion of the funding is also available for furnace replacement. Pre-agreement costs would use carry forward appropriations.
	Target Date	12/31/2015

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 40 residencies/households
	Location Description	Available to LMI residents Urban County wide
	Planned Activities	14F Energy Efficiency Improvements 570.202
8	Project Name	Downpayment/Homeowner Assistance Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$600,000
	Description	Provides assistance to new homebuyers with the purchase of a home either newly constructed or renovated in the Urban County and other Consortium communities under section 92.205 and 206. Funding also includes work from our Consortium partners.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 55 households/families
	Location Description	Urban County wide and HOME Consortium members
	Planned Activities	13 Direct Homeownership Assistance 570.201(n)
9	Project Name	Lead and Other Hazards Remediation Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	Providing remediation to houses with children aged 5 years and under that are undergoing complete or partial rehab with CDBG or HOME funding. The homes will be tested for hazards such as lead paint, asbestos and other hazards. The appropriate remediation will be done by licensed contractors hired by the County Board of Health and will act as the lead grantee. The Department of Development will complete the specification write-ups and oversight of the work of the contractors.

	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 65 households/housing units
	Location Description	County Wide except cities of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights
	Planned Activities	14I Lead-Based/Lead Hazard Test/Abate 570.202
10	Project Name	CHDO Project Funding
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	HOME: \$274,417
	Description	The Consortium will consider requests from eligible CHDO organizations for use of funds under the CHDO section of the HOME regulations at Subpart G. This also includes recommendations for funding support to qualified nonprofit organizations for operations from identified resources on hand. Other funding could include Senior housing from HUD's 202 Program.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 10 households/families
	Location Description	Consortium jurisdictions - Urban County Communities, and entitlement cities of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, and Parma
	Planned Activities	14A Rehab; Single-Unit Residential 570.202 14B Rehab; Multi-Unit Residential 570.202
11	Project Name	Housing & Community Development Program Staffing (Non-Admin)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods Increase Economic Opportunities

	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$578,848
	Description	Consists of general salaries, operating expenditures and other costs to support the delivery of housing and community development related programming administered by the Department of Development. Allocation includes that portion of HOME administrative funds available to Urban County and its Consortium Partners and includes an estimated \$15,000 as 10% of HOME PI receipts. Pre-agreement costs would be incurred to maintain an uninterrupted delivery of ongoing programs. Now known as Non-Admin Operating.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	This activity will be within the Urban County with special assistance to Consortium partners, if requested. Funding provides for delivering services that directly benefit low- and moderate-income households - in the rehabilitation of a home or in a municipal project in a low- and moderate-income neighborhood.
	Planned Activities	14H Rehabilitation Administration 570.202 19A HOME Admin- AD/CO/CC Only
12	Project Name	Affordable Rental Projects Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$600,000
	Description	HOME funds are proposed to assist one or more projects that would create additional affordable housing units. Projects could involve construction of new units or rehabilitation of existing structures. Plans are developing to hold a competitive process to maximize our resources and provide incentive funding.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 50 households/families
	Location Description	HOME funds used would be targeted to Housing Consortium areas; other federal financial incentives are not restricted geographically.

	Planned Activities	12 Construction of Housing 570.201(m)
13	Project Name	ESG15 Cuyahoga County - DOD
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$298,155
	Description	FY2015 HESG - Hearth Emergency Solutions Grant - Homeless Assistance funds from Urban County in conjunction with those awarded to the City of Cleveland are coordinated by the County's Office of Homeless Assistance. Formerly the ESG Program, these funds are separate from CDBG funds and are restricted to be used for homeless services.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 30 Households and 3,100 residents
	Location Description	County wide
	Planned Activities	Eligible activities are Rapid Re-housing, Homeless Prevention, Shelter and Street Outreach.
14	Project Name	General Community Development Administration (Admin)
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods Provide Needed Public Services Increase Economic Opportunities Reduce Homelessness and At-Risk Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Non-homeless Persons with Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development Homelessness
	Funding	CDBG: \$528,670 HOME: \$204,061

	Description	General administration of the Community Development Program operated by the Department of Development. This includes staffing and support costs as well as indirect and space maintenance charges. Support costs for the Department's Fair Housing program is included with this project and is noted in Project 16. Pre-agreement operating costs would be incurred to maintain administration of ongoing programming.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	Urban County wide
	Planned Activities	21A General Program Administration 570.206
15	Project Name	Community Capacity Building
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Improve, Maintain, and Expand Affordable Housing Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$46,201
	Description	Provide assistance to communities in the identification of slum and blighted areas, historical preservation, and miscellaneous forms of technical assistance and community planning activities. Consideration is also being given to reserve funding, if available, for a possible study of eligible code enforcement activities and/or other means to contribute to preserving neighborhood stability.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Planning activities with CDBG funds with are labeled Administration and Planning costs by HUD regulations.
	Location Description	Urban County communities
	Planned Activities	20 Planning 570.205
16	Project Name	Fair Housing Programs and Activities
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods

	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$110,000
	Description	The Department coordinates a comprehensive fair housing program from CDBG and local government resources. Activities include education and outreach, discrimination complaint services, and the systematic audits of sales. An RFP process for housing services is combined with low/moderate benefit activities to achieve a comprehensive grouping of services. Implementation of actions to address issues found in the Analysis of Impediments Study may be made with HOME funding in this Project.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 40 households/families
	Location Description	Urban County wide
	Planned Activities	21D Fair Housing Activities (subject to 20% Admin cap) 570.206
17	Project Name	Homeownership Training & Housing Counseling Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County
	Goals Supported	Provide Needed Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	Provides counseling in landlord tenant disputes to develop a resolution and investigate cases of discrimination to documented low- and moderate-income persons in the Urban County. Those foreclosure prevention activities for which beneficiary information can be readily obtained are noted in Project 6.
	Target Date	12/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 100 households/families
	Location Description	Urban County wide
	Planned Activities	05 Public Services (General) 570.201(e)
18	Project Name	Targeted Assistance Program
	Target Area	Cuyahoga Urban County

Goals Supported	Revitalize Residential Neighborhoods Provide Needed Public Services
Needs Addressed	Non-Housing Community Development
Funding	CDBG: \$40,000
Description	Activities in ITAs that address one or more of the conditions that contributed to blighting conditions. This project's activities are public services in the regulations. Assistance would include additional trash pick-up in neighborhood commercial areas where conditions exist that impact the quality of the neighborhood.
Target Date	12/31/2015
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 115,000 persons living in households living in census tracts and block groups adjacent to neighborhood commercial areas
Location Description	ITA areas
Planned Activities	05 Public Services (General) 570.201(e)

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

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

The Cuyahoga County Department of Development does not target funds on a geographic basis.

Instead, the Department selects projects and activities through application processes. For example, persons desiring rehabilitation or down payment assistance are required to submit applications. Municipalities seeking assistance for community projects apply for Competitive Municipal Grants in once a year funding rounds.

The dispersal of the poor into suburban areas and their migration out of the urban centers has been documented for years by the Council for Economic Opportunities, the Mandel School at Case Western Reserve University and the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. These trends are predicted to continue as part of the population dispersion that is occurring in the metropolitan Cleveland area. In the 2000 Census, the Urban County population included 16.5% minority residents. This represents a 41% increase from the 1990 census, which listed a minority population of 11.7%. In 2014 HUD released the results of special runs of census data to determine the census tracts and block groups where low and moderate income households reside; and thus where CDBG funds can be applied to address community needs. By CDBG regulation, activities must benefit a majority of low and moderate income persons. In 2014, the threshold is defined by HUD as 38.68%. Activities in more than one block group must meet the threshold by combining their data to be at or under the 38.68% threshold. The largest concentration of minority populations are in the seventeen inner ring suburbs that are contiguous to the City of Cleveland. The majority of the Department of Development applications for households seeking financial assistance for housing rehabilitation or down payment assistance occur in these areas, as they contain the households with the greatest needs.

There are few very large tracts of undeveloped land in Cuyahoga County where new development can occur. To progress, development must occur at locations that have had prior uses that could have left behind contamination. The term that describes the cleanup of contaminated properties/sites is Brownfield Remediation. The Cuyahoga County Department of Development has developed significant capacity to assist in obtaining financing from sources such as the various programs at the State of Ohio and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). By creating staff capacity with county general funds, the Development Department is then able to seek funding from state and EPA resources to undertake remediation efforts and complement the activities that are suited to the use of CDBG and HOME funding.

Areas of blight are identified every ten years in cooperation with our municipal partners. The methodology and process have been consistent for over thirty years and is approved by HUD. These areas, known as Improvement Target Areas (ITAs) are used to identify areas where activities fundable under HUD's national objective of eliminating conditions of slum and blight can occur. An RFQ was

issued in the summer of 2013 and a contract was awarded to the County Planning Commission in late fall of 2013 for undertaking a new ITA survey, which was completed in the summer of 2014. County general fund revenues were approved for funding the study. New maps of the areas that meet HUD’s slum and blight national objectives have been shared with our municipal partners and submitted to the Columbus HUD Area Office.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Cuyahoga Urban County	90

Table 4 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The Cooperation Agreements currently in force with the 51 local communities participating in the Urban County in program year 2015 provide that “not less than forty percent (40%) of the total Urban County Entitlement Funds for Cuyahoga County will be expended by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the participating political subdivisions to finance, through a Municipal Grant Program, eligible Community Development activities and projects in said participating political subdivisions.”

The Competitive Municipal Grant Program under which communities submit applications for CDBG funding are scored under a point system disclosed when the application period begins. These projects must be eligible under the CDBG regulations and meet a national objective.

In the Competitive Municipal Grant Program, communities are encouraged to coordinate their proposed CDBG activities with other investments occurring in their communities in an attempt to obtain more synergistic investments. To take advantage of the full 2015 construction season, the competitive applications were rated, ranked, and recommended to County Council in the fall of 2014. Ten communities Municipal Grant applications were approved for award by County Council. A list of the awarded activities is listed below:

Municipality – Project Name – Award

City of Maple Heights Libby Road Accessibility \$149,440.00

City of Middleburg Heights Parklawn/Barriemore Resurfacing \$150,000.00

Village of Newburgh Washington Park Resurfacing \$150,000.00

City of Olmsted Falls Senior Center \$150,000.00

City of Parma Heights Completion of Ackley Road \$150,000.00

City of Rocky River Senior Center Roof Replacement \$150,000.00

City of Seven Hills Chatham Drive and Essex Drive Resurfacing \$150,000.00

City Of Shaker Heights Lee/Lomond Resurfacing \$150,000.00

City of South Euclid Eastway Road Reconstruction \$150,000.00

City of Warrensville Heights Caroline Drive Reconstruction \$150,000.00

All other programs operated by the Department of Development require an application from an individual for a homeowner rehabilitation loan, from a family for down payment assistance, from a business to apply for a commercial revitalization/rehabilitation loan/grant, or from a business to request assistance to expand its operations. The Department is attempting to coordinate/concentrate activities with other investments, both public and private, to increase the quality of place and quality of lives for the citizens of Cuyahoga County.

Reductions in HUD funding present the greatest obstacle in meeting underserved needs.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.420, 91.220(g)

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	80
Non-Homeless	125
Special-Needs	20
Total	225

Table 5 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	20
The Production of New Units	45
Rehab of Existing Units	80
Acquisition of Existing Units	80
Total	225

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

Discussion

The Office of Homeless Services has contacted the Department of Development to consider funding a homeless population group that is underserved. The Department will consider this need if federal funding provides capacity to fund such an activity. At the time this application was being prepared, the federal budget had not been passed.

AP-60 Public Housing - 91.420, 91.220(h)

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

Within the Cuyahoga County Urban County, there are only two small public housing developments totaling 116 units. Cuyahoga MHA has responsibility for Oakwood Garden and Oakwood Villas. Oakwood Villas has 91 one-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit, all for elderly persons. Oakwood Garden consists of 25 three-bedroom, single-family homes designated for families. These properties have been constructed on bus routes, with retail establishments accessible by walking, bus, or automobile.

The Cuyahoga MHA has a maintenance and improvement plan for the facilities and allocates funds on an ongoing basis to accomplish those tasks. Cuyahoga County does not intend to fund any activities related to these two facilities.

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

In terms of management, Cuyahoga MHA has a system in place for residents and administrators to meet on an ongoing basis to discuss management/building issues, which Cuyahoga County believes is appropriate for that purpose. Public housing facilities are also subject to the building codes of the local communities, when repair issues arise. In addition, Cuyahoga MHA staff has met with the staffs of the County Department of Development and Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Assistance to work together to identify suitable units to accommodate formerly homeless persons.

In terms of participation in homeownership, the 91 units in Oakwood Villas are occupied by elderly residents. It is likely that many residents would feel that the physical burden and financial responsibility of maintaining a home would be beyond their capabilities. The 25 units at Oakwood Garden are occupied by families. A shift to homeownership for a family may be possible under the proper set of circumstances, such as steady employment and appropriate financial management skills. If a resident wishes to pursue the possibility of homeownership, Cuyahoga County has existing programs to assist that family.

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

Not applicable. Neither the Cuyahoga MHA nor the Parma PHA is designated as “troubled” by HUD.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

Cuyahoga County intends to combine its 2015 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds with those received by the City of Cleveland, along with any ESG funds allocated to Cuyahoga County by the State of Ohio's Department of Development, for programs designed to help prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and address the needs of those who have become homeless.

These funds will be administered by the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS), which manages the Continuum of Care (CoC), a network of homeless service providers that implements homeless assistance programs.

The goals of the CoC's strategic plan are:

1. Reduce the number of individuals and families who experience homelessness;
2. Develop strategies and resources to move people from shelter and the streets to housing as quickly as possible;
3. Align resources to promote rapid re-housing; and
4. Increase the supply of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, families, and youth.

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

The CoC has four primary outreach efforts that operate 365/days a year: 1) PATH workers, supported by mental health funding, work early morning and in the evening visiting camps and places known to be used by homeless. PATH refers many persons to the permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless units; 2) Care Alliance, the Federally Qualified Health Center serving homeless persons, also searches streets, under bridges, and empty buildings to find street homeless; 3) Shelter Outreach – many street homeless spend some nights at the publicly funded shelters. Shelter staff attempt to engage them in permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless housing and services; 4) The CoC funds a cold weather, weekend shelter for people who refuse 'traditional' shelter. Care Alliance staff go to this site to engage these chronic homeless persons.

Once at a shelter, individual needs of homeless persons are assessed through Coordinated Assessment & Intake (CA/I). The CoC implemented CA/I for Men in FY 2009, and for single women and families

system wide in FY 2012. CA/I enables the CoC to use limited resources most effectively, by matching client need with CoC resources. CA/I permits a single door of entry at which a standardized HMIS assessment form is utilized, promoting consistency and quality of data entry and outcomes. CA/I enables every household seeking shelter to have the opportunity to be assessed for Diversion – an intervention to keep the household from entering the shelter system. CA/I assures that all CoC funded beds are available and being used by legitimately homeless persons. CA/I permits the CoC to assess housing barriers for each household and recommend an exit housing plan to be implemented by the receiving shelter. CA/I enables the CoC to track the Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and permanent supportive housing referrals initiated through CA/I.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

In FY 2009, the CoC implemented CA/I at the 365 bed Men’s Shelter to increase the percentage of referrals from the shelter to HUD funded men’s transitional housing programs. In 2009, all the transitional housing programs had drug screening policies in place, with thresholds such as required sobriety for 30 days. Now, while drug testing still occurs, it is not a barrier to entry. Instead it is a diagnostic tool to determine needed services. The family shelters and transitional housing programs likewise had significant barriers for single women and families involving income, sobriety, medication compliance, and work readiness. As of June, 2012 when CA/I was implemented for the family shelters, these barriers have been significantly reduced. Family transitional housing is now targeted to the highest barrier families, referring households that require more interventions to programs that have more resources. Lack of income is not a barrier for referral to shelter or to access Rapid Re-Housing assistance. CA/I has been the mechanism to change the system.

A significant number of homeless individuals and families also have involvement with one or more systems. While the CoC is engaged with these systems to encourage more effective discharge planning, the CoC is also identifying ways to relink persons once they become homeless. Specifically, through CA/I and Diversion Assessment at the shelter front door, families and individuals that currently have case managers in other systems, can be contacted for interventions to prevent the client from entering shelter: a) Veterans and their families are identified and referred to the VA’s Supportive Services to Veterans Families (SSVF) Project, which provides homeless prevention assistance and links clients with other VA resources; b) persons over 65 are linked with the aging system; and c) 18-24-year-old, former child welfare clients may be relinked with the agency for system resources.

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 HousingFirst Initiative (HFI) is the CoC's Plan to end Chronic Homelessness. Established in FY 2003, the HFI set a goal of developing 1,000 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for chronically homeless individuals by FY 2015. To date, 605 units are open. In 2011, the CoC confirmed the HFI production goals based on the number of chronically homeless, housing models, and costs. It also expanded its target population to include chronically homeless families and youth. To meet the deadline of ending chronic homelessness, CoC strategies include developing a new 60 -70 unit project for chronically homeless individuals annually and implementing a focused "move on" policy in the HFI projects to encourage 20% of current HFI residents to move to more independent, stable housing each year. These two strategies will provide 120 – 150 units for individuals annually. The strategies for families and youth focus on negotiating with the Cuyahoga MHA for dedicated Housing Choice Vouchers and prioritizing 40% of the turnover from CoC PSH beds not currently dedicated to the chronically homeless for chronically homeless families and youth to meet the annual production goals.

The CoC is pursuing several strategies to increase the number of households with children assisted through Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) through 2014-2015. The first is to maintain households with children as the priority population for RRH. Second, the CoC is expanding financial assistance for RRH by a) re-allocating CoC program funds from Transitional Housing to RRH; b) increasing the allocation of local County Health & Human Services levy dollars; c) encouraging an increase in the use of Supportive Services for Veterans Families funds. These actions will increase the pool of funds and permit more families to be helped. The third strategy focuses on the RRH process. Presently the average time from shelter entry to RRH exit is 52 days, which is a reduction from an average of 62 days. The CoC goal is to reduce shelter stays to 30 days or less. Better coordination/communication among shelter staff, families, and RRH Housing Locator staff will further reduce the length of time from referral to housing, enabling more families to be assisted.

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.

Foster Care Discharge Planning

Through CA/I, youth aging out of foster care are identified at the shelter front door. CA/I staff contact the Department of Children and Family Services staff liaison to relink the client with agency services and divert them from shelter. In 2013, the CoC joined the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative to improve youth outcomes related to permanence, employment, health, education, housing, and financial capability, to prevent youth homelessness. The Jim Casey model will be replicated with the youth justice and mental health systems. Also in 2013, the CoC converted a 26 bed adult male shelter and a 26 bed adult male transitional housing program to target males aged 18-24. The objective is to have a safe

emergency housing alternative for youth who are on the street, and who are less likely to go to the 365 bed men's shelter.

Health Care Discharge Planning

Although the Ohio Department of Health policy prohibits discharging people requiring ongoing medical care to shelter, the practice continues. A CoC Hospital Discharge Planning Group, established in FY 2011, focuses on the discharge policies and protocols of area nursing homes and hospitals. The group developed written "Health Status" guidelines which clearly state the minimum health status threshold to enter a shelter. This information has been distributed to all area nursing homes and hospitals. Further, the protocol states that prior to sending someone to a shelter by cab or by ambulance, the facility must call CA/I, who will discuss the referral in order to prevent someone who is medically inappropriate from being discharged to the shelter. Hospital and nursing home staff attend the Discharge Planning Group meetings. CA/I staff track medical discharges that are inappropriate. Facilities are contacted and held accountable to stop the practice.

Mental Health Discharge Planning

The Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board monitors state requirements prohibiting discharge to shelters. In addition, it provides a 10 bed mental health crisis shelter. The respite beds provide additional time for case workers to develop safe, permanent housing options for persons who may have been homeless prior to hospitalization. Chronically homeless individuals leaving the state hospital may access a permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless unit. Safe Haven placement is another option provided the client was homeless prior to the state hospital stay. Mentally ill persons living on the streets and in the shelter are prioritized for permanent supportive housing/chronically homeless units.

Corrections Discharge Planning

In 2009, Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland established an Office of Re-entry to link returning offenders with resources in order to reduce recidivism. A strategy to prevent homelessness that has been promoted by the Office on Re-entry is outreach to inmates to assess housing, employment, and behavioral health needs, and begin the process of linking clients with resources prior to release. Two current programs are noteworthy: a) the VA goes into the institutions and identifies veterans, provides ID's, benefit determination, medical services and housing upon release; and b) The Corporation for Supportive Housing has sponsored a program that focuses on identifying persons who have serious mental health issues, engaging with them and providing housing upon release. Both programs have documented success with reducing homelessness for these high risk populations as a result of the program interventions.

Assistance from Other Public or Private Agencies

In 2013, 56% of participants accessed non-employment income sources. Over the next two years, improving on the percentage of participants increasing income from entry to exit will be accomplished through focused efforts to assess and link clients more quickly. Through CA/I, the CoC is better able to assess clients at shelter entrance to identify current income sources and potential benefit sources. The standardized data is entered into HMIS. The open HMIS system enables the agency accepting the client referral from CA/I to begin addressing client income issues more quickly. In addition, the State of Ohio has established an online "Benefit Bank." Using client data, case workers can identify additional income sources for which the client may qualify. Through CA/I, veterans are identified and referred immediately to the VA Homeless Outreach Coordinator to link the client with VA resources. Performance on income attainment is discussed at bi-monthly provider meetings.

In 2013, 73% of participants in CoC funded projects obtained mainstream benefits in 2013. The CoC will attempt to increase this percentage over the next two years by continuing the following strategies. The CoC requires all providers to participate in CA/I, which identifies client eligibility for income supports and mainstream benefits. It identifies veterans and links them immediately with the VA Homeless Outreach Coordinator for the CoC. Chronically homeless individuals are prioritized for permanent supportive housing. Enrolling chronically homeless clients in mainstream resources is a primary activity during the engagement and housing process. Mainstream benefit enrollment achievement is tracked through monthly HMIS reports generated by the HMIS Systems Administrator. Performance is discussed at bi-monthly provider meetings.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing - 91.420, 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

Cuyahoga County will support affordable rental housing projects that utilize the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. The County will continue to issue housing revenue bonds to support affordable housing development. Issuance of housing revenue bonds in combination with federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits keeps a project's cost in a workable range, which allows rents to be set at affordable levels.

The providers of housing for persons with special needs (such as persons who are physically challenged and persons with developmental disabilities) are a network of experienced organizations fulfilling a demonstrated need in the metropolitan area. The County Entitlement's Group is developing an education program for local governments and developers to understand the rights of individuals under state and federal law.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

The County will apply its federal and non-federal resources to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families. Cuyahoga County was able to obtain resources for economic development activities using creative financing to fund a menu of activities that promote economic development using bond proceeds and casino revenue funds toward large-scale attraction, encouraging new start up high tech businesses, and participating in micro lending. The range of activities possible can be seen on the Department of Development's website www.onecuyahoga.com

In each instance the County works with partners to maximize their funding and leverage other resources. In the sections that follow other specific activities are noted:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Over the past six years, the issue of vacant and abandoned properties has changed from primarily a central city or urban core problem, to one that affects all communities in the county and throughout the United States.

All concerned County elected officials have taken steps to speed up the judicial foreclosure process. Among these steps are a temporary foreclosure filing fee surcharge, adopted by the Judges of the Common Pleas Court, which will bring an estimated \$2 million per year of new revenue for staff and associated costs dedicated to streamlining judicial foreclosure cases. System improvements including mandatory case readiness certification by plaintiff's attorneys, and merger of four separate elected officials' offices into one County Fiscal Office, have greatly reduced unnecessary delays in processing foreclosure cases. Cuyahoga County Council has now authorized providing up to \$50 million of non-federal revenue to local governments and the County Land Bank to demolish vacant and abandoned structures which are certified as nuisance or blighted by the local community.

Reduction in HUD funding presents the greatest obstacle in meeting underserved needs.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Cuyahoga County and the HOME Consortium is budgeting \$600,000 of HOME funding to support new housing by fostering affordable housing. The project selections will be through a competitive process and will conform to the requirements of the new HOME rule for analysis of all projects, the underwriting criteria and analysis of neighborhood conditions. The competition is anticipated for the summer 2015.

CDBG rehabilitation assistance for Urban County homeowners is used to assist the elderly, frail elderly, and persons with disabilities make needed repairs to their homes to enable them to live in place reducing additional burdens on social service providers.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Department of Development will use Community Development Block Grant funds to comply with federal regulations to remediate lead hazards when cases occur in the Urban County.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Please refer to the extensive discussion on this topic in *Section SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy*.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The institutional network utilized by the Cuyahoga Urban County jurisdictions to implement their housing strategies includes agencies and organizations from the public, private and non-profit sectors. Several of these agencies and organizations have an extensive service area and play a role throughout the Consortium jurisdictions. Other agencies and organizations have a service area that is limited to the 51-member communities of the Cuyahoga Urban County, and in the situation of a municipal government implementing an activity as a sub-recipient of the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, only within that respective community.

Within the public sector, Cuyahoga County government has one department with the lead role in the issue of affordable housing. The Cuyahoga County Department of Development (DOD) manages the federal funds received by the Cuyahoga Urban County (CDBG and ESG) and the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium (HOME).

The Cuyahoga County DOD will continue to promote leveraging HOME funds with the private sector in activities implemented in conjunction with the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium.

The County has qualified partners capable of carrying out their activities. There are no major gaps in the institutional delivery system. The Cuyahoga County DOD will continue to use an open Request for Proposals process to solicit proposal from qualified nonprofit partners, so that newly formed or growing organizations will have the opportunity to be considered for funding.

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

Cuyahoga County government already supports numerous coordination activities between a wide variety of housing and social service agencies. These activities include regular meetings between County staff and nonprofit agency representatives in the areas of homeless services, foreclosure prevention, and affordable housing. Additionally, County government provides financial support to the United Way First Call for Help system which maintains accurate and timely information on thousands of public, private, religious, nonprofit, and charitable service organizations offering a wide variety of social services to all residents.

Discussion

Cuyahoga County participates in the Vacant Properties Coordinating Council with elected officials representing the City of Cleveland and suburban leadership, to identify and promote best practices to reduce vacant and abandoned properties.

The Urban County has partnered with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation, CCLRC, by allocating NSP funding for use in demolishing blighted structures. In addition, the county was a partner in a successful NSP II application submitted in partnership with the CCLRC, the City of Cleveland and the Metropolitan Housing Authority which received a total of \$40 million dollars to address various elements of the vacant property issue. Any remaining program funding will be expended in 2015.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 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	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	85.00%

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:**

Other forms of assistance are considered on a case-by-case basis after an application from a developer has been received and our staff has completed an analysis of the project to ensure that the additional subsidy is warranted and falls within existing federal guidelines on unduly enriching developers, and the project conforms to the requirements for underwriting analysis, review of

market conditions for project feasibility and any additional requirements of the new HOME rule.

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:

Repayment and Recapture of HOME Assistance – Homeownership Activities Cuyahoga County routinely uses HOME funds to provide deferred payment loans to income eligible homebuyers purchasing single family houses and condominium units that meet HOME program property standards. Proceeds of these deferred payment loans cover the down payment, in excess of the 3% that the buyer must provide from their own funds or a bona fide gift, and closing costs. Normally there is no other HOME assistance involved in developing the house or condo unit, so the amount of HOME funds invested exactly equals the amount of the deferred loan.

Cuyahoga County will continue to use “recapture” as its method of assuring continued affordability for the required period. The Note and Mortgage will continue to reflect the following amounts due upon sale of the property during the period of affordability:

If the sale is from a foreclosure, the amount due is the net proceeds of foreclosure sale, if any, up to the full amount of the HOME funded deferred payment loan to the buyer.

If the sale is not from a foreclosure, the amount due is the full amount of the HOME funded deferred payment loan to the buyer. (Any forgiveness of the deferred payment loan will occur only upon completion of the required period of HOME affordability.)

The Note and Mortgage will also provide that the buyer’s failure to occupy the unit as their principal residence for the entire affordability period will make the full amount of the deferred payment loan immediately due and payable, since Cuyahoga County must repay this amount.

When other HOME funds were invested as a development subsidy, the Note and Mortgage will also provide that a buyer who converts their unit to rental property during the period of affordability must conform to current HOME program income and rent limits, to preserve the unit as affordable housing.

Some units may be sold to eligible owner-occupants under a “Land Trust” model. In this situation, resale restrictions may be used instead of recapture restrictions, to conform with other program design elements of the Land Trust program.

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:

Please refer to Section 2 above.

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.

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

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

As indicated, the primary focus for the use of the new Emergency Solutions Grant funds will be on providing rapid-re-housing services and assistance that will allow homeless persons to move from shelter to housing as quickly as possible. Homeless Prevention activities will be carried out under specified circumstances.

Policies and Procedures for evaluating eligibility for ESG Assistance

Rapid re-housing assistance is available to homeless individuals and families who are in one of the following circumstances:

- sleeping in an emergency shelter
- sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, streets/sidewalks
- graduating from or timing out of a transitional housing program, with a documented status of homelessness before entering the program
- fleeing domestic violence

Homeless prevention assistance will only be made available under one of two circumstances:

- Coordinated Intake staff has determined that an individual or a family which is seeking shelter can be diverted from shelter only if ESG assistance is made available
- The Cleveland Department of Aging has determined that an elderly person is facing imminent homelessness through the loss of their current housing unless ESG assistance can be provided.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Based on the local experience with the former HPRP program and the very clear directive from HUD concerning ESG, Cuyahoga County will make the continuation of its formerly HPRP-funded Coordinated Assessment, Diversion and Rapid Re-housing activities a priority using the following procedures:

Coordinated Intake

Leveraging the strategies of Coordinated Intake, ESG funds for homelessness prevention will be focused very specifically at the door of the shelter through **diverting** newly homeless persons and households.

As part of the **Coordinated Intake** process, all persons seeking entry into emergency shelter are assessed to determine if they may have a safe, preferable alternative to shelter. If there is a safe, stable alternative, the household may be diverted from entering the shelter system. This diversion effort is not intended to discourage persons that have critical shelter needs. Diversion is intended to identify specific issues leading to homelessness that can be immediately addressed, so that a stay in shelter may be avoided. In such cases, the use of ESG funds for **diversion/prevention** can directly reduce the number of persons utilizing emergency shelter.

Persons who identify as victims of domestic violence will not be required to go through the coordinated intake process. DV victims will continue to access safe and secure shelter in a confidential shelter location as they always have in Cuyahoga County. In no case, are DV victims required, or even permitted to have data entered into the HMIS.

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).

The Five Year Strategic Plan element of Cuyahoga County's Consolidated Plan 2010 - 2014 describes goals, objectives and strategies for addressing the problem of homelessness.

Within the discussion of **Priority Homeless Needs**, the Consolidated Plan document has included the CoC document: Blueprint for Change, which states "... the CoC has developed an approach to transform the current community response to homelessness to emphasize **prevention and rapid re-housing.**"

Among the specific strategies included in the Blueprint for Change plan are:

- Implement a **Centralized or Coordinated Intake System** whereby all persons seeking shelter are assessed immediately to determine if there are any potential options to shelter

- Within the shelter system provide assessment and linkages to case management and mainstream social services
- Utilize rapid re-housing resources to reduce the length of shelter stays

Funding is made available to all interested nonprofit institutions and participating units of local government who have the capacity and interest in delivering services through an open RFP process administered by the Office of Homeless Services under the supervision of the County's Office of Procurement and Diversity.

These strategies have shaped Cuyahoga County's funding priorities for the use of the ESG funds for FY 2014.

Since late 2009, the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services has been utilizing the HPRP funds to support a comprehensive program of homeless prevention, diversion and rapid re-housing services aimed at reducing the number of person entering homeless shelters and helping those in shelters move into housing as quickly as possible. This has included the development of a ***Coordinated Intake system*** at the 2100 Lakeside Avenue - Men's Shelter and the Norma Herr Women's Center. The experience gained and lessons learned from implementing HPRP activities form the basis for the funding priorities for ESG allocation.

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 Cuyahoga County's Office of Homeless Services in collaboration with the City of Cleveland, will consult with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering and making policies and decisions regarding any facilities, services or other assistance that will receive ESG funding. In so doing, the Office of Homeless Services is in compliance with the requirements of 24 CFR 576

The policies of the OHS are directed by an Advisory Board which meets no less than every 2 months throughout the year. The Advisory Board also has a number of committees that work closely with OHS staff to develop policy recommendations to bring before the full board for review and approval. The Advisory Board includes representation of both formerly homeless individuals and the advocacy organization that has ongoing contact with shelter residents.

In addition to the OHS Advisory Board, a HPRP Steering Committee was established to specifically review policies and monitor the performance of the activities funded through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. With the end of HPRP funding in July 2012, many of its rapid re-housing and diversion services will be continued with ESG funds. Therefore, a new oversight committee will be constituted to carry out a similar ongoing review and monitoring function. Formerly homeless persons have been active members of the HPRP Steering Committee and their

participation in the new committee will be actively encouraged.

The Program Director of the Office of Homeless Services also attends meetings of the Homeless Congress, a group that is organized by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH). The Congress includes persons currently staying in local shelters.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) is the Systems Administrator for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Agencies receiving sub awards of ESG will be required to participate in the HMIS. The HUD required 16 data elements will be entered for every client accessing ESG services (except for Domestic Violence victims). Exit data will also be collected. HMIS will enable the City of Cleveland (CoC) to monitor outcome data for the following measures:

- **Diversion**: 20% of persons/households, seeking shelter will be successfully diverted to alternative, safe housing
- **Length of Stay**: Implementing rapid exit strategies will shorten the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) by 10%. The ALOS benchmark will be determined based on the 2011 Annual Homeless Assessment report (AHAR)
- **Return to Shelter**: Utilizing the 2011 AHAR, the benchmark for the percentage of persons who return to shelter from CoC funded services will be established. ESG participants who return to shelter will be tracked in HMIS and demonstrate a reduction of 5%

An Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Steering Committee will be established by the CoC Advisory Board. The Steering Committee will monitor Performance Standard Outcomes on a quarterly basis and provide feedback to providers, stakeholders and the community on ESG program efficacy.