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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
FY 2023 (HUD FY 2022) Annual Action Plan**
Year 3 of the FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Planning Period



*To be submitted to
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
by
City of Portsmouth
Community Development Department
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire*

Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on July 13, 2022 and may be submitted via email to eannunziata@cityofportsmouth.com or mailed to:

City of Portsmouth
Community Development Department
Attn: Elise Annunziata
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

This Annual Action Plan is for HUD PY 2022 (City FY 23) and is Year 3 of the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan, which is a strategic plan for goals and objectives that the City plans to achieve from City Fiscal Years 2021-2025 (HUD FY 2020-2024). Each year the CD Department provides an annual update to the Consolidated Plan, which serves as an action plan for the upcoming fiscal year. In Program Year 2022 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES ACT CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic. Specific activities are described in later sections of this plan.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

This year's Annual Action Plan includes goals and objectives for housing, public facilities, urgent needs, social services programs that assist individuals and families, and program administration. Priority needs include creating and preserving affordable housing units, helping homeowners/renters remain in their homes through temporary interim mortgage or rental assistance, responding to urgent needs in the community, removing architectural barriers for persons with disabilities, supporting public service agencies, maintaining infrastructure, and improving access/suitability to public facilities to better meet the needs of people who earn low and moderate incomes. As noted above, in Program Year 2022, the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES ACT CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The specific accomplishments of projects and programs undertaken during the previous annual plan period are provided in each year's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Evaluation and performance reports may be reviewed at the following weblink: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/cdbg-planning-and-reporting>

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

There are many worthwhile and eligible programs and projects that are considered for funding each year. To assist the Community Development (CD) Department in determining which projects are funded, a seven-member Citizens Advisory Committee meets to make funding recommendations to the City Manager. The CD Department oversees all project administration, including oversight of construction administration, invoicing, and Davis Bacon wage rates. The Department also regularly meets with area service providers in order to ensure the needs of partner organizations and their clients are being met.

5. Summary of public comments

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

See below.

Public Comments during Public Participation Process for PY 2022 (CFY 2023) Community Development Block Grant Program

February 17, 2022 Public Hearing on Community Development Needs in FY 2023 Public comments received in person, as follows:

Mark Lentz, Portsmouth Housing Authority, Facilities Director Portsmouth Housing Authority – agency manages numerous public housing units--some of which include playgrounds and community centers--throughout the city. They have a list of projects for facility improvements in FY 22 and FY 23. Mr. Lentz reviewed the list of projects that was distributed to committee members. Some of the FY 22 projects have been pushed to FY 23 due to contractor back up and scheduling. Ms. Annunziata noted that it would be helpful to prioritize the list in terms of project readiness and timeline.

Kathy Beebe, Executive Director of HAVEN – agency provides emergency shelter and services for individuals surviving/fleeing from domestic violence, and provides sexual assault services and a hotline. The agency had paused its capital campaign during COVID, but is restarting its search for property is that will enable the agency to relocate to a larger shelter facility, which will hopefully be co-located with offices and in a more dense area to increase security and services. Due to COVID-19 the current shelter housed fewer people in the facility, but increased costs and shelter provided in hotels.

Meme Wheeler, Executive Director of Chase Home for Children – agency provides residential services and home-based programs for youth aged 11-19 in coordination with DCYF. Agency discussed need for increased days in reunification program from 30 days to 90 days. Diversion program services have decreased due to children not being in school/remote learning, but agency expects numbers to go back up. Agency also provides home-based residential programs.

March 10, 2022 Public Meeting

Ms. Beebe of HAVEN spoke to the issues impacting victims of domestic violence, both in general and as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their crisis line received fewer calls in general, likely because of the closer proximity of victims to their abusers. The shelter was at reduced capacity and instead victims were housed in hotels with support from additional CDBG funding, where although they still

received the services and check-ins from case workers, they also experienced isolation and the vulnerability that comes with it. CDBG CARES Act funds were used to support hotel costs. A new initiative for the agency is becoming a Camp HOPE affiliate. Affordable housing in Portsmouth and the seacoast is a significant challenge.

Mr. Arvelo of Crossroads House shared that, again as in last year, due to COVID-19, the shelter's capacity was decreased this year in order to meet CDC distancing and health standards. The shelter was 70-80% full, but still served 400+ unique clients per year. Their numbers would have been even lower, if it weren't for the ability to house some high risk shelter residents at local hotels, a program partially funded by additional CDBG CARES Act funding. Those who received shelter at the hotels were still provided the full level of case management. Staff retention is a significant challenge. Mr. Arvelo noted that there are numerous facility improvement that are needed, included roof repair to address leaks. He will provide shovel-ready project proposal to City Staff as well as FY 23 projects in the pipeline.

Ms. Sprackland of Big Brothers Big Sisters NH (new applicant to Portsmouth CDBG Program) discussed the program activities and goals. The CDBG grant proposal is for the agency's One-to-One Mentoring program which matches adults ("Bigs") with at-risk youth. There are currently 32 matches in Portsmouth; and 81% of the current matches are from low-moderate households. A notable percentage of the matches are from single female households. There are 150-200 at-risk youth on the waiting list. BBBS is working in partnership with prisons to provide support to youth who need mentors and providing LGBTQ youth mentoring.

Ms. Leibowitz, with AIDS Response Seacoast (ARS) spoke about the direct case management and medical support that is provided by CDBG grant funding. COVID-19 forced operations to quickly shift to remote, which was especially crucial due to the immune compromised status of the client base. Challenges include not enough staff and volunteers to expand program; shortage of medical providers in NH; technology inequities, which were especially apparent due to COVID-19; and an increase in new diagnoses – uptick in new diagnosis in ages under 30 and among women, likely due to deferred health care during COVID-19. Continuing issues that affect the clients are affordable housing, substance use overlap, financial resources, and transportation.

March 15, 2022 Public Meeting

Ms. Tonelli and Sarah Fleck of Seacoast Community School (SCS) shared that SCS is one of the largest childcare operations in NH and that they provide not only early childhood education but afterschool care for older children as well. 200 children served daily, but there are 300 children on the waitlist. There are 30 families with overdue balances; 11 of these families have balances over \$1,000. A significant challenge for the agency is staff retention and pay. Other challenges include inadequate support for ESL families and families with disabilities not being able to pay the full cost of child care due to decreased state assistance (SSDI) for child care. Gosling Meadows early childhood education (ages 3-5) has been very successful; planning to expand in FY 23.

Ms. Long of Greater Seacoast Community Health (GSCH) noted that the agency had recently moved into a new 16,000 sq. ft. space in Portsmouth. She invited the CAC members to tour the facility. The agency serves 3,000 persons. Challenges include transportation for clients to get to the health care facility. They are utilizing ride shares, buses, taxis, etc.. Another significant challenge is staff recruitment and retention for clinical staff. Agency is exploring new partnerships with Tufts, Harvard, Lamprey Health and others.

Ms. Ardizzoni of Rockingham Community Action (RCAP) spoke about the various programs provided through SNHS and the CAP, including electric assistance, fuel assistance, homelessness prevention, weatherization, and work force training. Significant issues are lack of affordable housing and staffing (retention and pay; competitiveness with other employment).

Public Hearing June 14, 2022 – public comments received at this hearing and prior to the end of the 30-day comment period will be included in the final Annual Action Plan submitted to HUD.

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

None.

7. Summary

The City of Portsmouth receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Under this program, the City of Portsmouth is an entitlement community. In PY 2022 (the third year of the HUD 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan), the City of Portsmouth will receive \$523,706 to be used in carrying out various eligible programs that benefit residents who earn low or moderate incomes or address another CDBG National Objective.

CDBG funds must be used to primarily 1) benefit individuals and families who earn very low, low or moderate incomes; 2) improve neighborhoods in which over 51% of the residents earn very low, low or moderate incomes; and 3) improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Additionally, the City may use up to 30% of its entitlement funding for responding to HUD-eligible Urgent Needs. Urgent Need qualified activities must meet the following criteria: 1) the existing conditions must pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community; 2) the existing conditions are of recent origin or recently became urgent (generally, within the past 18 months); 3) the grantee is unable to finance the activity on its own; and 4) other sources of funding are not available.

In Program Year 2022, the City anticipates utilizing approximately \$265,000 of previously received CDBG-CV funds, which will be utilized to undertake projects and activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic. Specific activities are described later in this plan.

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
CDBG Administrator	CITY OF PORTSMOUTH	Community Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The Portsmouth Community Development Department oversees all project administration, including oversight of CDBG-eligible construction administration, invoicing, and Davis Bacon wage rates. The Department also regularly meets with area service providers in order to ensure the needs of partner organizations and their clients are being met.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The Portsmouth Community Development (CD) Department is the sole agency responsible for administering the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CD Department is responsible for developing the Consolidated Plan, providing annual updates, reporting on activities accomplished and documenting funds expended at the end of each program year. The CD Department works in cooperation with public and private agencies who serve persons who earn very low-, low- and moderate incomes. The CD Department, as a Department of the City of Portsmouth, works closely with other municipal departments including the Planning, Public Works, Legal, Finance, Inspection, Health and Welfare Departments. The Portsmouth Housing Authority is another City agency with which the CD Department coordinates services because that agency serves many of the same clientele as CDBG programs. Many residents in Portsmouth Housing Authority apartments are served directly or indirectly by programming and projects funded with CDBG. The CD Department's coordination and cooperation with various entities facilitates CDBG programming and assists in identifying community needs.

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

Community Development staff is very engaged with the quality and affordability of housing. Specifically, the City participates in regional discussions on workforce housing through the Workforce Housing Coalition and its sponsor, The Housing Partnership, a local non-profit housing organization. In recognition of the housing challenge, in 2008 the Portsmouth City Council established the Blue Ribbon Committee on Housing and charged the Committee with developing a "road map", or guidance document, on local housing options and issues; identifying creative solutions to address those issues, and developing a shortlist of policy and action items that could be taken by the City and others to increase affordable housing options. The results of this work have been incorporated in this Annual Action Plan.

The CDBG program works to advance fair housing through its referrals and consultation with New Hampshire Legal Services (NHLS) Housing Justice Program. NHLS has been frequently awarded funds through the Public Service Agency Grant Program and they, or other agencies providing these services and efforts, will continue to receive funds as they continue to meet that need. The agency's work in this area includes providing assistance to Portsmouth renters with fair housing concerns as well as initiating and conducting workshops on fair housing for the benefit of landlords and direct service non-profit providers interacting with clients.

The City also supports and coordinates with area organizations such as Greater Seacoast Community Health to promote access to medical, dental, and mental health services for individuals in need. This health organization partners directly with the Portsmouth Housing Authority as well as other community organizations to bring their services to low- and moderate-income residents.

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.

The City is working with Home for All (the seacoast coalition to address homelessness prevention and emergency housing issues) in order to better coordinate services targeted toward families and individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The coordinated access initiative between regional service providers is helping potential clients avoid shelters altogether and move forward directly to transitional or permanent placements that are best aligned with their needs. City staff participates in Home for All forums and meetings to discuss challenges, needs, and potential collaborations for the homeless services community to focus on in the near term, including improvements to coordinated care with area hospitals, expansion of data aggregation and analysis, and improving the efficiency of advocacy work. CD staff is also involved in forums and workgroups addressing issues of chronic homelessness and coordination of services for those currently or at risk of becoming homeless.

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

The jurisdiction does not receive ESG funding nor does it work with HMIS. However, the CD Department coordinates and consults with the Continuum of Care Coalition, Home for All, as described above. CD staff reviews periodic publications and reports associated with the homeless issue including the New Hampshire DHHS Annual Homeless Reports and Point in Time Surveys, Homeless Teens, and the work for the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness and local United Way of the Greater Seacoast-sponsored workgroups/forums to end homelessness.

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

See Table below.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Portsmouth Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) is regularly consulted by City staff on many issues and emerging opportunities such as maintaining and adding additional affordable housing units, and improving service delivery for existing clients. This consultation will continue and provides opportunities for coordinated support in the area of housing needs and urgent needs due to COVID-19. Additionally, PHA staff attended the public needs hearing on 2/17/22 to provide comments on public housing priority needs for PY 22 (City FY 23).
2	Agency/Group/Organization	HAVEN
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Anti-poverty Strategy Urgent Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Executive Director of HAVEN, Kathy Beebe attended the meetings on 2/17/22 and 3/10/22. HAVEN provides temporary shelter and case management services to victims of domestic violence. While the COVID-19 pandemic created health and safety challenges, HAVEN accomplished their goals by shifting their shelter services into hotels, where clients can socially distance, while still receiving their services. Challenges include increased isolation and the need to adapt programming.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	CROSSROADS HOUSE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Mr. Arvelo, Executive Director of Cross Roads House attended the meeting on 3/10/22. The emergency shelter facility provides temporary shelter and comprehensive case management services to homeless individuals and families in Portsmouth. COVID-19 presented challenges that were met by shifting some shelter services to hotels when serving at risk or quarantining clients. Modifications were necessary to increase safety and usability of their shared spaces. Challenges include longer stays and lack of affordable permanent housing in the City.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater Seacoast Community Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Urgent Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Greater Seacoast Community Health staff attended the meeting on 3/15/22. They meet the dental health needs of Portsmouth residents who earn extremely low, low, or moderate incomes. The clinic provides care to clients regardless of their ability to pay. The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges such as temporarily suspending services, and the need for greater precautions and more PPE. This year, the organization will move into expanded new facility with larger capacity.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	AIDS Response Seacoast
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ms. Leibowitz, with AIDS Response Seacoast (ARS) spoke at the 3/10/22 public meeting about the direct case management and medical support that is provided by CDBG grant funding. COVID-19 forced operations to quickly shift to remote, which was especially crucial due to the immune compromised status of the client base. Issues that affect the clients are affordable housing, substance use overlap, financial resources, and transportation. This year, ARS is focusing more on increased public education in order to teach the community how to prevent contracting HIV.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Seacoast Mental Health
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Urgent Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Community Development Department staff have on-going consultations with Seacoast Mental Health staff regarding mental health support services and needs for elderly and other low- to moderate income persons living in Portsmouth.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	The Chase Home for Children
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Community Development Staff have ongoing consultations with The Chase Home for Children staff about youth who primarily come to the Chase Home from environments where they are experiencing abuse/neglect, are unsafe, or are entering care due to status as a delinquent youth. Additionally, the Executive Director, Meme Wheeler attended the 2/17/22 public hearing on community needs and described the 90-day reunification process and challenges facing this at-risk populations.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Continued City Staff consultation with NHLA will determine the best activities to facilitate fair housing information being disseminated to vulnerable populations who are exiting homelessness. This will assist the City to identify additional strategies and opportunities to affirmatively further fair housing in the City. COVID-19 pandemic resulted in challenges to implementing their traditional fair housing programs, but that they are now looking at returning to in person services delivery, such as on-site programming at emergency and domestic violence shelters.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Seacoast Community School
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ms. Tonnelli, Executive Director of Seacoast Community School (SCS) attended the 3/15/22 public hearing and described the agency's work as one of the largest childcare operations in NH and that they provide not only early childhood education but afterschool care for older children as well. Ms. Tonnelli shared that their programs adapted and expanded in ways to resume providing successful care to families during COVID-19. Clients are working parents who depend on reliable childcare. With the help of CDBG funding, scholarships are provided to extremely low- to moderate- income families on a basis of individual needs. SCS is working to address difficulties in hiring by offering increases to base wages and education reimbursements.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Southern NH Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Tenant based rental assistance; Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Ms. Ardizzoni of Rockingham Community Action (RCAP) spoke at the 3/15/22 hearing about their short-term rental assistance program. One of the most important and challenging components of managing the increased funds is to reach the potential clients who need it most and to educate landlords about the resources available to them and their residents. Cost of living and housing vacancy in the area are huge factors in need for their programs.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Portsmouth Welfare Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy Urgent needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This year, as in prior years, the CDBG program coordinated with the City Welfare Program to discuss social services needs and funding from the City's general fund through City Welfare funds, which complements CDBG funds for public services to assist the homeless and other special needs activities.

12	Agency/Group/Organization	SEACOAST BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 and staff comments and the 3/15/22 public meeting regarding at-risk youth mentoring program.

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

None

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	Home for All; State of NH Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services	Typical services assisting the homeless in a Continuum of Care include case management, housing counseling, job training and placement, health care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, child care, transportation, emergency food and clothing, family violence services, education services, moving services, entitlement access assistance, referrals to veterans' services, and legal assistance. In addition to participating in the Continuum Care, the City provides funding to agencies that make up a significant portion of the Continuum of Care system. This support is provided through the City's Community Development Block Grant-funded Public Service Agency Grant Program and through the Portsmouth Welfare Department Social Service grant program, which is supported by local tax dollars.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Portsmouth 2025 Master Plan	Portsmouth Planning Dept	One of the many priorities for action identified in the Master Plan is supporting and maintaining a diverse community in the City, which includes promoting access to affordable housing.
Portsmouth Housing Authority 5-Year Plan	Portsmouth Housing Authority	The Plan's goals include increasing the quality and supply of housing for families of low or moderate income in Portsmouth, as well encouraging access to social services, healthcare, family support, youth programs and senior programs for current PHA residents. PHA is currently undertaking a large project to build 64 units of workforce housing in downtown Portsmouth.
2014 Housing Existing Conditions Report	Portsmouth Planning Dept	An analysis of the existing housing conditions in the City with a focus on future efforts to preserve existing affordable housing and encourage redevelopment of underutilized properties with housing that is affordable to houses at or below the area median income.
Coastal Resiliency Initiative	Portsmouth Planning Dept.	The City of Portsmouth Coastal Resilience Initiative, launched in 2011, was one of the first coastal hazards vulnerability assessments completed in the region. The findings of that detailed assessment resulted in the inclusion of resilience as a priority in the City's Master Plan, subsequent vulnerability assessment work related to the city's historic resources and the adoption of new floodplain regulations.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

CD staff consult and coordinate with other departmental staff as well as with area agency staff. In one instance, CD staff collaborates with the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA). NHCDFA administers the statewide CDBG program and is a member of the three agency team that develops and implements the state's Consolidated Plan. In addition, CD staff also work with the Rockingham Planning Commission, State Bureau of Homelessness and Housing Services, NH Housing Finance Authority, and State Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the course of designing and implementing programs. The City also has liaisons between it and several local organizations including the Portsmouth Economic Development Commission, Portsmouth Historical Society, Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Association, Rockingham County Economic Development Authority, and the Tenant's Association at Pease to name a few.

Reliable high speed internet access is an issue for some Portsmouth households, particularly in households earning low-moderate incomes. In 2020 and 2021, the City had extensive discussions with companies and the public housing authority about narrowing the digital divide. Early on in the pandemic, Community Development staff initiated discussions with two providers, Comcast and Consolidated Communications, to improve and remedy technical issues, including upload and download wireless internet speeds, at individual households. Most problematic has been the ability to get reliable service to individual households. Service can be provided to these households in most cases, but the connections offered by the services providers in their affordable rate packages are not stable/fast enough to make online learning as effective as it could be, or in some cases, as needed. The City has resources to support some limited improvements in internet speeds/connections for targeted economically disadvantaged households. The City is continuing to make efforts to secure adequate internet and broadband services/connections for low-moderate income households and individuals, and will monitor state/federal rules changes and funding opportunities. In PY 22, the City will continue to look for opportunities to increase internet access and ways to provide reliable, adequate internet services to targeted communities.

The City has a designated Floodplain District that consists of all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as all extended flood hazard areas as defined by the City's Zoning Ordinance. In March 2021, the National League of Cities selected the City and its collaboration with the NH Coastal Adaptation Workshop (NHCAW) as one of eight communities to participate in the national 2021 Leadership in Community Resilience program. The City's partnership with NHCAW has provided an opportunity for coastal communities such as itself to learn about how to build resilience and an effective regional strategy to climate hazards. The City will continue assessing its Coastal Resiliency Initiative and the challenges that the City and other coastal communities face as sea levels continue to rise and weather patterns change.

In addition to the above-discussed, CD Staff will continue ongoing discussions in PY 22 regarding community needs and emerging and potential urgent needs due to the COVID-19 health pandemic with the City Senior Management and other departments including Health, DPW, Fire, Recreation, and Economic Development.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The Portsmouth Community Development (CD) Department works with a seven-member volunteer Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) throughout the last year to update the Citizens Participation Plan and develop the priorities and goals to be focused on in the Consolidated Plan. The Community Development Department consults with the public and service providers during CAC meetings. When an organization is being considered for funding or will be affected by potential policy developments, they are contacted regularly throughout the decision making process.

For the purpose of advertising public hearings in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, the CD Department sent emails to CDBG participant organizations – including existing public service agency grant participants and other non-profit service providers working with elderly populations, the disabled, immigrant communities, and others. Notices of all public hearings are published in the local paper and posted on the City's website, and at Portsmouth City Hall. Notice of 30-day Comment Period (June 13, 2022 - July 13, 2022) on this year's (PY 22) Annual Action Plan and Budget was published in the local newspaper (print and online editions) on June 10, 2022.

Citizen participation helps to inform the CAC and the City of various community needs' scope and breadth, which is considered in goal setting. Goals are intended to address needs in certain areas of the cities or at facilities that serve CDBG-eligible populations, or infrastructure and accessibility needs. The community participation process and consultation will be ongoing during the Five-Year planning process, and particularly as it relates to COVID-19 and determining goals to prepare, prevent and respond to the pandemic. Specific language in Subrecipient Agreements with agencies receiving Public Service Agency Grant Program funds requires them to market their services to CDBG eligible neighborhoods as well as those living in housing developments owned or managed by the Portsmouth Housing Authority.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	February 17, 2022 public meeting and hearing to gather public comments on community needs that could be served by the CDBG program in FY 23. Several representatives from social services agencies attended and provided comments.	See section above	None	
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	March 10, 2022 public meeting to hear input from social service agencies desiring CDBG grant funds to support services to low- moderate income persons.	See section above	None	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	March 15, 2022 public meeting to hear input from social service agencies desiring CDBG grant funds to support services to low- moderate income persons.	See section above	None	

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)
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	June 14, 2022 public meeting and hearing on the Draft Action Plan and Budget.	TBD		
5	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Notice of 30 day comment period on Draft Annual Action Plan activities and budget. Published in Portsmouth Herald on 6/10/22 and the City's website on 6/13/22.	None	None	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

This section is intended to summarize the funding sources which may be available to the CDBG program to make progress on priority needs and Consolidated Plan goals. CDBG dollars will be used to fund projects and activities benefiting low to low-moderate income individuals, and to address urgent needs. Previously received CARES Act CDBG-CV funds will be used for activities meeting a National Objective and that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 health crisis.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				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	523,706	45,000	382,988	951,694	1,084,619	CDBG dollars will be used to fund projects and activities benefiting low to low-moderate income individuals, and to address urgent needs. \$45,000 in program income is anticipated from loan repayments. An estimated \$382,988, from Revolving Loan funds and funds from prior year resources (reallocated and obligated funds) will also be utilized for PY22 projects/activities.
CDBG-CV	public - local	Public Services Public Facilities Urgent Needs Program Administration			\$265,000		\$0	CDBG-CV funds from the CARES Act will be utilized to fund eligible activities that prepare, prevent and responded to COVID-19.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
General Fund	public - local	Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	0	0	0	0	300,000	General Fund dollars are leveraged to match CDBG funds for social services support and other public facilities projects that are identified on an annual basis. The funding source and amount is intended to serve as a placeholder for general funds to be used as needed. Typically, the general funds support up to \$15,000 annually for projects funded in part with CDBG for public facilities. These projects may see a cost share with local general fund dollars, primarily through the City's capital budget. General Funds may be used in addition to previously received CARES Act funds.
LIHTC	private	Housing	0	0	0	0	1,000,000	The funding source and amount is intended to serve as a placeholder for potential partnerships in the five-year period that may result in the preservation of existing affordable units or the expansion of the inventory of affordable units in the City.

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

Matching funds are not required. However, the federal funds expended on CDBG eligible activities leverage significant additional resources from non-profit agency partners who receive funding for public services and for facility improvements.

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

N/A

Discussion

During the City's current Five-Year Plan period, including PY 2022, the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES Act CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic. CDBG dollars will be used to fund projects and activities benefiting low to low-moderate income individuals, and to address urgent needs (no more than 30%).

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	Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	City-Wide	Housing	CDBG: \$85,744	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 3 Household Housing Unit
2	Public Facility/Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide	Public Facility/Infrastructure Improvements Removal of barriers to accessibility	CDBG: \$651,709 CDBG-CV: \$70,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1,250 Persons Assisted Rental units rehabilitated: 100 Household Housing Unit Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 75 Persons Assisted Removal of barriers to accessibility: 125 persons assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Public Services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$81,500 CDBG-CV: \$75,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 350 Persons Assisted Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 8 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 165 Persons Assisted
4	Transportation	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	City-Wide	Transportation	CDBG: \$20,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 125 Persons Assisted

5	Urgent Needs	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development Urgent Needs	City-Wide	Urgent Need	CDBG-CV: \$100,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 22,000 Persons Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 22,000 Persons Assisted
6	Administration	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development Urgent Needs	City-Wide	Administration	CDBG: \$112,741 CDBG-CV: 20,000	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing
	Goal Description	Provide loans for rehabilitation of multifamily units that house low-moderate income families or individuals. Housing Rehab funds may be provided as grants for nonprofits providing housing to income-eligible individuals/families.
2	Goal Name	Public Facility/Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements
	Goal Description	The City will continue accessibility and public facilities/infrastructure upgrades to locations throughout the City. Major activities include Operation Blessing Warming Center facility improvements, Woodbury Avenue Housing Cooperative infrastructure improvements, and ADA/Accessibility improvements. Other infrastructure/public facility improvement and ADA accessibility projects, including transportation, and rental unit rehabilitation will be identified and are anticipated in PY 2022.
3	Goal Name	Public Services
	Goal Description	Grants to local nonprofit organizations providing public services to Portsmouth residents who earn low to moderate income. Eligible funded activities include child care, mental health services, dental services, at-risk youth programming/support, homeless shelter services, DV and sexual assault services, services for persons with HIV/AIDS, fair housing training for persons preparing to exit homeless shelters, improved access to social services, and tenant-based rental assistance.
4	Goal Name	Transportation
	Goal Description	Fund added or improved public transportation services or facilities for: 1) low-moderate income beneficiaries, such as seniors or persons with disabilities; 2) in CDBG eligible areas, such as near Woodbury Ave. cooperative, public housing; or 3) servicing agencies/areas that provide social services/shelter to primarily low- moderate-income individuals.

5	Goal Name	Urgent Needs
	Goal Description	<p>CDBG-CV funds received in the previous Action Plan Year will be utilized to address urgent needs, prioritizing public facility improvements, but may also including public services and other eligible activities to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19. The City is keeping the allocation of these funds and the specific activities generalized in order to maintain the most flexibility and agility to respond to urgent needs. Specific CDBG-CV eligible urgent needs activities will be identified on an as-needed basis. General Funds may be used in addition to CDBG funds and previously received CARES Act funds.</p> <p>Activities undertaken to support non-profit and for profit businesses and public facilities to undertake public services and public facility improvements to address urgent needs when no other funding sources are available and the grantee is unable to finance the activity(ies) on its own. Economic development activities may be funded under the Urgent Needs goal. The jurisdiction anticipates that any activities that meet the Urgent Need National Objective will be evolving over time to meet the needs to best prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19. In order to be flexible to ever-changing health/crisis needs, specific budget amounts will be directed to targeted public facilities and public services activities over time.</p>
6	Goal Name	Administration
	Goal Description	General program administration of the CDBG Program, including the administration of CV CARES Act funds previously received.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

In FY 23 (PY 2022), the CDBG program plans to make progress on a number of high priorities including public facilities upgrades to address accessibility needs and needs of the senior population; assistance to non-profit partners with public facilities improvements, as well as continuing interim tenant-based rental assistance and multifamily housing rehabilitation as the opportunities present.

Additionally, in Program Year 2022, the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES Act CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Grantee anticipates that any activities that meet the Urgent Need National Objective will be evolving over time to meet the needs to best prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19. In order to be flexible to ever-changing health/crisis needs, specific budget amounts will be directed to targeted public facilities and public services activities over time.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Program Administration
2	Public Facility/Accessibility Improvements
3	Housing Rehab Loan Program
4	Public Services Agency Grant Program
5	Transportation
6	Urgent Needs

Table 7 - Project Information

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

This year, the CDBG Consolidated Plan does not allocate resources based on geographic areas, but rather on priorities identified during the Consolidated Plan /Annual Action Plan consultation process. At least 70% of CDBG funding for projects/activities are intended to benefit residents earning low and moderate incomes accessing services as well as ensuring access for people with disabilities throughout the City. The City has planned during PY 22 to utilize up to 30% of CDBG and previously received CDBG-CV funds on activities that meet the Urgent Needs National Objective.

The Citizens Advisory Committee to the City's CDBG Program has planned to increase its meetings and consultations throughout PY 22 to assess the underserved needs in Portsmouth and provide recommendations for additional CDBG and previously received CDBG-CV funding to address changing priorities and needs due to COVID-19. Community surveys are planned as well as localized community

meetings at public housing and targeted neighborhoods.

Obstacles to addressing underserved needs include lack of matching or City general funds - through circumstances beyond the City's control, lack of capacity on the part of agencies- largely due to increased demands as a result of COVID-19, high home prices, and local permitting/land use measures that do not aggressively facilitate the development of affordable housing in the City.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Program Administration
	Target Area	City-Wide
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$112,741 and CDBG-CV: \$20,000. Total: \$132,741
	Description	General program administration of the CDBG Program.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	CDBG and CDBG-CV Program Administration
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	CDBG and CDBG-CV Program Administration
2	Project Name	Public Facility/Accessibility Improvements
	Target Area	City-Wide
	Goals Supported	Public Facility/Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility/Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$651,709 and CDBG-CV: \$70,000. Total: \$721,709
	Description	The City will continue accessibility and public facilities/infrastructure upgrades to locations throughout the City. Major activities include Operation Blessing Warming Center facility improvements, Woodbury Avenue Housing Cooperative infrastructure, water/sewer and site improvements, and ADA/Accessibility improvements. Other infrastructure/public facility improvement and ADA accessibility projects, including transportation, will be identified and are anticipated in PY 2022.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that approximately 75 individuals who are homeless will benefit from the proposed activities at emergency shelters; 100 persons will benefit from rehabilitated rental units; approximately 12 households will benefit from improvements at Woodbury Ave. Housing cooperative; and 125 persons will benefit from removal of architectural barriers to accessibility. Additionally, the City estimates that approximately 1,250 individuals earning low- moderate- income will benefit from other accessibility and public facility improvements across the City.

	Location Description	Operation Blessing, 100 Lafayette Rd. Woodbury Ave. Cooperative, Woodbury Ave. City-wide in eligible areas or targeted to specific populations.
	Planned Activities	The City will continue accessibility and public facilities/infrastructure upgrades to locations throughout the City. Major activities include Operation Blessing Warming Center facility improvements, Woodbury Avenue Housing Cooperative infrastructure improvements, and ADA/Accessibility improvements. Other infrastructure/public facility improvement and ADA accessibility projects, including transportation, and rental unit rehabilitation will be identified and are anticipated in PY 2022.
3	Project Name	Housing Rehab Loan Program
	Target Area	City-Wide
	Goals Supported	Housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$85,744
	Description	Provides loans for rehabilitation of multifamily units that house low-moderate income families or individuals. Housing Rehab funds may be provided as grants for nonprofits providing housing to income-eligible individuals/families.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 3 households earning low to moderate-income will benefit from the proposed activities.
	Location Description	Specific to low- moderate-income households or geographic areas.
4	Project Name	Public Services Agency Grant Program
	Target Area	City-Wide
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$81,500; CDBG-CV: 75,000. Total: \$156,500

	Description	Grants to local nonprofit organizations providing public services to Portsmouth residents who earn low to moderate income.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 515 individuals, including persons who are homeless, earning low- moderate household income will benefit from the proposed activities. Of this number, approximately 8 households will benefit from the proposed short-term tenant based rental activities.
	Location Description	Through various non-profit social service agencies in the City.
	Planned Activities	Child care, mental health services, dental services, at-risk youth programming/support, homeless shelter services, DV and sexual assault services, services for persons with HIV/AIDS, fair housing training for persons preparing to exit homeless shelters, improved access to social services, and tenant-based rental assistance.
5	Project Name	Transportation
	Target Area	City-Wide
	Goals Supported	Transportation
	Needs Addressed	Transportation
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	To support agencies or improvements that provide transportation services for persons who earn very low-, low-, and moderate-incomes.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 125 persons earning low to moderate incomes or persons with disabilities will benefit from the proposed activities.
	Location Description	Citywide or in CDBG eligible areas, such as near Woodbury Ave. cooperative, public housing or servicing areas the provide social services/shelter to primarily low- moderate-income individuals.
6	Planned Activities	Added or improved public transportation services or facilities.
	Project Name	Urgent Needs
	Target Area	City-Wide
	Goals Supported	Urgent Needs
	Needs Addressed	Urgent Need
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$100,000

Description	To support non-profit and for profit businesses and public facilities to undertake public services and public facility improvements to address urgent needs when no other funding sources are available and the grantee is unable to finance the activity(ies) on its own. Economic development activities may be funded under the Urgent Needs goal. CDBG-CV funds received in the previous Action Plan Year may be utilized to address urgent needs, including public services and public facility improvements, to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19. The City is keeping the allocation of these funds and the specific activities generalized in order to maintain the most flexibility and agility to respond to urgent needs. Specific CDBG-CV eligible activities will be identified on an as-needed basis. The jurisdiction anticipates that any activities that meet the Urgent Need National Objective will be evolving over time to meet the needs to best prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.
Target Date	6/30/2023
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 22,000 unduplicated persons will benefit from the proposed urgent need activities that may include public services or public facility improvements. The beneficiaries may not be low- moderate-income, as urgent need activities will be planned to prepare, prevent and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis.
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	<p>To support non-profit and for-profit businesses and city government programs providing public services and making public facility improvements to address urgent needs when no other funding sources are available and the grantee is unable to finance the activity(ies) on its own. Economic development activities may be funded under the Urgent Needs goal.</p> <p>As noted in the introduction, the Grantee anticipates that any activities that meet the “Urgent Need” national objective will be evolving over time to meet the needs to best prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19. In order to be flexible to ever-changing health/crisis needs, specific budget amounts will be directed to public facilities and public services activities over time. General Funds may be used in addition to CDBG funds and previously received CARES Act funds.</p>

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

The citizen participation process, community needs, and available funding drive the geographical allocation of investments in the community. In other words, there is no pre-specified geographic targeting of resources. In PY 22, investment of community development resources are planned for throughout the jurisdiction.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City-Wide	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City's Five-Year Plan does not identify any geographic concentration of resources. Specifically, the Housing Rehabilitation Program is undertaken without regard to geography, but instead, activities, are based on the income of the property owners. Public service agencies that will receive CDBG grant funds during this program year are scattered through the City and public facilities projects occur in locations or at facilities that directly benefit those who earn low or moderate incomes or those who are presumed to earn low or moderate incomes. The City of Portsmouth has three Census block groups where a majority of residents earn low or moderate incomes. Projects in these areas are undertaken based on project eligibility and funding availability. For at least the most recent two Consolidated Plans, the City has identified significant public infrastructure needs, in CDBG eligible neighborhoods. Urgent Need projects and activities will be undertaken Citywide in PY 22 according to priorities described earlier in this section, and General Funds may be used in addition to CDBG funds and previously received CARES Act funds.

Discussion

None further.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Wages in the Seacoast area continue to be on par with state averages overall, average housing purchase and rental costs are the most expensive in New Hampshire by considerable margins. Unfortunately, it seems that the gap in affordability continues to grow. The Seacoast is a desirable location to live and to work, in no small part due to the abundance of services and supports that the area offers. Although many people come to the Seacoast in order to access jobs and services, it is often difficult for them to remain due to the high cost of housing.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	165
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	165

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	8
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	100
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	108

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

Discussion

A diverse workforce is vital to a thriving regional economy and if the Seacoast region continues to become more expensive to live in, the lack of affordable housing will increase commuting distance, making it more difficult for employers to recruit workers and more costly to retain them. The City is exploring funding support for the Portsmouth Housing Authority workforce housing project on Court Street.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) works to serve the housing needs of individuals and families who have very low, low, and moderate incomes. The Housing Authority manages several residential complexes serving the elderly, families with children, and families with disabilities. In addition, the Authority manages a tenant-based Section 8 program and waiting list. The Housing Authority has also worked with local public safety providers to ensure effective screening policies, strict lease enforcement, and the maintenance of healthy and safe neighborhoods. The Housing Authority also provides employment and education incentives to tenants, as well as youth risk prevention services. The City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Housing Authority have worked closely to address the need for public housing, including on retention, renovation, and development of housing units as well as improvements to livability and access to services by residents.

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

The PHA has made great strides in the past several years in areas including security, accessibility, and partnerships with the community. Challenges to address in the future include the increasing number of non-elderly disabled persons being served and expanding housing opportunities. Recently the PHA has been required to house greater numbers of non-seniors with physical and/or mental disabilities in traditionally senior housing buildings; this creates a difficult situation to manage but one in which the PHA is confident it can continue to serve both populations through new administrative strategies and community partnerships. With over 400 families on the PHA's waiting list for a Section 8 voucher and an additional 550+ on the list for public housing, coupled with a sustained lack of affordable housing for the Seacoast's workforce, the PHA is looking for new opportunities to increase housing units through acquisition or new construction. The Housing Authority's Court Street project (Ruth's Place) in the downtown area will provide 64 one- and two-bedroom units of work force housing that will serve those individuals who earn 70% or below, area median income. Approximately 24 of these units will be made affordable for individuals earning at 30% or below area median income.

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

The PHA is committed to encouraging resident participation in all of its neighborhoods in order to improve social outcomes, reduce crime, foster greater civic engagement, and assure more caring and compassionate communities. Besides working to add more programs and services for tenants, the PHA encourages residents to seek leadership roles and actively engage with the future of the community by joining Resident Advisory Boards. The PHA Resident Service team regularly invites residents to participate in conversations happening in local Government and often provides transportation to public hearings as well as hosting on-site public meetings when possible.

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

The PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

The Portsmouth Housing Authority is seen as an invaluable partner in addressing housing needs in Portsmouth. Through its Five-Year Plan, the PHA is engaged on the issue of creating additional units, preserving existing units, ensuring high-quality services, and linking with other resources in the community.

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

Introduction

The Seacoast has a robust Continuum of Care (Home for All) and the City continues to work with regional organizations such as the Home for All to improve coordination between service providers and develop and implement strategies to expand and refine services. Funding from the City's general fund through City Welfare funds complements CDBG funds for public services to assist the homeless and other special needs activities.

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 City will continue to promote the availability of Public Service Agency Grants to shelters, healthcare, and public welfare agencies in order to strengthen and support the already robust Continuum of Care.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City will continue to review agencies' certifications of consistency with its Consolidated Plan for any agencies' new shelter and transitional housing proposals, as well as provide support through the funding for eligible public facilities projects. The City will also continue close cooperation and participation in the Continuum of Care.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City will continue providing Public Service Agency Grants for agencies providing supportive services and will support the increase of transitional and permanent-supportive housing.

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.

The City will help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless through working with organizations such as the Rockingham County Community Action Program, the Portsmouth Special Needs Fund, NH Legal Assistance, and Operation Blessing in order to provide financial and legal support for individuals and families at-risk of becoming homeless. The City will also work with organizations such as Southeastern New Hampshire Services, Greater Seacoast Community Health, Seacoast Mental Health Center, One Sky Community Services, and Area Home Care to support those with disabilities or substance abuse issues.

Discussion

As noted in several sections of this Plan, in PY 22 the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES ACT CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic. All projects and activities will meet a National Objective, with no more than 30% allowed to Urgent Need.

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

Introduction:

As the downtown area of the City continues to expand, opportunities to address the lack of affordable housing are being identified. The City will explore state funding through the American Rescue Plan and assist with coordination and community connections to funding for the development of previously underutilized and underdeveloped sites.

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

Workforce housing in most circumstances is only going to be able to be affordable for developers and residents when undertaken on a large scale or as part of a larger development project. The City is also working to encourage workforce housing developments in the last sections of the City's undeveloped developable land (mainly in the Gateway District). Development of workforce housing may largely be incentivized by allowing zoning easements on setbacks, height, and yard frontage in exchange for developers designating a certain as yet to be determined percentage of units as affordable workforce housing with the goal of increasing densities and promoting more reasonable rates.

Discussion:

None further.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

At least 70% of all CDBG and previously received CDBG-CV funds will be spent in PY 22 on programs and projects benefiting residents earning low-and moderate- incomes as well as ensuring access for people with disabilities throughout the City. Up to 30% of all CDBG and CDBG-CV funds may be spent on urgent needs in order to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The Citizens Advisory Committee to the City's CDBG Program continues to assess the underserved needs in Portsmouth and provide recommendations for additional CDBG and CDBG-CV funding to address those needs. Community surveys are planned as well as localized community meetings at public housing and targeted neighborhoods.

In preparing the City's Housing Existing Conditions Report for the 2025 Master Plan Update, the planning consultants met with and interviewed various persons who are involved or interested in local housing issues. Several respondents commented that the city government presents a challenging climate for permitting new development. Permitting hurdles are especially discouraging for investment in workforce housing, as higher-end and luxury residential projects can more easily absorb the premium costs associated with building in Portsmouth. The Community Development Department has also identified a lack of data and access to educational resources on fair housing laws and protections as having a negative impact on the City's ability to encourage detection, reporting, and prevention of housing discrimination by advocates, tenants, and landlords.

As noted previously in this Plan, there may be untapped potential and resources through the American Rescue Plan and the State Community Development Finance Authority for redeveloping underutilized parcels to address local housing needs and other planning goals including meeting underserved needs.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

As the downtown area of the city continues to expand, opportunities to address the lack of affordable housing are beginning to come to light through increased potential for development of previously underutilized and underdeveloped sites. As a well preserved historic city, Portsmouth has a vested interest in continuing to maintain the culture and heritage of the community; this is especially true with regards to the downtown area. While Portsmouth has historically allowed housing types that provide for a diverse range of housing options, the opportunities for producing significant numbers of housing units is currently constrained by the lack of availability of developable land.

Workforce housing in most circumstances is only going to be able to be affordable for developers and residents when undertaken on a large scale or as part of a larger development project. The City is also working to encourage workforce housing developments in the last sections of the City's undeveloped developable land (mainly in the Gateway District). Development of workforce housing may largely be

incentivized by allowing zoning easements on setbacks, height, and yard frontage in exchange for developers designating a certain as yet to be determined percentage of units as affordable workforce housing with the goal of increasing densities and promoting more reasonable rates.

The Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) has already embraced exploring opportunities to increase workforce and affordable housing stock as one of its primary objectives, and the City is undertaking the promotion of increased development of affordable housing opportunities as one of its priorities. The City will continue to work with the PHA to better provide access to financial literacy and education resources among residents of the PHA in order to promote saving and asset building to help families achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency. The City promotes access to preventative medical care service for individuals and families earning low- or moderate-income through community organizations such as Greater Seacoast Community Health and encourages residents (who are not eligible for Medicaid/Medicare) to enroll for insurance under the Affordable Care Act to minimize the amount of uncompensated care provided.

In 2020, Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) started its workforce housing project on Court Street in the downtown area. This project converted land already owned by the PHA and what is now primarily a surface parking lot and redevelop it into 64 one- and two-bedroom units. All of these units will be financially accessible to members of the workforce making at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), and of those, three-quarters of the units will be affordable to residents making under 60% AMI. City CDBG funds may be utilized to address accessibility barriers at the site.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Portsmouth is not classified as one of the state's "higher risk" communities, largely due to its aging population; and therefore LPB is not the focus of primary prevention strategies. While LBP hazards in households with children are not as significant of an issue in Portsmouth as in other communities in NH, the City actively monitors at-risk populations and still has access to the State of NH's substantial resources to identify and address situations if and when an incident does occur.

The City integrates the above actions into housing policies and procedures by ensuring all LBP hazards are identified and referred to the state in order to coordinate efforts state-wide. The City only uses contractors that have been certified for LBP removal in the Housing Rehabilitation Program and has expanded the LBP protocols in municipal operations.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Portsmouth is committed to supporting and promoting opportunities for families in poverty to achieve stability and success. By focusing on the three areas of housing, financial, and healthcare security, the City will work to provide a framework and support network for families to assist them in lifting themselves out of poverty. The City works closely with the Portsmouth Housing Authority to ensure residents have access to and are able to utilize supportive programs.

Public Services Agency Grant Program will continue to support working families with child care, dental services, youth services, and other programs to help reduce the burdens on poverty-level families. As one example, the City promotes access to preventative medical care service for individuals and families earning low- or moderate-income through community organizations such as Greater Seacoast Community Health and encourages residents (who are not eligible for Medicaid/Medicare) to enroll for insurance under the Affordable Care Act to minimize the amount of uncompensated care provided.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Portsmouth and the Community Development Department monitor and participate in regional discussions about issues impacting residents earning low to moderate incomes and special populations. The City is actively involved in supporting efforts to address substance misuse and homelessness prevention efforts through regional dialogues and resulting interventions and programs. The City will continue to be engaged in order to have an impact in these areas.

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

The City of Portsmouth and its residents benefit from a good network of social services and public and privately-assisted housing. For its size, Portsmouth benefits from a wide range of social service providers to assist those in need in Portsmouth. This is due in part to Portsmouth's role as an economic, cultural, and social hub of the region. Many larger non-profits are located in Portsmouth but have service areas beyond the City's borders. In addition, the leading agency in Portsmouth for housing issues, the Portsmouth Housing Authority, is heavily involved in the constellation of non-profit service providers and participates extensively in regional efforts to address substance misuse and homelessness issues. Most all of the City's publicly and privately assisted housing developments are served by regional transportation, though improvements from public housing to access of transportation stops (e.g., sidewalks)/sustainability of facilities/bus shelters have been noted as areas for improvement.

Discussion:

In addition to the actions described above, in Program Year 2022, the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES ACT CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic. No more than 30% of CDBG and no more than 30% CDBG-CV funds shall be used to fund projects/activities under the Urgent Need National Objective.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

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	100,000
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.	70.00%

In Program Year 2022, the City intends to submit for and utilize previously received CARES ACT CDBG-CV funds to undertake activities that prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic. No more than 30% of CDBG and no more than 30% CDBG-CV funds shall be used to fund activities under the Urgent Need National Objective.