

City of Allentown
2023 Draft Action Plan

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Allentown, Pennsylvania, has submitted a Five-Year Consolidated Plan approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the plan is used to identify housing and community development needs and to develop specific goals and objectives to address those needs over a five-year period. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the City covers the period of January 1, 2020, until December 31, 2024. The Consolidated Plan allows the City to continue to receive federal housing and community development funds as a direct Entitlement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). To continue to receive these funds for Fiscal Year 2022, the City of Allentown must submit its 2022 Annual Action Plan to HUD. The City's Department of Community and Economic Development will administer the community development programs for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs, and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The HOPWA program provides social services and rental assistance for persons with HIV and AIDs. The City of Allentown entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to administer its HOPWA funds.

The Annual Action Plan being submitted, covers the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, which is the second installment for the Consolidated Plan, and presents the activities being funded to address the strategies outlined. The funds are intended to provide low- and moderate-income households with viable communities by addressing one of HUD's three objectives:

- Provide decent housing.
- Create a suitable living environment; or
- Create economic opportunities.

Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

Program outcomes are designed to show how each activity benefits the community or people served. All activities must provide one of the following benefits:

- Improved Availability/Accessibility.
- Improved Affordability; or
- Improved Sustainability.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address the needs outlined in this Plan are a **\$2,302,461.00**. HOME funds are **\$1,176,545.00**, ESG funds are **\$ 197,386** and **HOPWA funds are \$629,087.00**

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.

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Housing Needs:

- To maintain and improve the condition of the housing stock to meet or exceed current code standards.
- To make available affordable homeownership, within the existing housing stock.
- To support the provision of decent, safe, and affordable rental housing within the City and on a regional basis; and
- To participate in a regional effort to make available a full array of permanent housing opportunities for special needs populations, to contribute to meeting the shelter and service needs of homeless residents of the city and to assist residents of the city in imminent danger of becoming homeless.

Homeless Needs:

- To support prevention strategies that address the root causes of chronic homelessness through the provision of tenant education; rental assistance; job/vocational training; employment services.

- To support intervention strategies that include the closure of homeless camps, when possible, and addressing the gaps and barriers in the service delivery system; and
- To support infrastructure strategies that include advocating for services, programs, and policies at the local, state, and national levels that enable chronically homeless persons to live as independently as possible.

Community Development Needs:

- Revitalizing Allentown's economy through vocational/educational training of City residents, small business loans, and promotion of new activities city wide.
- Upgrading infrastructure in downtown Allentown through the rehabilitation of public infrastructure including streets, sidewalks, parks and other facilities, to attract businesses and residents; and
- Improve neighborhoods by rehabilitating the existing housing stock and creating homeownership and rental housing opportunities.
- Non-Homeless Special Needs:

Elderly and Frail:

- Continue to support activities that provide affordable housing for elderly and frail elderly residents; and
- Continue to support activities that provide the elderly and frail elderly with benefits of counseling, care coordination, transportation, and other services.

Mental Illness:

- Continue to offer support and assistance to local agencies that provide supportive services and outreach programs to individuals with mental illness; and
- Increase the supply of transitional and permanent supportive housing facilities for persons with mental illness and mental disabilities.

Disabled:

- Continue to support activities that serve persons with disabilities.

Drug and Alcohol Addiction:

- Continue to offer support to local agencies that provide outreach programs to individuals with drug and alcohol problems; and
- Increase the supply of transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals with drug and alcohol addiction.

HIV/AIDS:

- Continue to support efforts that provide affordable housing to people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- Continue to support organizations that provide supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

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The City of Allentown prepared a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for calendar year 2023. This CAPER was the second of the five-year period and reported the calendar year 2022 accomplishments of Allentown's CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs.

The city has consistently met the timeliness goals set by HUD at 1.5 times the City's allocation. This goal is expected to be met for the calendar year 2023 program year.

In 2022 the CDBG funds were spent on a variety of activities in the following categories, including Housing Rehabilitation, Public Infrastructure and Public Facilities, Acquisition of Substandard Properties, Code Enforcement, Demolition, Hazard Elimination, Direct Homeownership Assistance, Planning and Administration, and Public Services.

The HOME funds were expended on the following eligible activities, including Administration, CHDO Set-Aside, Housing New Ongoing Construction and Rehabilitation.

The ESG grant was expended on the following eligible activities, including, Administration, Emergency Shelter Support and Rapid-Rehousing.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The goals and strategies for the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the 2023 Annual Action Plan were developed in conjunction with a coordinated public and stakeholder outreach process. Citizen participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan was encouraged through participation in the Focus Group meetings held via zoom, online community survey, public hearings, and review of the Plan during the display period. Citizens were made aware of the process and opportunity

to comment on the plan through newspaper advertisements, public hearings, and focus group meetings held via zoom.

This Consolidated Plan was also informed by a robust public input and participation process that was conducted through 2019 as part of the City’s development of its comprehensive and economic development plan known as Allentown Vision 2030. The Allentown Vision 2030 community planning process provided a variety of ways to receive insights, feedback, and ideas for the future of Allentown.

In some phases, the conversation was literal - through interviews and focus groups, Allentonians conveyed their hopes and concerns for the city. In other stages, the planning team created ways to listen, such as a citywide survey that was taken by over a thousand people.

In person, citywide conversations happened through Community Collaboration Meetings where community members shared their voices and ideas. This was done through facilitated group activities and prioritization exercises, such as voting on key actions that would help achieve the collective goals of Allentown Vision 2030. There were four total Community Collaboration Meetings. All meeting materials, as well as presentations and facilitated activities, were available in English and Spanish. Each Community Collaboration Meeting built on one another to guide the recommendations outlined in the plan.

Public meetings will be held in late in late March or early April at 10:00 am and 5:30 pm to review this document in its draft form and solicit feedback from the community. The hearings were held in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA. A copy of the sign –in sheets and notices are included in the Citizen Participation Appendices.

A summary of the draft of the Action Plan will be posted on the City’s website in addition, an advertisement was published in *The Morning Call* advising the public about the plan of funds and that the being available for review at the City’s Department of Community and Economic Development, City Hall, 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA.

The Citizen Participation Plan is designed to serve the following specific purposes:

- 1) To present in a logical sequence the various components of the Consolidated Plan.
- 2) To identify the responsible departments or agencies of the city government that administer the various activities relating to the Consolidated Plan.
- 3) To clarify the opportunities that citizens, community organizations and neighborhood groups and others have to work with municipal officials in developing each component of the Consolidated Plan and the activities within.
- 4) To indicate the alternate courses of action the CDBG, HOME or ESG Program regulations make available to citizens, organizations and local government

5. Summary of public comments

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

No comments

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

All the comments or views were accepted by the City of Allentown.

7. Summary

The City of Allentown strived to prepare the 2023 Action Plan that outlined the development of a viable urban community by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, expanded economic opportunities principally for low and moderate-income persons, and programs that will address the needs of homeless and near homeless persons.

The City of Allentown's Citizen Participation outreach was designed to encourage broad participation from the City's residents, including non-English speaking persons. An approved Citizen Participation Plan was used to gather public comments through public meetings and the consultation process provided additional input. Information gathered from the public, and data provided by HUD was used to identify goals and the activities of this Consolidated Plan.

In addition, the City of Allentown coordinated the update of their Comprehensive Plan with the Consolidated Plan. This coordination provided additional opportunities for public engagement through surveys, public meetings, and focus groups.

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	ALLENTOWN	Community and Economic Development
HOPWA Administrator	ALLENTOWN	Pennsylvania Department of Health
HOME Administrator	ALLENTOWN	Community and Economic Development
ESG Administrator	ALLENTOWN	Community and Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The lead agency for the Action Plan is the City of Allentown's Department of Community and Economic Development, which also administers the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs. Other participating City agencies include the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety, the Bureau of Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation, the Health Bureau, and the Department of Public Works.

In addition, the Allentown Housing Authority (AHA) will play a large role in providing and managing housing programs. The construction of Little Lehigh an affordable housing/ section 8 complex is said to broke ground in spring of 2022. The city also Coordinates with various non-profit organizations, such as Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Conference of Churches, Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, and the Salvation Army to bridge gaps in the community when needed.

The State of Pennsylvania serves as the administrator for the City's allocation of funds from the Housing for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

In 2023, the city plans on reaching out to different organizations that will assist in reaching the consolidated plan goals. The department plans on doing outreach in the community, to educate organizations about the grant possibilities available and the requirements. The webinar will continue to be on the city website and shared as appropriate. The HUD monitor will provide technical assistance as needed, to ensure new and existing organizations success.

In 2022 two public hearing meetings were held where residents and stakeholders could share their ideas about the future of Allentown, meetings were offered via zoom as well.

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

The city’s attempts to enhance coordination between housing providers and social service agencies by serving as a hub of communication, providing technical assistance as needed. The city has employed a CDBG Administrator to assist in coordination between mental health service agencies, by taking a broad look at the city and the needs.

The CDBG Administrator is also going to continue to meet with service agencies to bridge to bring more coordination into the city. The city also hired a HOME administrator, to help coordinate between public and assisted housing providers so that this is easier assessable to the citizens of Allentown. The HOME administrator will continue to meet with public, private, and assisted housing providers. The city also hired a Homeless coordinator, who will assist the homeless population by collaboration with different agencies.

Annually, the city solicits feedback and information from organizations and publishes it for review and comment. The city also invites housing providers and social service agencies to participate in focus groups and public meetings where these and other organizations are encouraged to provide input and feedback on the City’s entitlement community planning and evaluation activities.

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.

Since 2005, the City of Allentown has participated in the regional CoC process led by the Allentown/Northeast PA Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB). The Eastern PA CoC Process is one of two regional efforts created to encompass non-entitlement portions of the state to receive homeless

assistance from HUD. Within the region, the Lehigh Valley RHAB encompasses Lehigh and Northampton Counties, the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton.

The Eastern Pennsylvania CoC is currently an unincorporated organization that serves as the primary decision-making group for the CoC process. Its responsibilities include ensuring representation of key stakeholders; setting the agenda for full CoC planning meetings; conducting the annual homeless Point-in-Time count; overseeing the various subcommittees and working groups; completing the annual CoC application; and assisting in reviewing programs, activities, data, and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the well-being of homeless persons and families in the northeast region. The City of Allentown actively participates with the CoC in their efforts to address the needs of homeless persons. In fact, the City of Allentown's HUD Grants Coordinator has served on the CoC Board for several years as co-chair and secretary.

The mission of the COC is to prevent and end homelessness in the Lehigh Valley, by preventing homelessness before it occurs, shortening the time people spend in homeless, provide households with access to safe, sustainable housing, and linkage to households to services and income opportunities.

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 COC helps determine how to allocate ESG funds, by demographic data, we do a yearly PIT count, and require all shelters to use HMIS. The COC meets monthly to discuss the needs of the homeless population this also helps how to allocate ESG funds. The city has a policies and procedures for ESG, which require all recipients to submit quarterly reports both written and HMIS reports. The CDBG administrator sits with ESG agency that need training with HMIS and walks them through the process. The city also provides an HMIS programming specifications.

In addition, the city works closely with the LV Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB), which serves under the Eastern PA CoC. This includes attending monthly meetings to discuss updates within the CoC, and assist unsheltered households as quickly as possible. The City also has a Homeless Commission, which includes members of the RHAB and Eastern PA CoC, to better address homelessness within the City of Allentown. To bridge the gap between homelessness, and services, the City and the LV RHAB work in coordination to administer an ESG grant through the state of Pennsylvania. This includes Emergency Shelters, Street Outreach, Homeless Prevention Services and Rapid Rehousing Providers throughout Lehigh and Northampton counties.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	GV - YMCA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-homeless Other government - Local Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	GV - YMCA provides services for youth, adults, and elderly, in the capacity of fitness and health. Educational services through Pre-K Counts Programming and Homelessness through emergency shelter.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ALLENTOWN
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Anti-poverty Strategy Education
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	BGCA provides after-school care for kids in the CCI Area. With their input the City feels they have a better understanding of the housing that many of the kids come from, ie homes with little food or unhealthy living conditions.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Action of the Lehigh Valley
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Contributor through Upside Allentown - leader of projects in housing, economic development, public safety, physical enhancements, arts & culture, marketing, and education Run programming for housing counseling, homeless shelter, and entrepreneur training.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Men's shelter that regularly participates to share information about homeless population. Looking for more ways to provide more services.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	COMMUNITY BIKE WORKS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	education
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Organization is very vocal and open to allowing City into their doors to get input from the kids who are part of after-school programming. Would like to make a significant change in our City and would like to expand into South Allentown - 2 present sites in CCI and on East-side.

6	Agency/Group/Organization	Allentown Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Housing Authority is currently building a new housing development at Lehigh Street and Martin Luther Drive. This will be rent and also affordable housing.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	HOUSING ASSOCIATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	HADC is currently building 4 affordable housing units on North Street. They also have continued with the youthbuild program. Which is for GED and Construction training - Trades
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Lehigh Conference of Churches
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency offers assistance for individuals with special needs and homeless. One of the few agencies that provides special needs services. Always available to share information. Looking to expand services at their site.

9	Agency/Group/Organization	The Salvation Army
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Redevelopment Authority of Allentown
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Allentown Redevelopment Authority is an arm of the city and it's currently being used to stop blight and do some redevelopment of homes to end blight in the city
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley has a successful history of providing safe, decent, affordable housing for hardworking, low to moderate income families while helping revitalize neighborhoods.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Allentown
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development

Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Allentown does various projects throughout the year. Parks and Recreation, Pedestrian Street Lighting, ADA Curb Cuts, Public Improvements
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

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	Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board	City implements strategies discussed at LVRHAB and aligns goals to meet needs.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

Agencies above that responded to inquires were included. Many others responded by submitting proposals for funding. The City is also in the process of writing our Consolidated Plan - input for the Consolidated Plan is expansive. The City has offered open forums to discuss needs/wants for the City with agency leaders and beneficiaries. The City also provided an open forum to discuss Impediments to Fair Housing. The City is very fortunate to have input and knowledge available from agencies to discuss plans that were implementable and those that never came to fruition.

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**

Citizen participation in the development of the Annual Action Plan for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 was encouraged through participation in the public hearings, public meetings, and City Council review.

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	Public hearings were held on October 25, 2022 at 10am and 5pm. No comments received	NA	NA	
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	The 2023 Action Plan was posted in the local news paper on March 8, 2023	NA	NA	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Allentown received our allocation letter on February 27, 2023. Allentown's Program Year 2023 allocations are as follows:

- CDBG: \$2,302,461.00
- HOME: \$1,176,454.00
- HESG: \$197,386.00
- HOPWA: \$629,087.00

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	2,302,461	0	0	2,302,461	0	Funds are to benefit low to moderate income residents in Allentown in the areas of Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,176,545	0	0	1,176,545	0	Funds are to benefit low to moderate income residents in Allentown in the areas of Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	629,087	0	0	629,087	0	The Commonwealth of PA administers these funds on behalf of the City of Allentown

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	197,386	0	0	197,386	0	Funds are to benefit low to moderate income residents in Allentown in the areas Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing

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

The federal CDBG and HOME funds are intended to provide low- and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration. The city will partner with other public agencies and nonprofit organizations, when feasible, to leverage resources and maximize

outcomes development. The City of Allentown will continue to utilize a wide range of state and local funding sources to leverage CDBG funds.

The City of Allentown has encouraged private developers and non-profit groups to participate in community revitalization efforts, particularly in the development of affordable housing. These groups may access such funding sources as the Federal Home Loan Bank or the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program to supplement other resources in developing affordable housing for the low income and special needs populations. Allentown will continue to leverage funds from the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency, Department of Community and Economic Development, and other agencies to address the housing goal.

CDBG federal funds, though not requiring a match, will be leveraged through a wide range of state and local funding. These funds assist creating viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

The HOME Match requirement of 25% is satisfied by the Subrecipient's other funding sources, which is disclosed in their application. The City of Allentown HOME grantees developing affordable rental housing are required to commit 25% match to the project. . These groups may access such funding sources as the Federal Home Loan Bank or the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program to supplement other resources in developing affordable housing for the low income and special needs populations.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Match requirement is 100%. The City of Allentown requires subrecipients to match 100% of their grant award. Subrecipients are using Homeless Assistance Program (HAP - State), United Way (Local), Sylvia Perkins Trust (Local), Housing County Housing Case Management (Local), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA - Federal), Trexler Trust (Local), Provident Foundation (Local), Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG - Federal), Pennsylvania Continuum of Care (COC - Federal), Post Foundation (Local) in-kind contributions and cash donations (Local).

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

The City frequently meets with its community development community partners and agencies to plan and implement a variety of revitalization efforts within the City, some funded with the federal dollars described in this plan, other activities funded by private entities.

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 Rehabilitation Programs for LMI Homeowners	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$300,000 HOME: \$908,891	Rental units rehabilitated: 1 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 50 Household Housing Unit
2	New Affordable Ownership Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing	HOME: \$150,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit
3	Public Infrastructure Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development Public Infrastructure Improvements	Citywide	Improve Mobility & Connectivity Improve Living Systems	CDBG: \$800,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 300 Persons Assisted Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted Buildings Demolished: 1 Buildings Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 2 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Public Safety	2020	2024	Demolition	Citywide	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy	CDBG: \$300,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Persons Assisted Buildings Demolished: 1 Buildings Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 2 Household Housing Unit
5	Special Needs (non-homeless)	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Reduce Homelessness Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities	CDBG: \$10,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 45 Persons Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 20 Persons Assisted
6	Public Service	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Reduce Homelessness	CDBG: \$431,969 ESG: \$184,582	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1407 Persons Assisted Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 60 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 800 Persons Assisted Other: 30 Other

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Planning and Administration	2020	2024		Citywide	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy	CDBG: \$460,492 HOME: \$117,654 ESG: \$14,804	Other: 1 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation Programs for LMI Homeowners
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	New Affordable Ownership Housing
	Goal Description	
3	Goal Name	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Public Safety
	Goal Description	
5	Goal Name	Special Needs (non-homeless)
	Goal Description	

6	Goal Name	Public Service
	Goal Description	
7	Goal Name	Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Infrastructure projects to make accessibility (ADA) improvements to public walkways, neighborhood public improvements (\$300,000.00) streetscape at 5th and Hamilton (\$440,000.00), Lead Program Match (\$100,000.00), Hazard Elimination Program (\$100,000.00) and Pedestrian Lighting (\$200,000.00).

Programs to help renters become homeowners, including \$10,000 to the CACLV- CAFS.

ESG Programs include Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley- Six Street Shelter (\$25,000.00), Allentown Rescue Mission (\$40,000.00), Salvation Army (\$37,950.00), and Lehigh Conference of Churches- Rapid Re-Housing (\$63,207.00). To address homeless youth in the City of Allentown the City allocated \$10,000 to Valley Youth Synergy Program, \$5,000.00 to OATH- Operation Assist the Homeless for street outreach.

The Projects as follow address, aged and unsafe housing. An allocation of \$300,000.00 for the acquisition and resale of desolate properties for The Redevelopment Authority , \$100,000.00 for demolition of unsafe structures and \$150,000.00 for the home repair program allotted to Habitat for Humanity. In addition to these awards The City of Allentown received a lead grant, the city will utilize \$100,000.00 of its CDBG funds as a match to remedy the ongoing issue of lead-based paint found in old housing stock within Allentown For fair housing coordination the City is giving \$30,000.00 to North Penn Legal Service.

Projects for construction of new housing, include an award of \$500,000.00 for Little Lehigh Redevelopment Construction allocated to the Allentown Housing Authority to create 50 new apartments. The city is also allocating \$270,969.00 to the Valley Housing Development Corporation for LP for the construction of the Color lab a mixed-use space with residential affordable units incorporated. The city allocated \$250,000.00 to HDC Mid Atlantic for the creation of various new units. The city has allocated \$176,482.00 in CHDO funding for qualifying organization.

Assistance to disabled families seeking affordable rental housing is given to Lehigh Valley for Independent Living to help disabled families (\$10,000.00), \$7,016.00 to treatment trendz who help individuals who suffer from addiction. Lehigh Conference of Churches is given 10,000.00 for the Daybreak program which serves as a safe space for individuals with disabilities, they can come here and receive 3 meals a day and do various activities. Ripple community will also be providing permanent supportive and affordable housing for those with disabilities (10,000.00).

Social Services for youth support include Salvation Army- youth program (\$10,000.00), Greater Valley YMCA Allentown Branch Youth Program (\$10,000.00), Alliance Summer Recreation Program ran by the

Health Bureau, (\$9,000.00), Grace Montessori scholarship program (\$10,000), the Baum School of Art, art scholarship program (\$6,368.00), Vast will be providing case management for trafficking survivors (\$10,000.00).

Education and enrichment investments in the Neighborhood Center afterschool program (\$10,000.00) to aid children in academic programming, YouthBuild (\$10,000.00) to help high school dropouts acquire a GED and a trade; the Boys & Girls Club; for educational programming at the Teen Services Center (\$10,000), Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley Youth Entrepreneurship (10,000), programming at the Literacy Center (\$10,000.00) for English as language ; Bike Works Earn your Bike Program (\$10,000.00),

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Property Acquisition & Disposition and Management
2	North Penn Legal Services-Fair Housing
3	Greater Valley YMCA, Allentown Branch
4	Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
5	The Literacy Center-ESL
6	Lehigh Conference of Churches-Daybreak
7	Grace Montessori School
8	The Baum School of Art
9	Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley- Youth Entrepreneurship
10	CALV- Housing Counseling Program: Home Ownership Counseling
11	Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
12	The Neighborhood Center
13	Community Bike Works
14	Salvation Army-Youth Program
15	Alliance Summer Recreation Program
16	Valley Youth House-Synergy
17	HADC-Youth Build (Education)
18	Treatment Trends
19	Ripple Community
20	Family Promise
21	Aspire- Path to Autonomy
22	VAST
23	Administration
24	Hazard Elimination Program
25	Demolition
26	City of Allentown-Lead Program Match

#	Project Name
27	City of Allentown-Food Pantry
28	City of Allentown-Mini Grant
29	Neighborhood Public Improvements & ADA
30	Parks and Recreation
31	Pedestrian Lighting-MTF Grant
32	Uncommitted Funds
33	Administration
34	CHDO
35	Valley Housing Development Corporation- The Color Lab
36	Uncommitted Funds
37	HESG-2023 PROGRAM YEAR

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The system for establishing the priority for the selection of these projects is predicated upon the following criteria:

The strategies outlined in **Allentown Vision 2030 Plan** -- the City’s 10-year Comprehensive and Economic Development Plan adopted by City Council in December of 2019 as well as the City’s 5-year comprehensive plan adopted by Council May 2020, as well as the analysis of impediments adopted by Council August 2021.

When feasible, the City of Allentown partners with other public agencies and nonprofit organizations to leverage resources and maximize outcomes involving housing and community development activities. In addition, several other obstacles to meeting underserved needs include:

- Increased need for affordable housing and supportive services resulting from economic downturn - while budgets for projects are generally stretched in good economic conditions, the recent economic downturn has exacerbated these issues and concerns; and
- Increased foreclosures and unemployment - in addition to the community implications of the recent economic downturn are effects on a more individual basis, such as a high foreclosure rate, the associated problem of poor credit and rising unemployment.

The City will continue to use federal funds for housing programs, including homeownership, to aid low- and moderate-income homeowners. Further, the City will continue to fund microenterprise and economic development initiatives that bring jobs to city residents.

The primary obstacles identified in meeting the needs of the underserved population, is the limited resources available to address priorities more funds to create affordable housing, less restrictions on the

HOME and CHDO funds, so that developers are open to work with the city.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Property Acquisition & Disposition and Management
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Programs for LMI Homeowners
	Needs Addressed	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	Management for the redevelopment authority
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 Family
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Activities include acquisition, stabilization and/or demolition of blighted properties.
2	Project Name	North Penn Legal Services-Fair Housing
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	The purpose of this Fair Housing Planning Activity is to further fair housing within the city of Allentown. The objective of this program is to educate low-income people of their fair housing rights. Project activities include coordinating fair housing training and outreach events, distribution of fair housing materials, work on fair housing cases, and participation in additional County- wide fair housing opportunities. Increasing eviction avoidance and working on related cases.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Thirty (30) low and moderate income households experiencing obstacles to fair housing choice.
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	Fair housing coordinator position for Lehigh Valley Housing Project. Coordinating fair housing training and outreach events, distribution of fair housing material work on fair housing training and outreach events
3	Project Name	Greater Valley YMCA, Allentown Branch
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	This program has long been a safe place for youth in our Allentown community, providing opportunities for physical activity, learning and mentorship. In this program, we serve children ages 9-14 who are identified as at-risk in the City Center Allentown (CCI) Area in this program. This is a critical age where health behaviors can develop into lifelong health habits. In our Community Youth Outreach program, youth participate in physical activities, group discussions, and receive homework help.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	30 low to moderate youth in the City of Allentown age 9 through 14.
	Location Description	425 South 15th Street, Allentown, PA - south side of Allentown
	Planned Activities	
4	Project Name	Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Special Needs (non-homeless)
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Homelessness
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity, People Living in Accessible Community Environments (P.L.A.C.E.), is to advance the ability of persons with disabilities to live independently, productively and in dignity in affordable and accessible housing options of their choice.
	Target Date	12/31/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The program will serve forty-five (45) Allentown residents with disabilities, and/or their family members.
	Location Description	713 North 13th Street, Allentown, PA
	Planned Activities	LVCIL proposes the PLACE (People Living in Accessible Community Environments) program to provide housing counseling services to 45 low-income City residents with any disability, and their family members
5	Project Name	The Literacy Center-ESL
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity is to improve the English literacy skills of the program participants. The English as a Second Language (ESL) program teaches English to low and moderate-income adults who do not speak English.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	35 Low to moderate income residents of Allentown
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	1132 Hamilton Street Suite 300 Allentown, PA 18101
6	Project Name	Lehigh Conference of Churches-Daybreak
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Mobility & Connectivity Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000

	Description	the Daybreak Program, is to provide a drop-in center offering self-sufficiency programs and supportive counseling for persons with mental disabilities who may be at risk of becoming homeless.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Two hundred (200) residents with special needs, HIV/AIDS, and/or disabilities
	Location Description	457 West Allen Street, Allentown, PA
	Planned Activities	Daybreak is a weekday drop-in center that gives people living with mental illness or physical disabilities and those struggling with addiction or HIV/AIDS, as well as the neighborhood's elderly, a place to belong. Daybreak serves three balanced meals each weekday. Staff teach life skills and work with members to provide stability and help them reach their full potential.
7	Project Name	Grace Montessori School
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	Scholarships for 6 low/moderate income children, ages 18 months to six years, to attend pre-school.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	814 West Linden Street, Allentown, PA
Planned Activities		
8	Project Name	The Baum School of Art
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities

	Funding	CDBG: \$6,368
	Description	to provide an after-school education and recreation activity to Allentown School District elementary students. The program serves elementary students from Central, Cleveland, and McKinley, which are all located in the Center City Initiative (CCI) focus area. The objective of the program is to provide an opportunity for students to explore their talents, develop skill and interests, and experience cultural activities through the arts.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	40 low to moderate income youth
	Location Description	510 West Linden Street, Allentown, PA
	Planned Activities	The program will provide program participants with ability to express themselves in the visual arts for 50% of participants, youth will complete three art projects.
9	Project Name	Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley- Youth Entrepreneurship
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000

	Description	Allentown CDBG funds will allow Community Action Development Allentown to recruit thirty (30) youth for business training workshops and ten (10) youth to participate in the Youth Entrepreneurship Mentorship Program. In the business training workshops, students learn the basics of business planning, budgeting, and credit from local professionals. The Youth Entrepreneurship Mentorship Program will pair Allentown youth with local businesses and organizations to provide them with hands-on training and experience in their own communities. Downtown Allentown hosts a diverse array of local businesses and organizations that offer students a variety of possible experiences. Potential opportunities for youth mentorship partners include the Da Vinci Science Center, the thriving hospitality industry, construction training with the Housing Association and Development Corporation, and more. The impact of these professional business trainings and hands-on work experience will provide these students a significant advantage, preparing them for life as contributors to the local economy and engaged citizens in the local community.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	at least 20 low to moderate income residents of the City of Allentown
	Location Description	1337 East Fifth Street Bethlehem, PA 18015
	Planned Activities	Homeownership counseling program, offers a number of programs to help Lehigh Valley families achieve homeownership and avoid foreclosure
10	Project Name	CALV- Housing Counseling Program: Home Ownership Counseling
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000

	Description	The HUD and PHFA-approved Housing Counseling Program (HCP) (formerly known as Community Action Financial Services), a program of Community Action Lehigh Valley, offers a number of programs to help Lehigh Valley families achieve homeownership and avoid foreclosure. mission is to provide low- to moderate-income families with a continuum of coordinated services in one location in order to encourage and assist them to build personal assets, to increase and preserve homeownership, and to develop neighborhood wealth for the benefit of the whole community.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	at least 60 low to moderate income residents of the City of Allentown
	Location Description	1337 East Fifth Street Bethlehem, PA 18015
	Planned Activities	Homeownership counseling program, offers a number of programs to help Lehigh Valley families achieve homeownership and avoid foreclosure
11	Project Name	Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The objective of the Make Your M.A.R.K. program is to provide disadvantaged, school-aged youth in our community with individualized curriculum in math and reading/language arts.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The program will serve 35 students between 2nd and 12th grade.
	Location Description	641 North Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18102
	Planned Activities	Provide disadvantaged, school-aged youth in the community with individualized, prescriptive curriculum reading/language arts/English and math designed to improve areas of academic weakness

12	Project Name	The Neighborhood Center
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity is to support a neighborhood community center offering year-round educational opportunities for low- and moderate-income youth. The objective of this program is to provide supervision, enriching experiences and positive social interactions, and improved academic achievement.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 low to moderate income students will benefit from the proposed project
	Location Description	435 north 7th Street Allentown, PA 18102
	Planned Activities	To address the need for positive role models, for safe care, for discussions regarding values and decision making, and to assist in preventing further youth involvement in gangs
13	Project Name	Community Bike Works
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Community Bike Works teaches life lessons through bicycles to Allentown youth who could benefit most. We offer youth development programs to Allentown's younger residents to learn mechanical and life skills while developing relationships with caring adults. In our flagship Earn a Bike program, students work with adult mentors through a course in bike mechanics and safety. While working on their bikes, students practice important skills by following their manuals, working as a team, and seeing the satisfaction of turning a broken bike into a functional one. Once students complete the class, they earn their bike and new helmet.
	Target Date	12/31/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The program will serve approximately 75 children age nine through seventeen
	Location Description	235 North Madison Street, Allentown, PA 18102
	Planned Activities	The program teaches life lessons through bicycles to the youth of Allentown who could benefit most. Youth development programs that allow Allentown's younger residents to learn mechanical and life skills while developing relationships caring adults
14	Project Name	Salvation Army-Youth Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity is to provide an after-school enrichment program to low and moderate-income City youth. The objective of the program is to provide a suitable living environment to low- and moderate-income youth, by making activities which promote educational development available and accessible.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	25 low to moderate income youth will benefit from this program
	Location Description	144 North 8th Street, Allentown, PA
Planned Activities	The program will offer LMI children with academic and recreational activities, through health education, reading revival, dance and cooking	
15	Project Name	Alliance Summer Recreation Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$9,000
	Description	Summer recreation program for children pf low to moderate income

	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This estimate will vary daily and by place.
	Location Description	245 North 6th Street, Allentown, PA
	Planned Activities	Collaborative effort by several organizations providing arts and crafts, swimming, field trips, breakfast, and lunch to inner city children
16	Project Name	Valley Youth House-Synergy
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity is to provide outreach through the Synergy Project for runaway, homeless and street youth less than 21 years of age.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 75 homeless youth will benefit from the program
	Location Description	Services are deployed to areas where homeless youth are known to congregate
Planned Activities	The program will conduct street outreach in the City of Allentown using 4-wheel drive vehicles, bicycles, and foot patrols. Outreach workers visit places where homeless youth are known to congregate or where client and community referrals suggest targeted youth may be located. They also meet youth upon request	
17	Project Name	HADC-Youth Build (Education)
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities

	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity is to provide case management, construction training and HISET/GED training to 17-24-year-olds. The objective is to revitalize Allentown's economy through vocational/educational training for City residents and to maintain and improve the condition of the housing stock to meet or exceed current code standards.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The program will serve twenty (20) youth that have dropped out of high school.
	Location Description	513-515 Chew Street, Allentown, PA
	Planned Activities	Provide case management, GED preparation coursework, construction skill instruction to the Youth Build Students, to prepare them for job opportunities by giving the youth participants a skill
18	Project Name	Treatment Trends
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$7,016
	Description	The purpose of this Public Service Activity is to provide outreach to individuals with substance abuse. The objective is to a safe and sober place for city residents to begin and sustain recovery from substance use disorders (SUD).
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	28 adults
	Location Description	633 N. 4th Street, Allentown. PA
	Planned Activities	provides a safe, sober housing to help in recovery
19	Project Name	Ripple Community

	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Homelessness Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	to provide housing, supportive services, and community and social connections that facilitate true and lasting change in the lives of Allentown residents who are socially or economically marginalized due to homelessness, poverty, mental illness, trauma, or related challenges.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	26 homeless individuals
	Location Description	1335 W. Linden Street, Allentown, pa
	Planned Activities	Help find shelter for individual who are experiencing Chronic homelessness or housing instability.
20	Project Name	Family Promise
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The objective is to assist families with children find or retain affordable housing.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	55 individuals each year from our short-term shelter service and assist 130-135 individuals avoid eviction from their homes
	Location Description	1346 W, Hamilton Street

	Planned Activities	The <i>Family Promise of Lehigh Valley</i> (FPLV) mission is to assist families with children, experiencing or about to experience homelessness find or retain affordable housing and gain sustainable, financial stability. Our focus is on minimizing child homelessness in the Lehigh Valley to the greatest extent possible. The <i>Family Promise</i> strategy for executing this mission is based on the core belief that there are two important parties when dealing with homelessness: the homeless and those who eagerly wish to assist the homeless. It is our fundamental task to bring these two parties together to address homelessness by empowering private citizens, using existing, private facilities to efficiently combat homelessness in our community. This is the most compassionate, efficient, and cost-effective way to help our less-fortunate neighbors regain their independence and self-respect
21	Project Name	Aspire- Path to Autonomy
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	The objective is to provide case management, in house therapeutic and psycho-educational groups, individual therapy, life skills workshops and provide access to substance abuse, mental health and physical health services.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	33 person needing mental health therapy from human trafficking
	Location Description	915 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown PA
	Planned Activities	Mental health therapy to individuals who are being trafficked
22	Project Name	VAST
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Homelessness Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities

	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	The objective is to provide essentials in order to address the immediate needs while provide a safe space to restore dignity.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The goal is serve 500 women
	Location Description	1341 W. Linden Street, Allentown PA
	Planned Activities	To provide women with clothing, hygiene products, towels and refreshments in order to both address immediate needs and provide a safe and relaxing space.
23	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy
	Funding	CDBG: \$460,492
	Description	Administration
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	7 staff members and various misc. office expenses
	Location Description	435 Hamilton Street, Allentown Pa
	Planned Activities	staff to members to oversee the HUD funding for CDBG, ESg and HOME programs
24	Project Name	Hazard Elimination Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements Public Safety
	Needs Addressed	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Improve Living Systems

	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2 Hazard remediations
	Location Description	435 Hamilton Street, Allentown pa
	Planned Activities	The project will support low to moderate income home owners in the City of Allentown, when hazardous problems arise within their homes
25	Project Name	Demolition
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Safety
	Needs Addressed	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing Improve Living Systems
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	city properties the have a fire of major damage and need to come down. home, building or other structures
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	All residents of the City of Allentown will benefit from the proposed activity.
	Location Description	Homes targeted for demolition will be city-wide
	Planned Activities	Professional and hard costs related to demolition of hazardous and blighted properties. Approximately 1 building will be demolished
26	Project Name	City of Allentown-Lead Program Match
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Lead Hazard Program.

	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 300 homes will be addressed by the program
	Location Description	City-wide
	Planned Activities	The City will continue to ensure that all housing rehabilitation work is done in accordance with all lead regulations, with housing units certified as lead-safe upon completion. All contractors working on federally-funded programs must have the appropriate lead certifications and that documentation is kept on file in the City
27	Project Name	City of Allentown-Food Pantry
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	The City of Allentown will help fund some of the costs to run the Food Panty
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This number is not yet been made available. This is the first time we will be take part in this service.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	To provide food for those who have fallen on hard times and also for the unsheltered.
28	Project Name	City of Allentown-Mini Grant
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000

	Description	Lead Hazard Reduction Program
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50
	Location Description	This grant will be used with the city to help elderly with lead and other minor items such as making the residence safe for aging in place
	Planned Activities	This grant will be used with the city to help elderly with lead and other minor items such as making the residence safe for aging in place
29	Project Name	Neighborhood Public Improvements & ADA
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Mobility & Connectivity Improve Living Systems
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	Necessary public improvements such as street paving.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The entire population of the City will benefit from the proposed improvements.
	Location Description	City-wide as needed.
	Planned Activities	Professional fees and construction costs associated with the improvements.
30	Project Name	Parks and Recreation
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements Public Safety Public Service

Needs Addressed	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Improve Mobility & Connectivity Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
Description	<p>1. Irving (Andre Reed) Pool This project involves the construction of a splash activity pool and bath house in Irving (aka Andre Reed) Park located at 701 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA. The need for this project is to create a new pool for the East Side residents to enjoy as the old pool was removed due to condition and age. We are requesting \$500,000.00 for this project to secure funding for construction of this project.</p> <p>2. MLK Trail - This project involves the construction of a one-mile multi-use trail that will extend from the future Auburn Cross Trails Park westward to the Lehigh Parkway linking Center City Allentown with the extensive City and regional trail networks. The project area is located within Fountain Park. The need for this project is to provide a trail with many active recreation and leisure opportunities, such as walking, riding, running, and fishing as well as transportation and commuting opportunities for the city residents and visitors. We are requesting \$850,000.00 for this project to secure a grant for this project.</p>
Target Date	12/31/2023
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	<p>The need for this project is to create a new pool for the East Side residents to enjoy as the old pool was removed due to condition and age.</p> <p>The need for this project is to provide a trail with many active recreation and leisure opportunities, such as walking, riding, running, and fishing as well as transportation and commuting opportunities for the city residents and visitors.</p>
Location Description	<p>701 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA</p> <p>The project area is located within Fountain Park.</p>

	Planned Activities	<p>1. Irving (Andre Reed) Pool</p> <p>This project involves the construction of a splash activity pool and bath house in Irving (aka Andre Reed) Park located at 701 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA. The need for this project is to create a new pool for the East Side residents to enjoy as the old pool was removed due to condition and age.</p> <p>1. MLK Trail -</p> <p>This project involves the construction of a one-mile multi-use trail that will extend from the future Auburn Cross Trails Park westward to the Lehigh Parkway linking Center City Allentown with the extensive City and regional trail networks. The project area is located within Fountain Park. The need for this project is to provide a trail with many active recreation and leisure opportunities, such as walking, riding, running, and fishing as well as transportation and commuting opportunities for the city residents and visitors.</p>
31	Project Name	Pedestrian Lighting-MTF Grant
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure Improvements Public Safety
	Needs Addressed	Improve Mobility & Connectivity Improve Living Systems
	Funding	CDBG: \$300,000
	Description	The City Traffic department is applying for a MTF Penndot Grant to cover 30 schools and 45 crossings. The CDBG funding would go towards 8 schools with approximately 20 crossings that are not included in the cost estimate for the MTF PennDot grant. If the City does not get the PennDot grant this funding would be used for as many crossings as possible.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This will benefit 8 schools and 20 crossings
	Location Description	All City of Allentown schools

	Planned Activities	The City Traffic department is applying for a MTF Penndot Grant to cover 30 schools and 45 crossings. The CDBG funding would go towards 8 schools with approximately 20 crossings that are not included in the cost estimate for the MTF PennDot grant. If the City does not get the PennDot grant this funding would be used for as many crossings as possible.
32	Project Name	Uncommitted Funds
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	CDBG: \$29,585
	Description	We have \$29,585.00 in funds over what we had allocated for. However we do believe these funds will be used for the Retail Mosaic program.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The retail mosaic program will assist 2 business
	Location Description	This will be a citywide benefit
	Planned Activities	We have \$29,585.00 in funds over what we had allocated for. However we do believe these funds will be used for the Retail Mosaic program.
33	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Planning and Administration
	Needs Addressed	Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy
	Funding	HOME: \$117,654
	Description	
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Administration
	Location Description	Administration - City staff and misc office expenses ect.

	Planned Activities	
34	Project Name	CHDO
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Programs for LMI Homeowners New Affordable Ownership Housing
	Needs Addressed	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Improve Living Systems
	Funding	HOME: \$176,482
	Description	TBD
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	TBD
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	TBD
35	Project Name	Valley Housing Development Corporation- The Color Lab
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Special Needs (non-homeless)
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Homelessness Improve Mobility & Connectivity Improve Living Systems
	Funding	HOME: \$270,969
	Description	Gordon Street Revamp - the exterior and interior rehabilitation of 20 units for affordable house for the severely mentally ill adults.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 units
	Location Description	Gordon Street, Allentown pa

	Planned Activities	Gordon Street Revamp - the exterior and interior rehabilitation of 20 units for affordable house for the severely mentally ill adults.
36	Project Name	Uncommitted Funds
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Programs for LMI Homeowners New Affordable Ownership Housing
	Needs Addressed	Create and Preserve Affordable Housing Build a Strong, Resilient and Diversified Economy Reduce Homelessness Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities
	Funding	HOME: \$611,440
	Description	These funds will be allocated to HOME projects that have not yet been finalized. All HOME projects need to be ready to go so the funds are not committed to projects that will never be started due to other funding constraints.
	Target Date	12/31/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	These funds will be allocated to HOME projects that have not yet been finalized. All HOME projects need to be ready to go so the funds are not committed to projects that will never be started due to other funding constraints.
	Location Description	These funds will be allocated to HOME projects that have not yet been finalized. All HOME projects need to be ready to go so the funds are not committed to projects that will never be started due to other funding constraints.
	Planned Activities	These funds will be allocated to HOME projects that have not yet been finalized. All HOME projects need to be ready to go so the funds are not committed to projects that will never be started due to other funding constraints.
37	Project Name	HESG-2023 PROGRAM YEAR
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Homelessness Improve Living Systems Improve Access to Essential Services & Amenities

Funding	ESG: \$197,386
Description	This project includes all uses of ESG funding for the program year, shelter support, rapid re-housing and administration fees. Grant funds will be used to prevent, prepare and respond to homelessness in the City of Allentown. Funds will be used to help the Allentown Rescue Mission, City of Allentown ESG administration and misc. expenses. CACLV- Six Street, Lehigh Conference of Churches - Rapid Rehousing, Salvation Army - Hospitality House and other misc. shelter expenses. All individual ESG projects will be matched 100% by the awarded agency.
Target Date	12/31/2023
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	140 Homeless - Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley - Six Street Shelter - \$25,000.00 500 Homeless - Allentown Rescue Mission - \$40,000.00, 160 Homeless -Salvation Army- Hospitality House - \$37,950.00 10- Homeless - Lehigh Conference of Churches- Rapid Re-housing - \$64,150.00 4 -Homeless - ASPIRE to Autonomy - shelter - \$15,482.00
Location Description	Allentown Rescue Mission: 355 Hamilton Street Sixth Street Shelter (CACLV): 219 North 6th Street Lehigh Conference of Churches (RRH): 457 West Allen Street ASPIRE to Autonomy : 915 W. Hamilton Street
Planned Activities	for the payment of operating costs for its emergency shelter.

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

Not applicable. This Plan does not use geography to determine funding allocation priorities. Nor has the City opted to create Target Areas as defined by the regulation for the distribution of entitlement funds.

Funds will be distributed City Wide.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Funds will be distributed City Wide.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Allentown expects to focus its CDBG and HOME entitlement funds towards improving the quality of life in city neighborhoods for extremely low, very low-, and low-income households, and to preserve and increase the stock of affordable owner and renter housing units. The following objectives have been established:

1. Expand homeownership – develop new homeownership opportunities through first-time homebuyer assistance, new construction and substantial rehabilitation of blighted housing.
2. Preserve existing housing – provide assistance to lower income homeowners to rehabilitate their homes to meet code standards.
3. Expand rental housing – provide assistance to developers to construct new rental housing or conversion of non-residential facilities into housing.
4. Support the actions of the City of Allentown Housing Authority to improve public housing.
5. Support the actions of developers (non-profit and for-profit) seeking funds to develop housing to address the needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly.
6. Support the development of new permanent supportive housing for persons who need more than just an apartment to end the cycle of homelessness.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	48
Special-Needs	0
Total	48

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	48
Rehab of Existing Units	2
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	50

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

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Allentown Housing Authority (AHA) currently owns and manages 987 conventional public housing units, primarily within 10 separate developments located throughout the City of Allentown. Currently nearly all the public housing units are occupied, with yearly turnover ranging from 2 to 23 units among the 10 developments. This total includes 79 scattered site units located throughout the City of Allentown.

The Public Housing Authority Survey in the Unique Grantee Appendix shows the target population of each development as well as the total units, year built, occupancy rate, and annual unit turnover. Sixty-five percent of the units are designated for elderly tenants overall. The overall annual turnover rate is low, approximately 15% of the units, and the occupancy rates range from 97 to 99%.

The AHA has converted 205 conventional public housing units through the HUD Rental Demonstration Program. Seventy (70) units at Cumberland Gardens received Project Based Vouchers and 135 units at Overlook Park receive Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA).

In addition, AHA owns and manages 95 units that were acquired and rehabilitated through the federal Section 8 Substantial Rehabilitation Program. These units are also scattered throughout the City. The major unmet need in the City of Allentown reported by AHA was for additional family housing units with a varied bedroom mix. Also, adequate on-site facilities for community programs are seen as a great need.

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

Over the past several years, the focus of the AHA has been on making physical upgrades to all its family and elderly public housing developments through the annual Capital Fund grant (approximately \$1.5 million annually). Ongoing repairs and modernization activities include kitchen and bathroom modernizations, new HVAC and water improvements, new sidewalks, curbs, and roofing. Plans are to request funding for elderly services as well as new housing construction funding from the federal government in the future.

In 2022 the Allentown Housing Authority secured all funds for Little Lehigh development the demolition and reconstruction of the development and added several new units. This year will be the anticipated redevelopment of Little Lehigh this is a three-year project the project will provide 48 income restricted units. Each household will only pay 30% of their income in rent. The lower tiers will be supported by project-based vouchers. The project includes 3- and 4-bedroom units to accommodate larger families. The development will also include accessible apartments that meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). Currently, the Little Lehigh development does not include any ADA or UFAS units.

Five of the seven public housing developments currently have a resident council. The resident councils provide input and are primarily involved in planning for, and feedback on, renovation/modernization needs of the developments. The resident councils attend regular meetings and take part in the planning processes for both the 5 year and annual Public Housing Authority (PHA) plans that are submitted to HUD.

The AHA recognizes the inherent difficulty in keeping the resident councils engaged. It plans to seek involvement and support of the councils by scheduling regular meetings with the Director of Social Services or AHA Executive Director.

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

The AHA recognizes the inherent difficulty in keeping the resident councils engaged. It plans to seek involvement and support of the councils by scheduling regular meetings with the AHA Executive Director. It is anticipated that by employing this strategy, residents will be able to have a direct impact on decisions and projects related to improving their living environments.

Gross Towers and Towers East currently have a resident council. The resident councils provide input and are primarily involved in planning for, and feedback on, renovation/modernization needs of the developments. The resident councils attend regular meetings and take part in the planning processes for both the 5-year and annual Public Housing Authority (PHA) plans that are submitted to HUD.

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

The Allentown Housing Authority is not in financial trouble

Discussion

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

Introduction

Homelessness is an ongoing social problem, housing costs and availability for housing are scarce. The city of Allentown is currently working alongside a vulnerable population. Working with the homeless population often involves working with individuals who experience addiction, mental health, domestic violence, health, and poverty. It is now believed that these problems can best be reduced by partnering with social service organizations with regional governments and communities so that maximum coordination of all housing and support services is exercised.

Federal funding that addresses homelessness requires communities and organizations to formally work together to develop a "Continuum of Care" (CoC) process to address homelessness at all levels. Since 2005, the City of Allentown has participated in the regional CoC process, led by the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC and coordinated at a local level by the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB) The Eastern PA CoC is one of two regional CoC in Pennsylvania that cover non-entitlement portions of the state in order to receive homeless assistance from HUD. Within the region, the Lehigh Valley RHAB encompasses Lehigh and Northampton Counties, the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. Each year, the Lehigh Valley RHAB applies for competitive federal grants for the region to provide homeless housing and support services.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is the Collaborative Applicant for the Eastern PA CoC. The Collaborative Applicant is the eligible applicant (State, unit of local government, private, nonprofit organization, or public housing agency) designated by the CoC to 1) Collect and submit the required CoC Application information for all projects the CoC has selected for funding, and 2) Apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC. The Eastern PA CoC (of which LV RHAB is a member) is currently an unincorporated organization that serves as the primary decision-making group for the CoC process. The CoC's responsibilities include ensuring representation of key stakeholders; setting the agenda for full CoC planning meetings; conducting the annual homeless single Point-in-Time count; overseeing the various subcommittees and working groups; completing the annual CoC application; and assisting in reviewing programs, activities, data, and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the well-being of homeless persons and families in Eastern Pennsylvania region.

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

In 2022, the city counted 325 persons who fall under the HUD definition of homelessness in Emergency Shelters, in Lehigh County and 59 chronically homeless.

The City has identified the chronically homeless in Allentown as mainly the childless adult group with serious disabling conditions. Outreach to connect services to the homeless populations is provided by the Linkage Program of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches and various agencies who reach out to homeless veterans. In addition to emergency shelter and transitional housing resources, there are several Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing resources available to residents of Allentown experiencing homelessness, that are accessible through Connect to Home, the CoC's Coordinated Entry system. Additionally, the non-profit organization Turning Point of Lehigh Valley operates a Domestic Abuse Hotline that is likewise available on a 24/7 basis. Valley Youth House provides Street Outreach services, and other emergency situations require the use of the County 211 system.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Federal funding that addresses homelessness requires communities and organizations to formally work together to develop a "Continuum of Care" (CoC) process to address homelessness at all levels. Since 2005, the City of Allentown has participated in the regional CoC process, led by the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC and coordinated at a local level by the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB). The Eastern PA CoC is one of two regional CoC's in Pennsylvania that cover non-entitlement portions of the state to receive homeless assistance from HUD. Within the region, the Lehigh Valley RHAB encompasses Lehigh and Northampton Counties, the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton.

The shelters and transitional housing in Allentown:

- YMCA -Warming Station
- Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley - 6th Street Shelter (ES)
- Community Action Committee of Lehigh Valley - Turner St. Apartments (TH)
- Salvation Army Emergency Shelter (ES)
- Allentown Rescue Mission (ES)
- Lehigh Rescue Mission Christian Living and Values Transitional Program (TH)
- Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley (Domestic Violence) (TH)

In order to meet the City's Goals to participate in a regional effort to contribute to meeting the shelter and service needs of homeless residents of the City, to assist residents of the City in imminent danger of becoming homeless, and to assist residents in a continuum to find permanent housing, the City has budgeted \$197,386.00 for the year 2023 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds for the support of the City's four (5) emergency shelters and a rapid re-housing program. Activities implemented by the City of Allentown, The CACLV Sixth Street Shelter, YMCA Warming Station, The Allentown Rescue Mission, The Salvation Army, and the Lehigh Conference of Churches. The city anticipates assisting approximately

1600 persons and youth through the shelter assistance.

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

Finding available, affordable units is the challenge most households face in their efforts to move from shelter or transitional to permanent housing. Housing supply is limited and is often priced higher than many households can afford. Affordable units may not be safe or meet minimum housing code standards. The City is working to address the availability and condition of affordable housing and provides a substantial amount of its CDBG and HOME funds to housing. Several projects in this year's action plan directly support the creation and rehabilitation of housing as well as prepare families for homeownership. Some of the programs include Lehigh conference of churches- Rapid Rehousing, which assist homeless, and low to moderate income residents find housing, or help with rental assistance to maintain residents housed. In the year 2021 HADC, Ingerman, Judd Roth Real Estate, HDC Mid- Atlantic all have affordable rental projects in the works, with an estimated 100 units being built in the next three years.

The LVRHAB encourages shelters and transitional housing providers to access the listing of affordable units on PHFA's housing locator website (<https://www.phfa.org/renters/>). The LVRHAB will continue to track the length of time households remain homeless and work to reduce that time.

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 LVRHAB is participating with other state CoCs through the PA Homeless Steering Committee to develop partnerships with state agencies that operate programs that discharge individuals to homelessness. Progress has been made with several agencies. Discharge planning by youth serving agencies includes steps to prepare youth for discharge from foster care and penal institutions. Mental health discharge is coordinated with the County Office of Mental Health. The Departments of Corrections and Public Welfare are working to implement a new protocol to ensure that those leaving penal institutions are enrolled in Medical Assistance through the COMPASS application process. This process also will tie into Food Stamps and cash assistance shortly. Discharge from health care is more

difficult due to the special needs and short time frame involved in discharge. The PA Homeless Steering Committee is working with the Department of Health, Division of Acute and Ambulatory Care to research and establish protocols.

Coordination of services and local advocacy ensures that families that are already enrolled in one system of care are properly referred to other agencies providing appropriate services. The implementation of the 2-1-1 system will help expand the degree of coordination.

This Action Plan includes several projects to help individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, including legal services to halt evictions and address housing discrimination.

Discussion

The City of Allentown has several subrecipients that provide services to non-homeless special needs persons. The Allentown Housing Authority and Valley Housing Development Corporation are rehabilitating their properties to improve the quality of life of their public housing residents. These upgrades include larger spaces, energy efficient appliances, and community spaces for residents to enjoy.

In addition, the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living provides housing counseling, supports coordination, living skills, and education services to those living with a disability. A Community Support Coordinator will help consumers maintain their current housing or find more affordable housing options. Housing counseling will be of increasing importance this year as the aftermath of the pandemic continues, increasing housing instability while housing prices keep rising. During the intake, program staff will review each consumer’s living situation, lease agreement, income, and expenses to understand what additional support they may need to maintain their current housing. Staff will advocate on behalf of consumers to their landlords and will also refer them to community agencies that can offer supplemental services, such as North Penn Legal Services and Lehigh Conference of Churches.

North Penn Legal Services provides legal services to low-income residents of 20 counties within the Northeast, including the City of Allentown. North Penn provides a Lehigh Valley Fair Housing Project which refers to local and federal laws enacted to make sure that all individuals have equal access to the housing of their choice. These laws prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability. gender expression. North Penn also coordinates fair housing training and outreach events, distribution of fair housing materials, work on fair housing cases, and participation in additional county-wide fair housing opportunities.

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	0
Tenant-based rental assistance	0
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	0

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

Introduction:

One of the biggest barriers to affordable housing was found after 2020, many evictions were filed due to nonpayment, because residents were not working, or did not make enough to pay their rent. Now in 2022, as fair market rent rose, this also becomes a barrier for affordable housing.

A property owner in the City of Allentown will pay real estate taxes to the City, Lehigh County, and the Allentown School District. Each governing body determines its own tax rate; the actual tax paid is based on this rate multiplied by the assessed value of the property. The assessed value of the property is determined by Lehigh County. The most recent County- wide reassessment was done in 2013. At that time, the County Commissioners selected the assessment percentage, known as the "predetermined ratio" to be 100% of the Fair Market Value. Since the City is limited to a one percent earned income tax under State law, it is heavily dependent upon the real estate tax for revenue. In fact, as the largest source of revenue, the real estate tax provides more than three times the revenue to the city as the earned income tax. The City's tax rate is not excessive compared to other cities of a similar size; however, in comparison to suburban municipalities, Allentown homeowners pay a higher tax rate. This situation wherein the city must disproportionately increase real estate taxes relative to the surrounding municipalities effectively raising costs for purchasing land and developing affordable housing.

In the codified ordinances of the City of Allentown, it states that the purpose of the zoning ordinance "...is the promotion of the public health, safety, morals, and/or general welfare by":

- Encouraging the most appropriate use of land
- Preventing the overcrowding of land
- Conserving the value of land and buildings
- Lessening the congestion of traffic on the roads
- Avoiding undue congestion of population
- Providing for adequate light and air
- Securing safety from fire, flood, and other dangers
- Facilitating adequate provision for transportation, water supply, sewage disposal, draining, school, parks, and other public facilities
- Giving reasonable consideration, among other things, to the character of districts and their peculiar suitability for uses
- Giving effect to the policies and proposals of the Comprehensive Plan as approved by the City Planning Commission and adopted by Council

Another barrier that the city faces is the lack of education of homeownership, and a lack of resources available to low to moderate income residents, 67% of Allentown Residents rent.

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

Northampton County, City of Bethlehem, City of Easton, City of Allentown's FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice has identified the following impediments, as well as defined specific goals and strategies to address each impediment. The following Impediments are specific to the local jurisdictions (excluding the housing authorities):

Impediment 1: Need for Fair Housing Education and Outreach

There is a need to improve the knowledge and understanding concerning the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families, members of the protected classes, landlords, real estate professionals, and public officials under the Fair Housing Act (FHA).

Goal: Improve the public's knowledge and awareness of the Fair Housing Act, related laws, regulations, and requirements to affirmatively further fair housing in the community.

Impediment 2: Need for Affordable Housing

In the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Metro Area, over one out of every two (52.2%) renter households in the area are paying over 30% of their monthly incomes on housing costs. Nearly, one out of every three (29.5%) owner households with a mortgage are paying over 30% of their monthly income on housing costs. The number of households that are housing cost burdened significantly increases as household income decreases.

Goal: Increase the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary housing that is affordable and accessible through the new construction and rehabilitation of various types of housing, especially housing that is affordable to lower income households.

Impediment 3: Need for Accessible Housing

There is a lack of accessible housing units in the area as the supply of accessible housing has not kept pace with the demand of individuals desiring to live independently.

Goal: Increase the supply of accessible housing through new construction and rehabilitation of accessible housing for persons with disabilities.

Impediment 4: Public Policy

The local Zoning Ordinances need additional definitions and provisions concerning Fair Housing.

Goal: Revise local Zoning Ordinances to promote the development of various types of affordable housing throughout the area.

Impediment 5: Regional Approach to Fair Housing

There is a need for a regional collaborative approach to affirmatively further fair housing in the area.

Goal: Form a regional cooperative fair housing consortium to affirmatively further fair housing in the area.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The city has developed the following actions planned to: address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards, reduce the number of poverty level families, develop institutional structures, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs is the limited resources available to address identified priorities. The city has applied to ESG-CV and CDBG-CV to serve the low income population. This year the city will continue to search for other funding opportunities to assist in meeting underserved needs. Information will be passed along to appropriate partners if the funding fits their respective missions. The city will also offer technical assistance to review these grant applications, if requested.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to use CDBG and HOME funds for rehabilitation programs, as described in earlier sections, and to encourage the creation of new affordable housing as opportunities arise. The City's use of CDBG funds to prepare families for homeownership will also improve affordable housing options. Further, the City has a strong code enforcement program and rental property inspection program that is used to prevent blight and improve the housing stock.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The city was recently awarded approximately 5 million from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to address lead-based paint hazards in homes. Currently \$100,000 CDBG funds were given as the matching funds to this grant. Approximately 300 homes will be addressed by the end of the program. By the end of the year the Community Housing Department would complete approximately 125 projects. This program continues the success of the City's recently concluded US Department of HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The city has hired an ESG administrator, to facilitate the resources funded to ensure that our unsheltered and low-income families receive the help that they need.

The City believes that the most effective method of lowering the number of households living in poverty is to assist them in developing the skills necessary to become more independent and self-sufficient.

The most obvious examples of this philosophy are the references throughout the Plan to meeting the supportive needs of the homeless, those threatened with homelessness, and those with special needs. In the case of the homeless, the purpose of the supportive services is to assist them in dealing with the problems that led to their homelessness. Hopefully, their stay in a shelter facility will serve as a transition to permanent housing and a starting point towards developing their independence and self-sufficiency. The City will use ESG funds to support the operating budget of emergency shelters and create additional rapid re-housing vouchers. This will allow the sheltering organizations to provide more intensive social services to the participants in their programs. In addition, whenever possible, the City will assist the shelter providers in obtaining financial assistance to meet the physical needs of the sheltering facilities.

Previously, it was established that those threatened with homelessness usually are of extremely low income. They are also often in need of a wide range of social services to remove the threat of homelessness and to develop the skills necessary to increase the independence and self-sufficiency. Each year, the City budgets a portion of its CDBG funds to the provision of human services, largely to assist extremely low-income individuals and families.

For persons with special needs who have a permanent disability, it may not be practical to expect a reduction in the number of households with incomes below the poverty line, depending on their level of disability. It is possible, however, to offer persons with special needs appropriate options in living environments. Supportive services likely will be an important part of any option chosen. For those who choose to live independently, supportive services will be essential to maintaining their independence. In addition to the services mentioned previously, which are available to all extremely low-income residents, the City funds several services for persons with special needs. For example, it supports a drop-in center for the mentally ill and persons addicted to alcohol or other drugs. The City's housing rehabilitation programs often enable elderly or frail elderly homeowners to remain in their home and allow those with physical limitations to adapt their home to their specific needs.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Allentown's Department of Community and Economic Development will administer the contracts with nonprofit organizations providing housing rehabilitation services, homeownership opportunities, supportive housing for special needs populations, shelter, and supportive counseling for the homeless, and social services for those threatened with homelessness. In addition, the Department will review proposals that seek to increase the supply and affordability of standard rental housing units. When addressing the issues of public housing, the Department works in conjunction with Allentown Housing Authority (AHA). In addition, there are several offices within the City's departmental structure that provide housing, economic, and community development services to citizens of Allentown. These include:

During the program year, the City will continue its twice monthly Department of Community and

Economic Development Managers' meetings where the Director of CED, Operations Manager of CED, Director of the Bureau of Health, Director of the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety, Director of Planning and Zoning, HUD Grants Manager and Business Development Director will meet to discuss relevant Community and Economic Development issues, especially those that incorporate a variety of CED bureaus. Any programmatic issues which may arise for HUD-funded programs will be discussed and addressed. These meetings also incorporate discussions of relationships and issues with other partners such as the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Allentown, Allentown Economic Development Corporation, and the Allentown Housing Authority. Any gaps in the service delivery systems can be identified and addressed at these meetings.

The Bureau of Planning and Zoning works with many community organizations that provide services pursuant to the Plan;

The Bureau of Building Standards and Safety is responsible for code enforcement, systematic inspections, owner occupied rehabilitation and for demolition of dilapidated buildings;

The Bureau of Health is responsible for the childhood lead testing program;

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Allentown, The Allentown Economic Development Corporation serve as development partners with the City; and

The Allentown City School District also plays an important collaborating role.

Public housing in Allentown is administered by the Allentown Housing Authority (AHA). AHA is responsible for all aspects of the Consolidated Plan dealing with public housing, and for administration of the City's Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher program. While its daily operations are independent of those of City government, AHA works closely with the Department of Community and Economic Development and other agencies to meet the City's low-income housing needs. The Director of the City's Department of Community and Economic Development sits on the Board of Directors of the Allentown Housing Authority as does one member of Allentown City Council.

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

The city has improved the coordination between its existing housing programs, other agencies, and levels of government by networking/sharing information. The city will continue to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies through social media, the city website, public meetings, and other avenues of outreach.

The approach employed by the city has proven to be a valuable tool for eliciting input that would not otherwise be available. This development process combined diverse ideas and approaches into a comprehensive planning document. The process further provides a set of strategies that address the

low-income needs of the city in a clear and logical fashion. The delivery system in place for these housing, public services, and community development programs is coordinated through the City's Community Development staff. No changes to the delivery system are anticipated.

During the program year, the city will continue to encourage dialogue and collaboration with its private housing and social services agencies. During pre-contract meetings, agencies will have the opportunity to hear what housing and social services partners are proposing for the upcoming grant year.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Projects planned with all CDBG, ESG, and HOME funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the projects table. The executive summary includes the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan as well as a evaluation of past performance, and a summary of the citizen participation and consultation process.

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

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

To ensure affordability, the City will impose resale requirements as its option. Community Housing Development Organization's (CHDO) and non-profit housing developers providing Acquisition/Rehabilitation/Resale, and New Construction activities will use resale provisions. In the event the City will budget HOME funds for the City's Down Payment and Closing Cost assistance program, (Community Partnership Program), this program will use a recapture provision.

Resale

This option ensures that the HOME assisted units remain affordable over the entire affordability period. The Resale method is used in cases where HOME funding is provided directly to the developer to reduce development costs, thereby making the price of the home affordable to the buyer. Referred to as a "Development Subsidy, these funds are not repaid by the developer to the Participating Jurisdiction (City of Allentown) but remain with the property for the length of the affordability period.

Notification to Prospective Buyers: The resale policy is explained to the prospective homebuyer(s) prior to signing a contract to purchase the HOME assisted unit. The prospective homebuyer(s) sign an acknowledgement that they understand the terms and conditions applicable to the resale policy as they have been explained.

Enforcement of Resale Provisions:

The resale policy is enforced through the use of a Mortgage/Deed restriction. This restriction will specify:

The length of the affordability period (based on the amount of HOME funds invested in the unit, either 5, 10 or 15 years);

That the home remains the Buyer's principal residence throughout the affordability period;

The conditions and obligations of the Owner should the Owner wish to sell before the end of the affordability period, including:

The Owner must contact the City Department of Community and Economic Development's HUD Grants Manager, in writing, if intending to sell the home prior to the end of the affordability period.

Fair Return on Investment:

The City will administer its resale provisions by ensuring that the owner receives a fair return on investment and that the home will continue to be affordable to a specific range of incomes. Fair Return on Investment means the total homeowner investment which includes the total cash contribution plus the approved capital improvements credits, plus the increased value per the Housing Price Index.

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:

HOME-assisted units carry occupancy restrictions for varying lengths of time, known as the affordability period. The HOME Program requires a minimum affordability period for all projects receiving HOME funds, depending on the amount of HOME funds invested in each unit and the type of activities performed using HOME funds. The HOME-assisted housing must meet the affordability requirements for not less than the applicable period specified in the following table, beginning after project completion

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:

If the City of Allentown uses HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to provide housing for low-income persons. The forms of funding used to assist homebuyers and/or developers include: down payment assistance, development subsidies, or some combination of these methods. The City will use the Recapture method of insuring affordability for all homebuyer activities in which direct HOME funds assistance is provided. The City will use the Resale provision of insuring affordability when direct HOME funds assistance is not provided. Only one method shall be utilized for each project, the Recapture method is only allowed when there is direct HOME funds assistance provided recapture provisions

Subject to recapture are the HOME funds that are invested in a HOME assisted unit, as a direct subsidy to the homebuyer. The subsidy could include down payment assistance and the amount of each subsidy would be a minimum of \$1,000 and differ per each homebuyer. The minimum length of affordability is based on the total direct HOME funds assistance provided:

Affordability Requirements for the HOME Program- The period of affordability shall commence from the date the activity is identified as completed in HUD's Integrated Disbursement Information System (IDIS).

In the event the City would fund down payment and closing cost assistance using HOME funds, which is a direct subsidy, the following policy would apply.

The City of Allentown's down payment and closing cost assistance program, if funded, could provide up to \$4,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers with incomes that do not exceed 80% of the AMI. The buyer must be purchasing the home to use as a principal residence. In other words, the buyer must intend to live in the home for the entire affordability period and not be buying the home for any other purpose, such as investment or rental property. Monthly principal and interest payments are not required.

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:

The PJ will not be using any HOME funds to refinance debt secured by multifamily housing that is being rehabbed with HOME funds.

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

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

The ESG standards are described in the ESG application.

The primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment as well as expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. The City utilizes these funds primarily for the revitalization of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods through the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock and physical improvements to public facilities. In addition, the City funds economic development activities and human services which complement the usual bricks and mortar approach to revitalization. This strategy is to ensure that all the needs of neighborhood residents are being addressed.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds may be used for emergency shelter and rapid re-housing assistance.

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

Connect To Home: Coordinated Entry System of Eastern PA (CES) coordinates and manages access, assessment, prioritization and referral to housing and services for any person(s) experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness in the following counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Schuylkill, Somerset, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne and Wyoming.

Participation in CES is required for all projects funded by HUD Continuum of Care or Emergency Solutions Grants (including those administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) and strongly encouraged for all other housing and service providers in order to ensure equitable and coordinated access for all.

Connect To Home Referral Partners accept appropriate program referrals from Coordinated Entry Specialists. Coordinated Entry Specialists make direct referrals to homeless prevention and emergency services, including Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing (both of the latter through HMIS). Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing providers receive their referrals from the Community Queue prioritization list in PA HMIS. The Community Queue has special protocols for both veterans and survivors of domestic violence to ensure they are connected to appropriate housing and services.

The Eastern PA CoC has selected the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as its Coordinated Entry assessment tool. There is no formal training, license or fee required to use the VI-SPDAT. However, Connect To Home Coordinated Entry Specialists are required to complete the free OrgCode VI-SPDAT training webinar series online at http://www.orgcode.com/vi_spdat.

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 City of Allentown has a mailing list of interested citizens, agencies and providers (which include community and faith based organizations) and as part of its Consolidated Grants Program. Letters go out to this mailing list along with an explanation of the process of applying for and awarding Community Development Block Grant Program funds, Emergency Solutions Grants Program funds and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds. An advertisement is also placed in The Morning Call newspaper announcing the process and a public hearing is held. In addition, the process is announced at the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board meeting. The City provides technical assistance to new agencies who have never navigated the application process.

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 City of Allentown presents the proposed allocations to the Lehigh Valley RHAB, whose members speak for homeless individuals. ESG funds not only assist homeless services in the City, the presentation includes use of CDBG and HOME funds, also.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The evaluation of ESG applications is consistent with the evaluations of all applicants for the City's Consolidated Grants Program funds (CDBG, ESG and HOME).

