

2023 ACTION PLAN

for the

**Onondaga County
Community Development Block Grant Program
Emergency Solutions Grant Program**

and the

**Onondaga County/Town of Clay
HOME Consortium**

***J Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive***



Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2023 Action Plan for Onondaga County is an analysis of the housing and community development needs of Onondaga County and an outline of the subsequent goals and objectives of Onondaga County Community Development (OCCD) for the next program years. (Unless otherwise noted, data is from the 2020 United States Census.) It is the result of the collaboration with many partners, both in its formation and implementation. It outlines the role of OCCD and its partners in a County-based housing delivery system and it assigns priorities to the many documented housing and community development needs. The mission of OCCD is to improve the quality of life for Onondaga County's low- and moderate-income people by preserving and rebuilding neighborhoods, revitalizing and increase in the County's housing stock, upgrading the infrastructure, and provide needed community facilities.

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.

The mission of the OCCD is to improve the quality of life for Onondaga County's low- and moderate-income people by preserving and rebuilding neighborhoods, revitalizing, and increasing the County's housing stock, upgrading the infrastructure, and providing needed community facilities.

The objectives of the Onondaga County Five Year Strategic Plan and 2023 Action Plan are as follows:

- provide safe and sanitary infrastructure, such as sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water lines, sidewalks, etc., that serve low income residents;
- provide recreational facilities for low and moderate income and disabled residents;
- eliminate detrimental blighting conditions in residential neighborhoods;
- provide improved neighborhood facilities, such as senior citizen centers and community centers for low and moderate income persons;
- provide improved housing conditions and housing opportunities for low and moderate income elderly and handicapped persons and low and moderate income families through housing rehabilitation

assistance;

- provide home ownership opportunities for the County's low and moderate income residents, with affirmative marketing to the minority population;
- stimulate economic conditions in business districts located in low and moderate income neighborhoods through commercial rehabilitation;
- provide fair housing for all the citizens of the County; and
- provide contracting and employment opportunities to minority businesses.
- participate in the communities fight to end homelessness by providing support and funding for organizations and agencies involved in this endeavor.

To achieve these goals Onondaga County Community Development identified six priority goals and programs to solve the challenges facing our community:

- Housing Rehabilitation: the Lead Hazard Reduction Program (LHR); the Safe Housing Assistance Program for the Elderly (SHAPE-UP); Emergency Repair Program/RESTORE Program (as funding availability allows).
- Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility: the RAMP Program; Access to HOME Program (ATH) (as funding availability allows).
- Capital Projects: provides infrastructure/public facility/recreation facility improvements to the counties 34 municipalities
- Homelessness: provide funding to local organizations dealing with various aspects of the issue; staff participates with local Housing and Homeless Coalition
- Commercial Improvements: Commercial Rehabilitation Program; Main Street Rehabilitation Program
- Homeownership: the Onondaga County First-time Homeownership Program.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Onondaga County Community Development's (OCCD) goal is to serve the citizens of Onondaga County in a productive and efficient manner. Overall feedback received from grant recipients, community leaders and funding providers is positive. The department continues to meet goals, deadlines, expectations established by its fund sources. The department is also aware of and operates within the realm of the department's mission.

OCCD continues to seek alternative sources of funding to support its programs in hopes of being able to meet the ever-increasing demand for services to the community. The alternative sources of funds include: the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH); the New York State

Department of Homes and Community Renewal (NYS HCR); and the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation (NYS AHC).

Since its inception OCCD has received almost \$250,000,000 in funding, completed over 830 capital projects, sold 425 homes to first-time homebuyers, improved the facades of over 362 local commercial buildings, provided accessibility improvements to 940 low-moderate income disabled households and completed more than 5900 housing rehabilitation projects.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The County encourages citizen participation through several avenues. One avenue is through the County website. The website provides descriptions of the different housing and commercial rehabilitation programs, capital projects and contractor information. It also includes notices of public hearings, which are also advertised in the Syracuse Post Standard newspaper. Citizens are also able to submit comments and questions to the OCCD mailbox through the website.

OCCD has a 10-member Steering Committee which oversees the entire program. Appointed by the County Executive, the committee includes 6 elected officials (2 Town Supervisors, 2 Village Mayors and 2 County Legislators) and additional at-large members representing a cross-section of the County. The Steering Committee reviews and approves OCCD's budget, programs, ESG projects, and reviews and selects the capital projects submitted by local municipalities.

All 34 towns and villages in Onondaga County are invited to submit a Five-Year Community Development Plan and applications for capital projects for possible inclusion in the County's Annual Action Plan. The municipalities are required to hold a public hearing to allow citizen input into both the Five-Year CD Plan for that municipality and the capital project applications to be submitted to the County. A town or village board resolution authorizing their project application(s) is also requested.

OCCD holds two Public Hearings each year - one in late summer to review and solicit comments on the proposed Annual Action Plan and a second in late fall to review the CAPER. These are advertised on the County website as well as in the main local newspaper (Post Standard)

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.

The Public Comment period was June 29, 2023 – July 29, 2023. A Public Hearing was held July 27, 2023. No comments were received.

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

No comments were received.

7. Summary

Onondaga County Community Development appreciates the support received from all funding sources and looks forward to continue offering its services to the citizens of Onondaga County.

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	ONONDAGA COUNTY	Onondaga County Community Development
HOME Administrator	ONONDAGA COUNTY	Onondaga County Community Development
ESG Administrator	ONONDAGA COUNTY	Onondaga County Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Onondaga County Community Development (OCCD) is the lead agency and hub of the institutional structure responsible for developing and administering the programs covered by the Consolidated & Annual Plans. It works closely with various government agencies and departments, town and village governments, and numerous other entities.

Capital projects represent the largest share of the annual OCCD program budget. RFPs are solicited from the 34 municipalities within Onondaga County. These projects are then reviewed and approved by the OCCD Steering Committee. OCCD also administers and manages homeownership and housing rehabilitation programs in close collaboration with private contractors. The majority of OCCD planning, therefore, is related to activities associated with these programs.

OCCD also funds six Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs that assist homeless individuals and families with Homelessness Prevention, Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach activities. OCCD also coordinates with The Housing and Homeless Coalition of CNY. It serves as the community coalition to address homelessness and housing vulnerability. They are the organized body of informal networking and formal linkages between homeless services providers and other public and private human service providers. They work with and for the homeless and formerly homeless or other interested consumers and stakeholders. They provide valuable input and guidance to the OCCD ESG program.

CNY Fair Housing, Inc. conducts education and outreach to the general public regarding fair housing rights and responsibilities, maintains a network of trained housing discrimination testers, and assists with fair housing litigation. In 2019 the agency published the "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice: Syracuse and Onondaga County".

ARISE, Inc. advocates for and locates accessible housing for disabled persons and families.

OCCD works with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) in Onondaga County for projects to develop special needs housing with its HOME set-aside funds.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Onondaga County Community Development

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Director - Martin Skahen

315-435-3558

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

1. Introduction

Since 1986 various groups have existed to assess community homeless needs, identify gaps in services and develop a comprehensive community strategy to combat homelessness. Onondaga County Community Development has consistently worked with these groups to achieve these goals.

In August 2010, the group became known as the Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHC). A recent merger with some neighboring counties created the new Housing and Homeless Coalition of Central New York (CoC NY-505). The mission of the HHC is to assess community needs and develop a comprehensive community strategy to combat homelessness and housing vulnerability in the community. The new name better reflects HUD's emphasis on meeting the issue of homelessness in the community collaboratively.

The Housing and Homeless Coalition is the local entity responsible for identifying the nature and extent of homelessness, identifying priority needs and coordinating homeless services including services to homeless subpopulations and is the lead entity for the CoC planning process.

The HHC meets on a monthly basis and has an established inclusive process to address the issues related to homelessness. More than fifty agencies are represented on the HHC, from shelter and direct service providers to representatives from all levels of government, grassroots and neighborhood groups, housing developers and members of the business community as well as homeless and formerly homeless consumers. The HHC has been successful in carefully and collaboratively implementing a coordinated community-wide system of services that prevent duplication of effort and focus on maximizing available resources to meet the needs of homeless persons.

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))

OCCD recognizes that developing partnerships with area public and private organizations is vital to its success. OCCD will allocate Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to support emergency shelters, street outreach, and homelessness prevention. These activities will be provided to women, men, youth, families, persons living with HIV/AIDS and the chronically homeless.

The annual ESG Request for Proposals stresses prevention as well as moving those already in the homeless system to permanent housing as soon as possible. ESG Recipients must follow and participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry Plan that details the process for ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals will be given priority to housing programs. ESG Rules specifically state that the Continuum of Care (CoC), in consultation with recipients of ESG program funds within the geographic area, (1)

establish and consistently follow written standards for providing Continuum of Care assistance, (2) establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, and (3) monitor recipient and sub-recipient performance.

OCCD continues to work with the Onondaga County Social Services Economic Security Department to develop a collaborative approach to administer and monitor County ESG funding. The department maintains its collaboration with the Housing and Homeless Coalition of CNY (CoC NY-505) and City of Syracuse ESG Administrator to ensure mutual areas covered by the CoC, the City of Syracuse, and OCCD are actively working together to end homelessness.

Additional HUD Continuum of Care funds will support the local Homeless Management Information System which provides the necessary and required supporting data for the CAPER.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The Homeless & Housing Coalition (HHC) has several subcommittees and work groups whose primary charge was to develop and update a Plan to End Homelessness and other goals of the HHC. This Committee identified five overarching goals to guide local planning efforts toward ending homelessness in our community. The Committee selected these goals based on the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness Opening Doors Plan, the national federal plan outlining successful strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

The goals of collaborating are to ensure that the mutual areas that are covered by both OCCD and the HHC are actively working to end homelessness while creating and adhering to plans regarding these activities. There is great value in providing consistency across the agencies dedicated to ending homelessness.

OCCD staff attends the HHC monthly meeting to be involved and to provide input. The OCCD Director currently serves as the Chair of the Performance Selection Committee (Board), which is made up of members of the HHC board who are not a part of CoC funded agencies for the purpose of rating and ranking local funding applications.

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

Priorities are determined by review of the CoC application process and other homeless planning activities including but not limited to review of Point in Time data and surveys conducted among

consumers of homeless services. The Continuum of Care planning process consistently reveals one overriding priority need among the homeless and those at risk of homelessness: affordable permanent housing with a range of readily available support services commensurate with the varying needs of each household. In addition to affordable housing, resources are needed to develop and maintain an appropriate range of services, including preventative and rehabilitative services to assist persons before they become homeless, as they seek to leave shelters, and as they attempt to resume life in the community after a period of homelessness. ESG RFP review and funding is guided by these priorities.

ESG program progress relies heavily upon the HMIS data and monitoring visits with agencies. Program standards, outcomes and policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis with each funded program. The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, updated in 2017, outlined strategies, funding and other resources to end homelessness in our community. ESG funds were aligned in the areas of rapid re-housing, homeless prevention and street outreach. Local priorities for funding are identified by the Gaps and Needs Assessment completed by the CoC along with the HMIS data and other local data. Outcomes of this assessment are used to direct ESG funding resources.

Homeless prevention priorities, emerging as a result of planning associated with Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funding, include direct financial assistance to households combined with additional supports such as case management, legal advocacy, and housing relocation services.

The HMIS software product used locally is the nation's leading management information system and is regularly updated to meet HUD's evolving standards. While HMIS is not currently funded by ESG, the data provided is critical in assessing program activity and effectiveness. Policies and procedures are outlined and updated by the CoC.

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	CNY Fair Housing
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Fair Housing
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	OCCD staff consulted with a variety of non-profits, social service providers, community residents, and governmental agencies to determine the needs and better allocate entitlement resources.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	ARISE Child and Family Service Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	OCCD staff consulted with a variety of non-profits, social service providers, community residents, and governmental agencies to determine the needs and better allocate entitlement resources.

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	Housing and Homeless Coalition of CNY	<p>OCCD consults with the Housing & Homeless Coalition of CNY to identify gaps in services to those in need. Using HMIS data, Point in Time count data and feedback from community-based organizations, ESG funds have been used to maximize current funding. The CoC and the City of Syracuse continue to work together to build and maintain a process that maximizes current resources to support individuals and families in finding and maintaining permanent housing along with support services that help those in need to achieve their housing goals. ESG program progress relies heavily upon the HMIS data and monitoring visits with agencies. Program standards, outcomes and policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis with each funded program. The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, updated in 2017, outlined strategies, funding and other resources to end homelessness in our community. ESG funds were aligned in the areas of rapid re-housing, Shelter, and street outreach. Local priorities for funding are identified by the Gaps and Needs Assessment completed by the CoC along with the HMIS data and other local data. Outcomes of this assessment are used to direct ESG funding resources.</p>

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The County encourages citizen participation in its programs through the County website (www.ongov.net/cd), the OCCD Steering Committee, the towns and villages and public hearings. The comment period for the Plan is June 29, 2023 - July 29, 2023. The Public Hearing is July 27, 2023.

The website provides descriptions of the different housing and commercial rehabilitation programs, capital projects and contractor information. It includes notices of public hearings. Citizens can submit comments and questions to the OCCD mailbox through the website.

OCCD has a 10-member Steering Committee which oversees the entire program. Appointed by the County Executive, the committee includes 6 elected officials (2 Town Supervisors, 2 Village Mayors and 2 County Legislators) and additional at-large members representing a cross-section of the County. The Steering Committee reviews and approves OCCD's budget, programs, ESG projects and reviews and selects the capital projects funded by the CDBG to be included in the Action Plan each year.

Onondaga County is made up of 34 towns and villages. All 34 towns and villages are invited to submit a Five-Year Community Development Plan and applications for capital projects for possible inclusion in the County's Annual Action Plan. The municipalities are required to hold a public hearing to allow citizen input into both the Five-Year CD Plan for that municipality and the capital project applications to be submitted to the County. A town or village board resolution authorizing their project application(s) is also requested.

Projects are selected primarily based on need and the number of low-income people served. Each year, there are many more applications received as there are CDBG funds available, so it is a very competitive process. In addition, the Steering Committee reviews and approves programs to be funded by the Emergency Solutions Grant.

OCCD holds a Public Hearing after Steering Committee approval, when the Plan is prepared and before it is submitted to HUD. This is advertised in the Post Standard and on the OCCD website. The Public Hearing date, funding level, activities that are eligible, and proposed budget are included in the announcement.

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	Although advertised in the local newspaper and on the County website, no one attended the Public Hearings.	No comments received.	N/A	www.ongov.net/cd/documents/2023AdConPlan-PublicHearing.pdf
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Ad announced the comment period and hearing date and included proposed activities, budget categories and invited the public to contact OCCD via phone or email to provide feedback.	None	N/A	https://classifieds.syracuse.com/syracuse/advert/-general_129159

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)
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community Town/Village residents	Varies by Municipality.	Varies by Municipality. Comments noted in municipal meeting minutes.	Varies by Municipality. Comments noted in municipal meeting minutes.	
4	Public Meeting	OCCD Steering Committee members	Steering Committee Members appointed by the County Executive. Members review and approve grant budgets and project funding.	The Committee understands the value of the Program to Onondaga County and distributes the available resources equitably, maximizing the benefit to low and moderate income residents.	None	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	None	We have mostly received questions about our various housing rehabilitation programs.	None	http://www.ongov.net/cd/contact.html

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The table below outlines the resources the County anticipates having available during PY2023. It is followed by narratives about other resources these funds will leverage.

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	2,266,135	107,310	0	2,373,445	0	Please see 2023 Action Plan for detailed information on programs and services recommended for funding.

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	731,487	0	0	731,487	0	Please see 2023 Action Plan for detailed information on programs and services recommended for funding.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	169,584	0	0	169,584	0	Please see 2023 Action Plan for detailed information on programs and services recommended for funding.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
Other	public - state	Admin and Planning Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab	350,000	0	0	350,000	0	NYS grants funds for multiple goals; generally Housing Rehabilitation - Accessibility, Commercial Facade Improvement and Homeownership.

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

OCCD is required to provide a match for federal funds received under the HOME Program. The County uses funds from non-federal grants it applies for and receives from various sources including (but not limited to): the NYS Affordable Housing Corporation, the NYS Housing Trust Fund, and various grants through the NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

Agencies receiving ESG funds under the County ESG Program will provide a portion of the required ESG match. Match sources must be listed on the agency budget.

Since 2001, OCCD has received ten Lead Hazard Reduction/Lead Hazard Demonstration grants totaling almost \$32 million from the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH). The County uses a portion of its CDBG funds as match for these grants and plans to continue to apply for and receive funding from OLHCHH.

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

Although the Onondaga County housing market has remained stable, foreclosures and tax delinquent properties do exist throughout our area. The County will continue to acquire some of these vacant properties for its First-time Homeownership Program. These homes will be rehabilitated and sold to low-moderate income first-time home buyers at a subsidized cost. The department's Homeownership Program is funded via a variety of sources and grants, primarily local funding and state grants.

Discussion

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	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Onondaga County	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$200,000 HOME: \$548,615 New York State: \$50,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 55 Household Housing Unit
2	Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Improvements	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Onondaga County	Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility	CDBG: \$150,000 New York State: \$100,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 5 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Unit
3	Capital Projects	2020	2024	Capital Improvements County-wide	Onondaga County	Capital Projects	CDBG: \$815,218	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 7000 Persons Assisted
4	Homeless-Emergency Shelter	2020	2024	Homeless	Onondaga County	Homelessness	ESG: \$86,569	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 75 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Homeless-Homeless Prevention	2020	2024	Homeless	Onondaga County	Homelessness	ESG: \$58,296	Homelessness Prevention: 50 Persons Assisted
6	Homeless-Outreach	2020	2024	Homeless	Onondaga County	Homelessness	ESG: \$12,000	Homelessness Prevention: 30 Persons Assisted
7	Commercial Facade Improvement	2020	2024	Economic Development	Onondaga County	Commercial Facade Improvement	CDBG: \$150,000 New York State: \$200,000	Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted
8	Homeownership	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Onondaga County	Homeownership	CDBG: \$50,000 New York State: \$130,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 5 Households Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Improvements
	Goal Description	

3	Goal Name	Capital Projects
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Homeless-Emergency Shelter
	Goal Description	
5	Goal Name	Homeless-Homeless Prevention
	Goal Description	
6	Goal Name	Homeless-Outreach
	Goal Description	
7	Goal Name	Commercial Facade Improvement
	Goal Description	
8	Goal Name	Homeownership
	Goal Description	

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Over the next year OCCD plans to assist local municipalities with funding for 16 Capital projects. OCCD will also provide housing rehabilitation grants to approximately 55 low-mod income households throughout Onondaga County. Accessibility will be improved in the homes of 20 low-mod income residents with disabilities. The County will complete and sell 5 homes to low-mod income first-time homebuyers.

OCCD leverages their CDBG and HOME allocations to obtain supplemental funding from a variety of sources. During the upcoming year this additional funding will include the funds from a 3.5 year \$5,600,000 Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant awarded to the County in 2019 by the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH).

The County received a housing grant award from the New York State Housing and Community Renewal Office (NYS HCR): A NYS RESTORE grant to fund emergency housing repairs for very low income seniors (\$150,000) The County will use the RESTORE money to supplement its existing Shape-Up program. OCCD also received another \$300,000 grant from the NYS Affordable Housing Corp to continue its First-time Homebuyer Program.

OCCD's Commercial Rehabilitation Program is currently working with \$380,000 in NYS HCR Main Street funds to revitalize the commercial center of one of the County's older villages via building upgrades, restoration, and façade renovation.

The County provides funding to the CNY Fair Housing. OCCD works closely with CNY Fair Housing to identify and address issues related to fair housing, which includes the recent Analysis of Impediments report that was produced to provide new information on the impact these issues have in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

ARISE, Inc. also uses CDBG funds to advocate for and locate accessible housing for individuals with disabilities and families. Approximately 15 persons per year benefit from this activity.

2-3 units developed by a CHDO in receipt of 15% set aside funding will be acquired by low income special needs clients.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Capital Projects 2023
2	ARISE - Housing Referral & Advocacy Program 2023
3	Fair Housing Project 2023
4	Commercial Rehabilitation Program 2023

#	Project Name
5	RAMP/Accessibility Improvements for the Disabled 2023
6	Housing Rehabilitation 2023
7	Homeownership Assistance Program 2023
8	Housing Rehabilitation Delivery Costs 2023
9	Community Development Block Grant Administration 2023
10	CHDO Assistance 2023
11	HOME Program Administration 2023
12	ESG 2023 Onondaga County

Table 7 - Project Information

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

Allocation priorities align with our stated mission: To improve the quality of life for Onondaga County’s low- and moderate-income people by preserving and rebuilding neighborhoods, revitalizing, and increasing the County’s housing stock, upgrading the infrastructure, and providing needed community facilities.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Capital Projects 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Capital Projects
	Needs Addressed	Capital Projects
	Funding	CDBG: \$815,218
	Description	The County will award 16 local municipalities with Capital Projects. The County will seek applications for Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/moderate Housing Income Benefit from the Towns & Villages within the jurisdiction. The Community Development Steering Committee will meet to review and discuss applications and make funding awards.
	Target Date	8/31/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The activities will benefit approximately 7,000 low/moderate income households in the Towns/Villages located within Onondaga County.
	Location Description	CDBG eligible areas and activities within Onondaga County.
	Planned Activities	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/moderate Housing Income Benefit, such as street, park and senior center improvements.
2	Project Name	ARISE - Housing Referral & Advocacy Program 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Homeless-Homeless Prevention
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	The Housing Referral and Advocacy Program (HRAP) assist people with any disabilities and their families who live in Onondaga County. Participants have low- to extremely-low incomes; many are homeless or living in critically unstable housing situations.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Housing Referrral and Advocacy Program (HRAP) will assist approximately 50 people with any disabilities and their families who live in Onondaga County. Participants have low- to extremely-low incomes; many are homeless or living in critically unstable housing situations.

	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	<p>ARISE’s Housing Referral & Advocacy Program (HRAP) is the only program in Onondaga County focused on providing housing assistance for people who have any type of disability. HRAP is considered a “mainstream provider” and fills service gaps because it serves those who do not fit the guidelines of other providers. HRAP activities and services include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing Information & Referrals in response to requests related to locating accessible housing; fair housing access/accommodation questions and/or requests; inquiries from landlords/property managers related to housing accessibility and fair housing; and referring individuals with disabilities to needed resources and supports. 2) Reviewing and evaluating existing available housing units to determine level of accessibility; maintaining a list of affordable/accessible housing and distributing it upon request. 3) Meeting with developers and landlords to ensure that planned and newly constructed housing units will be accessible. 4) Reducing housing vulnerability and assistance with locating housing for those with significant disabilities and functional limitation who are unable to conduct their own housing search. Assistance includes accompanying people when they visit rental units; providing transportation to view units; assisting with rental applications and negotiating with landlords; help applying for housing assistance; and making referrals/assisting in obtaining financial supports. 5) Reducing disability related housing discrimination through outreach, information dissemination, and group education targeted to community residents and to housing providers (Fair Housing, reasonable accommodation, etc.) 6) Advocating with property owners, developers and real estate agents to increase the number of accessible units and to open more rental units to those receiving Public Assistance, Section 8 or other government rent subsidies. Working with housing providers to place individuals with disabilities in accessible units, and making ARISE’s independent living services available to provide support to help ensure tenant success in maintaining stable housing. 7) Contributing to community-wide planning by participating in housing task forces and committees to ensure the needs of residents with disabilities are considered during planning, and to help reduce duplication of services and eliminate gaps in service coverage.
3	Project Name	Fair Housing Project 2023

	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Capital Projects
	Needs Addressed	Capital Projects
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	This project utilizes a comprehensive approach to ensuring equal housing opportunity in Onondaga County, helping the County and consortium members fulfill their obligation to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing as required as recipients of HUD funding. The activities proposed are consistent with needs identified in the Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, including the presence of illegal discrimination in the housing market. This project will include four components: 1)Education and outreach on fair housing laws; 2)Enforcement of Fair Housing laws; 3)Fair Housing Compliance and Planning Services; and 4)Housing Counseling and Advocacy.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This project will benefit approximately 300 people.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Our project works to address several distinct, but related, problems: illegal housing discrimination, lack of planning for affordable and accessible housing, passage of exclusionary zoning laws, need for stronger affirmative marketing efforts, need for housing counseling for tenants, and a need for better education throughout the community on fair housing and tenants' rights laws. Federal, state and local fair housing laws and consumer protection laws provide the framework for our proposed activities, together with HUD requirements for publicly-funded housing activities.
4	Project Name	Commercial Rehabilitation Program 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Commercial Facade Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Commercial Facade Improvement
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000 New York State: \$100,000

	Description	The purpose of this program is to improve the business viability in low income areas central business districts throughout Onondaga County. Technical assistance is also provided to commercial property owners to keep their facades consistent with the overall area.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Under this program, 5 businesses within the County will be assisted.
	Location Description	County-wide, within CDBG eligible areas.
	Planned Activities	Program provides matching grants for exterior improvements for a standard sized commercial building. A larger building such as a plaza or a large building consisting of several tax parcels may receive more funding on a matching basis. The program also provides technical assistance and architectural services to commercial property owners in qualified areas.
5	Project Name	RAMP/Accessibility Improvements for the Disabled 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000 New York State: \$50,000
	Description	The purpose of this program is to provide accessibility improvements for low/moderate income homeowners and renters including ramps, chair lifts, bathroom and other accessibility modifications.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program will assist approximately 20 households within the County with accessibility improvements.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	The RAMP program provides grants up to \$15,000 for accessibility improvements such as ramps, widening doorways, and bathroom modifications to homes owned or rented by low-income households with an individual with disabilities.
6	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation 2023

	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000 HOME: \$548,615 New York State: \$50,000
	Description	The purpose of this program is to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for the county's low/moderate income homeowner. Priority will be given to those 62 years old and older, households with children under the age of six, and/or in emergency situations.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This program will assist 55 low/moderate income households County-wide.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	The program will provide needed assistance to low-moderate income households for home repair. Priority will be given to those 62 years of age or older, households with children under the age of six, and/or in emergency situations.
7	Project Name	Homeownership Assistance Program 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Homeownership
	Needs Addressed	Homeownership
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000 New York State: \$150,000
	Description	The Homeownership Program provides homeownership opportunities for low-moderate income households.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 5 low-income households within the County will receive assistance through this program
	Location Description	County-wide

	Planned Activities	The funding derived from program income is used in support of the County Homeownership Program for site acquisition and preparation, rehabilitation expenses, and soft costs such as appraisals, abstracts, legal fees and architectural expenses. The majority of the costs for the program are obtained from other sources.
8	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation Delivery Costs 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Improvements Homeownership
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Homeownership
	Funding	CDBG: \$450,000
	Description	The purpose of this activity is to support the program delivery of the Activities associated with the Housing Rehabilitation project.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	80 Households will benefit from this proposed activity.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Housing rehabilitation delivery expenses for a staff of nine full-time employees and one part-time employee.
9	Project Name	Community Development Block Grant Administration 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Improvements Capital Projects Commercial Facade Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation Housing Rehabilitation-Accessibility Capital Projects Commercial Facade Improvement
	Funding	CDBG: \$453,227

	Description	Administrative costs for the Onondaga County Community Development Block Grant program.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	COunty-wide
	Planned Activities	Effective administration and planning of HUD funded programs including compliance with all mandated requirements.
10	Project Name	CHDO Assistance 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Capital Projects
	Needs Addressed	Capital Projects
	Funding	HOME: \$109,723
	Description	The program is intended to provide rental housing and homeownership opportunities for people with special needs.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	To be determined based once Proposals are received.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	This activity assists the development of housing units for very low-income elderly households and households with special needs through funding assistance to CHDO's. Requests for proposals will be reviewed by CD staff and suitable projects selected for funding.
11	Project Name	HOME Program Administration 2023
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
	Funding	HOME: \$73,149
	Description	Administrative costs for the HOME Program.

	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Many low-moderate household will benefit. Number is dependent on scope of each activity.
	Location Description	County-wide
	Planned Activities	Effective administration and planning of HUD funded programs including compliance with all mandated requirements.
12	Project Name	ESG 2023 Onondaga County
	Target Area	Onondaga County
	Goals Supported	Homeless-Emergency Shelter Homeless-Homeless Prevention Homeless-Outreach
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$169,584
	Description	Emergency Solutions Grant funds will be used for Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention and Street Outreach. Administrative costs are also included.
	Target Date	8/31/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 150 homeless persons will benefit.
	Location Description	County-wide
Planned Activities	Planned activities are community organizations that support Emergency Shelter, Homeless Prevention and Street Outreach components. Adminstrative cost are also included.	

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

The geographic area covered consists of 1 City, 19 towns and 15 villages. The area has a total population of 474,621 persons, residing in 190,353 households (2021, ACS 5-year Est). This area has a land area of 793.5 square miles and is approximately 35 miles in length and 30 miles in width. All 34 towns and villages participate in the CDBG Urban County Consortium. The town and villages are the priority areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Onondaga County	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The geographic allocation of OCCD programming is largely determined by the location of HUD defined and designated Low-Moderate Income block groups and in Low-Moderate income households. All non-housing community development investments occur within these designated block groups. Low-Moderate areas are generally located where older, affordable housing is concentrated. All housing related investments occur in Low-Moderate income households. The town and villages are the priority areas as the City of Syracuse receives its own entitlement funding.

The Community Development Steering Committee determines budget categories and selects projects to be funded. Although projects are selected primarily on need and the number of low-income people served, the Committee strives to maintain a geographic balance when making selections.

Typical obstacles to meeting underserved needs include:

1. Economic factors
2. Federal housing policy
3. Fair Housing impediments
4. Insufficient affordable housing
5. Exclusionary zoning
6. Varying zoning and subdivision regulations
7. Permit fees
8. Insufficient available of accessible housing

As noted above, the County consulted with key members of the local Continuum of Care to determine a rationale for allocating Emergency Solutions Grant Program funding priorities. A cross-jurisdictional (City

of Syracuse and County of Onondaga, CoC) collaborative examination of homeless resources took place as both jurisdictions worked together to maximize the impact of HUD ESG funds.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Over the next year the County plans to provide housing rehabilitation grants to approximately 55 low-moderate income households throughout Onondaga County. Accessibility will be improved in the homes of 20 low-moderate income residents with disabilities. The County will complete and sell 5 homes to low-mod income first-time homebuyers. While the impacts of COVID-19 have lessened somewhat, the current inflationary trends continue to impact labor and material costs & availability. We have therefore reduced our goals for Housing Rehabilitation to more accurately reflect the current situation.

OCCD leverages its CDBG and HOME allocations to obtain supplemental funding from a variety of sources. During the upcoming year this additional funding will include the funds from a 3.5 year \$5,600,000 Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant awarded to the County in 2019 by the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH).

The County will be applying for a grant award from the New York State Housing and Community Renewal Office (NYS HCR) for Access to Home (ATH) grants totaling \$150,000. The County will use the ATH funds to supplement its existing Residential Accessibility Modification Program (RAMP).

OCCD has received another \$600,000 grant from the NYS Affordable Housing Corp to continue its First-time Homebuyer Program.

OCCD's Commercial Rehabilitation Program continues working with \$341,342 in NYS HCR Main Street funds to revitalize the commercial center of one of the County's older villages via building upgrades and restoration, façade renovation and streetscape improvements.

The County provides funding to the CNY Fair Housing. OCCD works closely with CNY Fair Housing to identify and address issues related to fair housing, which includes the recent Analysis of Impediments report that was produced to provide new information on the impact these issues have in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

ARISE, Inc. also uses CDBG funds to advocate for and locate accessible housing for individuals with disabilities and families. Approximately 15 persons per year benefit from this activity.

2-3 units developed by a CHDO in receipt of 15% set aside funding will be acquired by low income special needs clients.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	20
Total	20

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	0
Rehab of Existing Units	55
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	55

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

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

There are no Public Housing projects within the Consortium area.

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

There are no Public Housing projects within the Consortium area.

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

The Consortium works in partnership with the Syracuse Housing Authority to assist public housing residents participating in the SHA Family Self-Sufficiency Program purchase homes from OCCD's Homeownership Program.

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

There are no Public Housing projects within the Consortium area.

Discussion

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

Introduction

Over the past several years, the Homeless & Housing Coalition (CoC) developed several subcommittees and work groups, including the 10-Year Planning Committee, whose primary charge was to develop a Plan to End Homelessness. This Committee identified five overarching goals to guide local planning efforts toward ending homelessness in our community. The Committee selected these goals based on the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness Opening Doors Plan, the national federal plan outlining successful strategies to prevent and end homelessness by 2020. With 2023 upon us, it is clear that more work is needed. The foundation provided by the CoC and its subcommittees will provide the direction needed to continue this work and to further the goals.

Community Development will continue provide housing rehabilitation services to special needs populations, focusing primarily on the frail elderly and the physically disabled.

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

Onondaga County Community Development will invest Emergency Solutions Grant funds to support street outreach. For many years the County has funded and with plans to continue funding the Rescue Mission's Homeless Intervention Services (HIS) Team. The HIS Team operates a mobile unit which provides transportation to medical, psychiatric, substance abuse, employment and other essential service appointments. The HIS Team also connects individuals and families living in places unfit for human habitation with services in the community. The team also provides essential care to people living on the street by distributing coats, hats, gloves, blankets, food and water.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

OCCD will use ESG dollars to fund several shelters providing emergency shelter and transitional housing for a variety of the homeless population. Recent ESG allocations were awarded to :

- Chadwick Residence: Transitional housing for women and children; case work and life skill training available.
- Liberty Resources - DePalmer House: Transitional housing for chronically homeless living with HIV/AIDS.
- Salvation Army – Barnabas Shelter: Provide six Emergency Shelter beds for co-ed, homeless youth/young adults, ages 18-24.

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

Emergency Solutions Grant Request for Proposals for PY 2023 stressed prevention as well as moving those already in the homeless system to permanent housing as soon as possible. To help local associations facilitate the transition to permanent housing and prevent homelessness from occurring, Onondaga County is awarding ESG funds to:

- Volunteer Lawyers Project: Provide legal service for tenants; eviction prevention.

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.

Onondaga County plans to meet the objectives identified in the Special Needs portion of the Strategic Plan by continuing programs, identifying resources, applying for funds, and implementing programs to support the objectives. Both the public and private sector will be utilized to address the unmet housing needs of the underserved low-income households and special needs populations.

The County's strategy aimed at the special needs population addresses primarily the elderly, frail elderly and physically disabled populations. Those with mental health, substance use disorders, and persons with HIV/AIDS and their families are primarily addressed through the Continuum of Care with partial support from the Emergency Solutions Grant which continues to provide support for a transitional shelter for persons with HIV/AIDS. The County Office of Mental Health is best positioned to address the needs of those with severe mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.

Through the SHAPE-UP (Safe Housing Assistance Program for the Elderly) program, homes owned and occupied by low income elderly or handicapped are rehabilitated. Grants of up to \$15,000 can be matched with funds from the NYS RESTORE grant award & Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant awarded to OCCD. Some of these repairs are emergency in nature such as leaking roofs or non-functioning furnaces and are critical to keeping many elderly in their homes.

The Ramp program provides accessibility modifications for low-income households with a handicapped family member. Repairs may include exterior ramps, stair chairs, widening of doorways, walk-in showers, & bathroom grab bars. Using both CDBG funds and NYS Access to Home funds, the Ramp

Program will provide grants up to \$15,000 for accessibility modifications for low-income families with a handicapped family member.

Discussion

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

Introduction:

Public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing are complex and varied. OCCD plans to ameliorate some negative effects with several projects.

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

Several OCCD activities will address the removal of barriers to affordable housing. The County will expand housing opportunities for persons with disabilities. Using both CDBG funds and NYS Access to Home funds, the Ramp Program will provide grants up to \$15,000 for accessibility modifications for low-income families with a handicapped family member. Outreach will be on-going.

The County has allocated annual funding to CNY Fair Housing this program year to continue the Education and Enforcement Project which includes education, housing counseling and advocacy, enforcement of fair housing laws, and assistance to victims of predatory lending and lending fraud. ARISE, Inc. is allocated annual funding to provide one-on-one assistance to income eligible individuals with disabilities and their families to stabilize housing situations and maximize independence with the community. ARISE additionally advocates for increased accessible housing and educates housing providers and the public about Fair Housing, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the need for accessible housing.

OCCD will provide financial assistance to first-time low-moderate income homebuyers so that they can purchase a suitable, affordable home. Often, these buyers are limited in the private market to sub-standard homes. With the County's assistance, buyers are getting a home with the needed review and improvements. Homeownership is often cited as a key driver in the building of wealth. For many Americans, owning a home is an essential part of the American dream that conveys several economic benefits, such as the ability to accumulate wealth and access credit by building home equity, and gain long-term savings over the cost of renting.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Typical obstacles to meeting underserved needs include:

1. Economic factors
2. Federal housing policy
3. Fair Housing impediments
4. Insufficient affordable housing
5. Exclusionary zoning
6. Varying zoning and subdivision regulations
7. Permit fees
8. Insufficient availability of accessible housing

The County seeks to address factors #1, #4, and #8 by allocating HOME CHDO set-aside funds for special needs housing. Also, through the RAMP Program and NYS Access to Home funding, accessibility modifications such as ramps, kitchen modifications, and bathroom grab bars and fixtures will be completed in households with a physically handicapped occupant.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The County will expand housing opportunities for persons with disabilities. Using CDBG, HOME and NYS Access to Home funds, the Ramp Program will provide grants up to \$15,000 for accessibility modifications for low-income households with a handicapped family member. Outreach will be ongoing. By providing rehabilitation grants to low-mod income residents, the County decreases the housing cost burden for these residents.

The County will continue to offer the Homeownership Program selling homes at a subsidized cost to first-time home buyers.

HUD funding is distributed annually through the County to area Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) for developing senior and special needs housing within the County. This funding generally meets current CHDO's ability and demand. Additional CHDO's within the County would be welcomed and are encouraged.

The County has allocated annual funding to CNY Fair Housing each program year to implement the Education and Enforcement Project which includes education, housing counseling and advocacy, enforcement of fair housing laws, and assistance to victims of predatory lending and lending fraud. ARISE, Inc. is allocated annual funding to provide one-on-one assistance to income eligible individuals with disabilities and their families, in order to stabilize housing situations and maximize independence with the community. ARISE additionally advocates for increased accessible housing, and educates

housing providers and the public about Fair Housing, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the need for accessible housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Lead based paint hazard reduction continues to be one of the main focuses of OCCD. The following actions will be taken during the next program year as part of the County's Lead Hazard Reduction Program:

1. Ten staff members' certifications as EPA-Licensed Risk Assessors will be maintained with required training as necessary. OCCD's EPA Firm License required to do lead hazard control assessment and rehab will also be maintained.
2. Risk Assessments will be completed in all pre-1978 homes.
3. The Onondaga County Health Dept.'s Lead Poisoning Control Program will conduct educational/outreach events and provide educational materials to program clients completed in conjunction with our HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant.
4. Lead based paint hazard interim controls will be completed on at minimum 45 units during calendar year 2023. To complete these units, it is estimated that at minimum 75 applications will be taken. Of those, 50 or more units will receive paint inspections and risk assessments. Approximately 45 units will qualify for assistance, receive lead hazard control work, and pass clearance testing using dust wipe analysis.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Strategies to reduce the poverty level among households in Onondaga County mirror those recommended in the City of Syracuse Consolidated Plan: creating new economic opportunities and developing a variety of ways to accumulate wealth.

Several economic revitalization projects that are ongoing or expected to begin in the coming years and may include County residents as part of the labor force. While elected officials and community leaders are working to ensure that County residents will make up a substantial part of the labor force working on these projects, both during and after their completion, residents in the County living outside of the city are sure to benefit from these revitalization projects alongside and along with their City neighbors. Additionally, some municipal and residential construction projects funded with CDBG and HOME through the Con Plan and with State and local aid seek to contract 15% of overall contracted project costs to Minority and Women-Owned Businesses. Also, employment opportunities for low-income workers are created through grants awarded to Onondaga County by the NYS Affordable Housing Corporation's, Affordable Home Ownership Development Program. By subsidizing repairs to extend the useful life of low-income owner-occupied homes, this program also reduces the financial burden on

homeowners thus increasing expendable income required for other household essentials.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Onondaga County Community Development (OCCD) is the lead agency and hub of the institutional structure responsible for developing and administering the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan. It works closely with various government agencies and departments, town and village governments, and numerous non-profit and for-profit entities. This protocol of cooperation and communication between the many entities has served the Consortium well.

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

To ensure enhanced cooperation, Onondaga County maintains cooperation agreements with each local municipality as a prerequisite to its status as an urban county, and administers the Town of Clay's CDBG funds under a joint agreement. The Town of Clay and the County are a consortium for HOME grant purposes.

The County will continue to participate in the Continuum of Care. At the regular meetings, members update the community on their activities. These meetings enhance coordination of the delivery of services among health and social service agencies.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Additional program specific requirements are described below. All CDBG Program Income is currently allocated to program activities. HOME and ESG information is identified in the sections below.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	90.00%

**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:

HOME funds are not being used for any other form of investment beyond those described in Section 92.205.

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:

OCCD does not use HOME funds for homebuyer activities.

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:

OCCD does not acquire properties with HOME funds.

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:

OCCD has no plans to refinance existing debt with HOME funds.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable.

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable.

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Not applicable.

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

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

Written standards for providing ESG assistance is included as a part of the ESG RFP process. OCCD's most recent RFP is found here: http://www.ongov.net/cd/documents/ESGRFPFY2023_000.pdf

Highlights from the RFP in regard to written standards include:

SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

Only proposals submitted electronically by the due date...will be considered.

Priority will be given to:

- Homeless & Housing Coalition of CNY agency members in “good standing” as defined in HHC Operational Guidelines, Article III;
- Providers located in Onondaga County;
- Projects that prevent homelessness or seek to promptly return those who are literally homeless to stable housing;
- Organizations having a history of active participation in the local HMIS;
- Projects will be required to participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry process as defined by HUD CPD Notice 17-01 issued January 2017.

Match funds requirements and eligible sources are discussed in detail in the RFP.

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

The Housing & Homeless Coalition of CNY (CoC NY-505) has an established centralized and coordinated assessment system. HHC staff oversees and manages the Coordinated Entry system, including housing the Coordinated Entry list in HMIS.

All projects participating in Coordinated Entry will follow the assessment and triage protocols of the CE System. The CoC has adopted the following phased approach to engage and appropriately serve persons seeking assistance through the Coordinated Entry system;

Initial Triage- This phase will focus on identifying the immediate housing crisis, and clarifying that the CoC crisis response system is the appropriate system to address needs. L-DSS's in each county is responsible for this phase.

Diversion- This phase of assessment will determine if CoC resources and options could be used to avoid the participant entering the homeless system. L-DSS's in each county is responsible for this phase.

Emergency Service Intake- For those who are identified as needing emergency shelter, appropriate shelter placement is made. L-DSS's in each county are responsible for this phase.

Shelter Assessment- Emergency Service providers should attempt to determine whether or not a person needs housing intervention through Coordinated Entry. Development of a housing plan is made in conjunction with the person experiencing homelessness.

Comprehensive Assessment- Emergency service providers should assess using the VI-SPDAT and the Coordinated Entry Specific Data Elements in Attachment II and working with the individual or family to determine the number of months homeless. Case managers should use HMIS records, third party documentation, and up to 3 months of self reported homeless time to document a client's time homeless. This should be completed, at most, two weeks after shelter entry, if it is the first time the individual or family has experienced homelessness. Assessments and referrals can happen immediately for anyone that is unsheltered or has been in emergency shelter within the last year. Emergency service providers should also be determining chronic homeless status and obtaining necessary paperwork.

The full plan can be found here: <http://www.hhccny.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Coordinated-Entry-Plan-2020-Final.pdf>

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 following is from OCCD's ESG Policies & Procedures:

- 1) Release of Request for Proposals – Annually, OCCD shall issue a Request for Proposals for ESG funds in the first quarter of each year. The RFP shall be published online on the CD website at www.ongov.net/cd, shall be distributed via the Homeless and Housing Vulnerable Task Force list serv, and shall be announced at a regular meeting of that Task Force. Additionally, CDD shall send the RFP via mail to all current ESG recipients. Proposals shall be due back to OCCD within an approximate one-month time period. Changes to the RFP will be made as needed to incorporated changes in HUD and/or local policy.
- 2) Proposal Review – OCCD's Administrator and Housing Program Coordinator shall review all

proposals submitted for completeness, that funds requested would be used for eligible activities, and that match requirements would be met. OCCD will prepare a summary report of proposals received to present to the Steering Committee for project selection. OCCD will prepare recommendations for the steering committee based on funding availability, proposals received, agency performance, and community needs.

- 3) **Steering Committee Selection** – The Community Development Division Steering Committee shall select projects and funding levels. OCCD will work with the steering committee to ensure that HUD funding caps on essential services and homeless prevention activities are met.
 - 4) **Notification of Selection** – OCCD shall notify all agencies in writing of the outcome of project selection.
 - 5) **Proposal Modification** – OCCD will ask agencies as needed to increase or decrease funding requests, and submit amended budgets, based on actual HUD ESG allocations (which may or may not be known during the RFP process), and on committee awards.
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.

All sub recipients are required to have a homeless or formerly homeless individual(s) on their advisory board and/or request and receive feedback on the program. This feedback is part of the annual monitoring tool to ensure compliance.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The following is from OCCD's ESG Management & Monitoring Procedures:

Monitoring Process:

The ESG Program Administrators monitoring tool consists of specific standards for operating and managing ESG projects. The tool includes review of policies and procedures, fiscal management, and program participant records. The ESG Program Administrator will bring forth the monitoring tool to the ESG funded agencies for review. Monitoring visits will consist of onsite review and off site review of policies, fiscal management, and program participant records. ESG funded projects should submit policies and procedures documents to the ESG Program Administrator via email. The ESG Program Administrator will schedule on site monitoring visits with each program. Programs should prepare for the ESG Program Administrator to review the annual performance report (APR), fiscal management, and program participant files during onsite monitoring visits. The ESG Program Administrator will review 5 or 10% whichever is greater, of each project's participant files.

The ESG Program Administrator will provide pre monitoring visits upon agencies request or need. During these visits, the ESG Program Administrator will discuss any significant findings with projects from the previous monitoring year. The ESG Program Administrator will notify the projects of noncompliance with program regulations. During these visits the ESG Program Administrator will determine what projects may need additional oversight. The ESG Program Administrator will work with each project on the root causes of poor performance and target actions that will improve project outcomes to prepare for the annual monitoring visit.

