



CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, IOWA
CDBG ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2019 (CITY FISCAL YEAR 2020) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN-**AMENDMENT**

PRELIMINARY DRAFT FOR REVIEW (5/11/2020)

COMMENT PERIOD PUBLICATION (5-day public comment period, per Citizen Participation Plan):
Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier; **May XX, 2020**

HOUSING COMMISSION (PUBLIC) MEETINGS ON:
May XX, 2020 (Opened the 5-day public comment period)
May YY, 2020 (Closed the 5-day public comment period; Recommendation made to City Council)
Publication: Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier; **May XX, 2020**

CITY COUNCIL (PUBLIC) MEETINGS ON:
May 18th, 2020 (Council sets public hearing for **June 1st, 2020**)
June 1st, 2020 (Adoption) (After a properly-noticed public hearing was conducted)
Publication: Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier; **May ZZ, 2020**

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

Introduction

The City of Cedar Falls anticipates receiving an allocation of \$253,085 in Community Development Block Grant funding and approximately \$1.3M in Housing Choice Voucher funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2019. There are no match requirements for either CDBG under the Entitlement Program or HCV funding.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Public/Federal	Housing Rehab and Repair, Agency Assistance, Infrastructure Development, Community and Economic Development Efforts, Public Service Improvements, Demolition/Clearance, Neighborhood Access, Neighborhood Improvements, Acquisition, Planning and Administration	\$253,085	\$0	\$372,039 (Estimated)	\$625,124 (Estimated)	\$1,012,340 (Estimated)	
CDBG-CV	Public/Federal	Housing Rehab and Repair, Agency Assistance, Planning and Administration	\$160,662	\$0	\$0	\$160,662	\$0	
HCV	Public/Federal	Rent Assistance	\$1,300,000 (Estimated)	\$0	\$0	\$1,300,000 (Estimated)	\$5,200,000 (Estimated)	

Table 1 – Goals Summary

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

CDBG funds will be used to provide rehabilitation and repair grants for single family homeowners. Also, CDBG funds, awarded to agencies, will be used in

conjunction with other agency funding sources in order to provide services to Cedar Falls households. Finally, the City will support Code Enforcement, Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements, Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements, and Neighborhood Recreational Improvements, and transportation services or amenities in low-to-moderate income areas of the community.

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

Goals, and the activities under each goal, that are categorized as Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements (i.e. sanitary sewer, water, drainage), Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements (i.e. sidewalks, trails, curb cuts), and Neighborhood Recreational Improvements (i.e. parks, playgrounds) will likely occur on publicly-owned land. Specifically, the publicly-owned rights-of-way and parks will be used to address the needs identified in this plan.

Annual Goals and Objectives

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

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding Estimate	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Maintain Affordable Housing: Owner Occupied Units	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$16,500 \$116,500	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated or Repaired: 3 6 Household Housing Units
2	Maintain Affordable Housing: Renter Occupied Units	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$101,320	Rental Housing Rehabilitated or Repaired: 3 Household Housing Units
3	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing through Code Enforcement	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing and Promote Neighborhood Development	CDBG: \$10,000	Apply Code requirements to residential units in LMI Areas: 75 Households Assisted
4	Prevent Homelessness Through Agency and Organization Support	2019	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Prevent Homelessness and Offer Family and Children's Services	CDBG: \$37,960 \$70,092	Public Service Activities Other than LMI Housing Benefit: 4,040 6,000 persons assisted Homeless person overnight shelter: 40 persons assisted
5	Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide and LMI Area Benefit	Promote Infrastructure Development	CDBG: \$251,820	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activity, other than LMI Housing Benefit: 375 persons assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding Estimate	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Provide Access to Transportation Services	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide and LMI Area Benefit	Promote Neighborhood Development; Support Economic Development; Business Development	CDBG: \$0	Public Service Activities Other than LMI Housing Benefit: 0 persons assisted
7	Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	LMI Area Benefit	Promote Infrastructure Development and Promote Neighborhood Development	CDBG: \$106,909	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activity, other than LMI Housing Benefit: 80 persons assisted
8	Neighborhood Recreational Amenities	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	LMI Area Benefit	Promote Neighborhood Development and Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$50,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activity, other than LMI Housing Benefit: 135 persons assisted
9	Demolition and Clearance	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	LMI Area Benefit	Demolition and Clearance	CDBG: \$0	Buildings Demolished: 0 Buildings
10	CDBG Planning and Administration	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide and LMI Area Benefit	Provide Effective Planning and Administration	CDBG: \$50,615 \$79,145	Not Applicable

Table 2 – Goals Summary

AP-35 Projects - 91.220(d)

Introduction

The projects chosen for funding allocation all serve a purpose in efforts to prevent homelessness, preserve the current housing stock of affordable homes in the area and provide services that are essential to keeping residents in their homes. These programs were designated to improve the housing stock, prevent homelessness and improve areas that meet the national objective in the community. Funds will be utilized in an efficient manner and serve those with the greatest need.

#	Project Name
1	Single-Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation
2	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
3	Code Enforcement
4	Agency and Organization Support
5	Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements
6	Provide Access to Transportation Service
7	Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements
8	Neighborhood Recreational Amenities
9	Demolition and Clearance
10	CDBG Planning and Administration

Table 3 – Project Information

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

In order to serve Cedar Falls residents, funding will be allocated toward making housing more affordable, preserving existing affordable housing stock, increasing affordable housing, supporting low-to-moderate income neighborhood investment, and assisting citizens with accessing services. Funding will be focused on meeting two National CDBG Objectives, assisting low-to-moderate income persons and eliminating slum and blight in the community.

The primary barrier for assisted households is, and has been, the price of housing. Further, the resources available for the program outlined in this plan have been static, or even declining in some years. Conversely, the regulations and requirements associated with funded projects have increased along with administrative expenditures

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Single-Family Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls (Citywide)
	Goals Supported	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing: Owner Occupied Units
	Needs Addressed	Maintain Affordable Housing
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$16,500 \$116,500 (Estimated)
	Description	Rehabilitation of Owner Occupied Units; LMI Households
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 36 households will benefit from the CDBG Rehabilitation Program
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)
	Planned Activities	Eligible activities expected to be conducted include (but not limited to) repair or replacement of the mechanical systems, roofs, doors, foundations, structural repair, wall and attic insulation, interior wall panels, windows and siding.
CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons	
2	Project Name	Rental Housing Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls (Citywide)
	Goals Supported	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing: Renter Occupied Units
	Needs Addressed	Maintain Affordable Housing; Ensure Fair Housing for Residents
	Funding Target	\$101,320 (Estimated)
	Description	Repair of Renter Occupied Units; LMI Households
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 3 households will benefit from this limited CDBG Rehabilitation Program
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)
	Planned Activities	Eligible activities expected to be conducted include (but not limited to) repair or replacement of the mechanical systems, roofs, doors, foundations, structural repair, wall and attic insulation, interior wall panels, windows and siding.
CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons	
3	Project Name	Code Enforcement
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls; LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	Preserve Affordable Housing Through Code Enforcement
	Needs Addressed	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$10,000 (Estimated)
	Description	Funds will be used to pay for code enforcement services provided to LMI areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit approximately 75 households in Cedar Falls.
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)
	Planned Activities	City staff inspection services for persons in LMI Areas in the community
CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas	

4	Project Name	Agency and Organization Support
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls; LMI Limited Clientele
	Goals Supported	Prevent Homelessness Through Support of Agencies and Organizations
	Needs Addressed	Support for Services for Homeless, Near-Homeless, Special Needs; Provide Family and Children's Services
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$37,960 \$70,092 (Estimated)
	Description	Funds will be used to pay for financial education, nutrition, homelessness and sheltering, healthcare, family and children's, and substance abuse services for Cedar Falls residents who are seeking assistance that prevent homelessness.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit approximately 4,040 6,000 persons in the Cedar Falls area.
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)
	Planned Activities	Offer eligible services, through contracting agencies and organizations, which could prevent homelessness in the community
CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons; Limited Clientele	
5	Project Name	Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Promote Infrastructure Development
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$251,820 (Estimated)
	Description	Funds will be used to improve infrastructure, specifically sanitary sewer service, to LMI areas. Street, water, stormwater management, and drainage improvements may also be funded.
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit approximately 375 persons in the Cedar Falls area.
	Location Description	LMI Areas
	Planned Activities	Line sanitary sewer lines to residential units located in LMI areas in the community
CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas	
6	Project Name	Provide Access to Transportation Services
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls (Citywide); LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	Provide Access to Transportation Services
	Needs Addressed	Support Economic Development, Business Opportunities, and Commercial Building Redevelopment; Promote Neighborhood Development
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$0 (Estimated)
	Description	Provide access to transit services for LMI households in the community
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit approximately 0 people in the Cedar Falls area.
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)
	Planned Activities	Offer transit passes to LMI households or extend transit service routes and/or hours of service to LMI areas

	CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
7	Project Name	Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Promote Neighborhood Development
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$106,909 (Estimated)
	Description	Infill sidewalk and trail gaps in LMI areas in the community
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit approximately 80 persons in the Cedar Falls area.
	Location Description	LMI Areas
	Planned Activities	This will be accomplished by infilling pedestrian improvements that will connect LMI households to service agencies, organizations, educational, recreational facilities, and employment opportunities and centers. Projects will be completed in residential neighborhoods using sidewalk, curb cuts/ADA ramps, and trails in LMI areas.
	CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
8	Project Name	Neighborhood Recreational Amenities
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Recreational Amenities
	Needs Addressed	Promote Neighborhood Development
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$50,000 (Estimated)
	Description	Install park and recreational improvements, trees, and aesthetic amenities located in parks or other public property in LMI areas of the community
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity will benefit approximately 500 persons in the Cedar Falls area.
	Location Description	LMI Areas
	Planned Activities	Install or replace playground equipment, trees, and recreational amenities in local city parks or other public properties serving LMI areas and households
	CDBG National Objective	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
9	Project Name	Demolition and Clearance
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls LMI Areas
	Goals Supported	Demolition and Clearance
	Needs Addressed	Conduct Demolition and Clearance Activities
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$0 (Estimated)
	Description	The funds will be used to prevent slum and blight throughout the Cedar Falls City limits by demolishing and clearing dilapidated buildings and structures in the community
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Demolition of approximately 0 dilapidated units in the City
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)

	Planned Activities	Demolish approximately 0 dilapidated units within the City
	CDBG National Objectives	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas; Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
10	Project Name	CDBG Planning and Administration
	Target Area	City of Cedar Falls (Citywide)
	Goals Supported	All of the AAP goals are supported by this function or activity
	Needs Addressed	Provide Effective Planning and Administration
	Funding Target	CDBG: \$50,615 \$79,145 (Estimated)
	Description	General management, oversight and coordination of the CDBG Program, policy planning, environmental reviews, report preparation, and administration will be financed using CDBG funds
	Target Date	6/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not Applicable
	Location Description	City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (Administered)
	Planned Activities	Administrative and planning activities, associated with the CDBG program
	CDBG National Objectives	Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas; Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight

Table 4 – Project Summary

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

Our programs will serve Low-Moderate Income (LMI) households, LMI Limited Clientele agencies or organizations, or serve LMI areas, as defined by the Census Bureau and HUD. CDBG funding is used throughout the City of Cedar Falls as well as for purchasing services from a limited number of agencies that may not be located in Cedar Falls, but which will provide services to Cedar Falls residents.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City of Cedar Falls and/or its Residents	100%

Table 5 – Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

As noted above, the City will only assist individual LMI households under activities 1, 2, and 6, and it plans to fund agencies serving LMI households or offering LMI Limited Clientele, as is allowed annually under activity 4. Also, it plans to use funds to benefit LMI areas within the community for activities 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9 shown above. To that end, there are currently 7 census tracts with 8 block groups that have an LMI percentage of 51 percent or greater (ACS 2011-2015). Specifically, Census tract 2200 block group 2 and 3; tract 2301 block group 3; tract 2303 block group 1; tract 2304 block group 2; tract 2500 block group 3; tract 2603 block group 4; and tract 2604 block group 5. These areas may receive funding assistance for improving infrastructure, transportation connectivity, and park and recreational amenities and services.

Discussion

The qualifying block groups are scattered throughout the community, and the City does intend to use CDBG funding to support LMI-specific areas. Most of the agency or family support programs funded through CDBG and these programs are based on an individual household LMI determination or on a Limited Clientele basis. Rehabilitation programs, and those benefitting a specific household, will require participants to meet LMI income guidelines.

The City was unable to amend the table in this section. With that said, for the life of this Annual Action Plan, the City has projected that it will expend 19 percent of its budget on specific low-and-moderate income households under its homeowner and rental rehabilitation programs citywide, while planning to expend 67 percent of its overall budget for LMI area benefit projects. Public service support citywide is projected to be six percent and planning and administration eight percent.

AP-55 Affordable Housing Goals – 91.220(g)

Goals: The following goals were established in this Action Plan for CDBG Use in the City.

1	Goal Name	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing: Owner Occupied Units
	Goal Description	Continue to provide housing grants for rehabilitation, repair, accessibility and structural hazard removal grants to eligible low-and-moderate income households in order to preserve owner-occupied single-family housing stock.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objective 1 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons
2	Goal Name	Maintain Existing Affordable Housing: Renter Occupied Units
	Goal Description	Create housing grants for rehabilitation, repair, accessibility, and structural hazard removal grants to eligible low-and-moderate income households in order to preserve renter-occupied housing stock.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objective 1 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons
3	Goal Name	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing through Code Enforcement
	Goal Description	Working with the Elected Officials, Housing Commission, and Staff, continue to equitably enforce municipal code provisions that affect the safety of housing conditions, including property and rental inspections, municipal infractions, and building and structural codes (i.e. fire, mechanical, plumbing, electrical codes). Associated expenses in low-and-moderate income areas would benefit from implementing this goal.
	Plan Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objective 1 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
4	Goal Name	Prevent Homelessness Through Support of Agencies and Organizations
	Goal Description	Continue supporting agencies providing homeless services, including sheltering, in the community, as well as providing financial counseling, nutritional, substance abuse, family services, and healthcare.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objectives 1 and 3 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons; Limited Income Clientele
5	Goal Name	Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements
	Goal Description	This goal provides for funding of infrastructure projects including street, water, sanitary sewer, stormwater management, and other projects in specific neighborhoods qualifying as low-and-moderate income areas.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objective 2 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
6	Goal Name	Provide Access to Transportation Services
	Goal Description	Program provides funding for transportation to income-eligible households that are dependent upon these services in order to maintain employment.

	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objectives 1 and 4 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based, Public Sector Policy Based, and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
7	Goal Name	Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements
	Goal Description	Improved sidewalks, steps, curb-cuts, and trails that address accessibility barriers to residents in LMI areas, as identified by the Census Bureau.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objectives 2 and 4 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based, Public Sector Policy Based, and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
8	Goal Name	Neighborhood Recreational Amenities
	Goal Description	Provide funds for increasing access to healthy lifestyles and educational advancement related to parks, recreation, trees, and active living parks in LMI areas of the community.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objectives 2 and 4 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based Actions and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas
9	Goal Name	Conduct Demolition and Clearance Activities
	Goal Description	The primary purpose of this project is the demolition and clearance of dilapidated structures, thus eliminating specific conditions of blight or physical decay on a local basis. Individual demolition/clearance activities will be subject to CDBG eligibility verification.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objective 2 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas • Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
10	Goal Name	CDBG Planning and Administration
	Goal Description	Provide CDBG Administrative Services, by city staff or contractors assisting city staff. The program provides effective planning and administration for CDBG programs that benefit low-and-moderate income areas and households in the community.
	Plan References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Plan Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4 • Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Sector Market Based, Public Sector Policy Based, and Private Sector Market Based Actions.
	National Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons and/or areas • Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight

Table 6 – Goal Description

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

The City of Cedar Falls does not own or manage public housing facilities, nor are there any located in the community, and therefore, this Action Planning process did not include evaluation of the needs of public housing, increasing engagement of public housing residents in the process, or addressing a “troubled” public housing agency.

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

To address homeless and special needs populations, the City of Cedar Falls uses the maximum allowable dollars for distribution to several agencies, as has been noted. The allocation process includes a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) process, whereby prospective agencies outline the services that they can offer to the City. The City conducts onsite monitoring visits to each agency receiving funds. These monitoring visits help ensure that quality services are being delivered while providing an opportunity for staff to become more aware of the service details, needs, and impacts. Finally, the awarded agencies from the prior year are given an opportunity to attend a City Housing Commission Meeting to discuss their program; offer insight regarding needs, particularly those that are unmet; and assuring the City that the CDBG funds are having a positive impact on its residents.

The City addresses homelessness and special needs in the following ways. First, the City funds agencies where expenses relate to operating homeless shelters (Salvation Army in prior years). Second, the City also funds agencies such that they may offer specific training and education that may affect a household’s needs, by hopefully offering resources regarding financial management, abuse, and family relationships, credit counseling and Family and Children’s Council. Third, the City offered CDBG funding for at-home healthcare, outpatient mental health services, and substance abuse counseling. Finally, the City, using its CDBG funds, hopes to address hunger and nutritional needs by funding the regional food bank. As is generally expected, resident needs outpace the amount of funding the City is able to offer the agencies through the CDBG program alone.

AP-70: HOPWA Goals – 91.220(l)(3)

The City of Cedar Falls is not a HOPWA recipient.

AP-75 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.220(j)

Currently, the need for quality, affordable housing is outpacing the existence of such units in Cedar Falls. Between demand on the units by full-time residents, and that which comes with being a university community and its student housing needs, the City has demand for affordable housing.

Two public policy issues were raised during the planning process, parking paving requirements for rental properties and the inability of the current zoning ordinance to effectively address growth that includes mixing of uses, increased development densities, and market pressures in fast-growing areas of the community (i.e. Main Street). Regarding the paving requirement, since adoption of the ordinance in February 2015, the City has reviewed the requirement three separate times. The cost impact of this policy has been part of that discussion, particularly a concern about hard-surfacing gravel driveways of existing single-unit rental homes, whereas, the drive of an existing single-unit owner-occupied unit may remain gravel. CDBG funds could be used to assist qualifying properties comply with the requirement. Also, recently, the City announced it was planning to update its existing zoning ordinance, with the idea that it may choose to include both form-based and conventional zoning provisions for specific parts of the community. This may promote more dense development, which could help to preserve affordability, that is design-based, as opposed to being impacted exclusively by conventional zoning requirements, which focus on use and bulk requirements (i.e. height, setbacks, yard area).

With that said, there are several different kinds of barriers to the development or creation of affordable housing in Cedar Falls, some of which are outside of the City’s ability to control. First, the housing market, for low-income residents in Cedar Falls, is relatively expensive, with home valuation and rent costs being relatively high. Second,

housing demand in the community has driven-up construction costs for both single-family and multiple-family developments. For example, significant demand for rental properties, some of which is attributed to the University of Northern Iowa student population, has increased prices dramatically, to the point of making units unaffordable for low-and-moderate income households. Third, market demand has driven the price of land upward in the community, not to mention the high costs associated with “greenfield” residential development (that which occurs on previously undeveloped land), most notably infrastructure costs. Finally, declining or static local and federal resources, which could be allocated toward affordable housing projects, coupled with ever-increasing program requirements, have also been a key impediment to addressing low-and-moderate income housing needs.

By looking at the two issues cited above, the City of Cedar Falls is taking action to ameliorate negative effects of public policy during this process. Also, the City may wish to explore public-private-nonprofit partnerships in the development of affordable housing. Nonprofit developers can build mixed income housing and attract additional resources/financing that private developers cannot, when it comes to creating new affordable housing. Said housing may be marketed at workforce housing as opposed to being labeled affordable. Nevertheless, the City does recognize the effect that their housing market is having on the price of housing, which may affect whether or not people can afford to live in the community. Further, the City’s Comprehensive Plan identifies future use including areas that may be developed at higher densities, which may help address the availability of affordable housing. Specifically, the plan identifies the following areas that may be suitable for higher density development: along University Avenue, west of Hudson Road; immediately east of the University of Northern Iowa; and intermixed with uses in the Main Street area, between 1st Street and 7th Street. The codes, specifically zoning, building, and other regulatory ordinances that the City has adopted are designed and drafted to treat properties and people uniformly and fairly. Further, fees are either “flat” or based upon the value of the improvements made to properties in an attempt to create fairness. Finally, property tax assessment is based upon valuation, as determined by the County Assessor. Regarding the levy rate for determining actual property tax amounts, they are set by the City Council as part of their annual budgeting process. Said levy rates are set by classification (property use), the percentage of which that is actually collected by the City is determined by the State of Iowa. Currently, residentially-classified property is rolled-back by the state such that local governments may only tax at a rate of approximately 55 percent of a property’s market or 100 percent value. In addition, in 2015, the State adopted a rollback for multi-residential properties that was to be implemented over several years. The tax rate began at 86.25 percent of a property’s market value, and over eight years, it will incrementally reduce in percentage until it is the same rollback as that of residentially-classified properties (i.e. in the 50-60 percent range). This, then, reduces property tax income for the City.

With that said, the City recognizes the higher cost of housing in their community, which may be attributed to market demand, land value, and development cost (primarily infrastructure). Obviously, then, this higher cost may not allow for persons with limited means to reside in the community. As a result, the City’s participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program becomes that much more important. The CDBG Entitlement has offered not only physical housing assistance in the way of rehabilitation and repair programs, the City offers assistance to residents for the services, the cost of which were borne by the Program, thus not requiring persons to have to make difficult decisions between paying for housing-related expenses and the other services they may need. It also allows for infrastructure investments, avoiding increases in other rates, taxes, or assessments for property owners because CDBG funds are used.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.220(k)

Introduction

The City of Cedar Falls is able to address obstacles to meeting the underserved needs through networking with public service agencies and nonprofit organizations to prevent homelessness and provide affordable housing to Cedar Falls residents. Also, the City is working to maintain the affordable housing stock in the area and provide decent and safe conditions to its residents.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Cedar Falls will continue to work with public service agencies and nonprofit organizations to ensure we are reaching the goal of assisting residents with the greatest need. In addition, we will work with code enforcement and other departments to identify potential at-risk residents. Declining resources have been a key impediment to addressing needs. By networking with other agencies, we can combine multiple funding sources to provide more services to low-and-moderate income residents.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Cedar Falls continues to work to foster and maintain affordable housing. The Housing Rehabilitation and Repair Programs assist qualified homeowners with substantial home rehabilitation or repairs to existing units. Funding has also been provided to provide financial education classes and planning, as well as family support services. Habitat for Humanity encourages affordable housing through new construction and housing rehabilitation programs that they manage within the community. In addition, the City offers reduced refuse, sewer and storm water fees to households below the 50% income guidelines. This is accomplished by the City using its general funds to assist, which in-turn lowers the cost of housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments directly, or through its subcontractor, provides lead risk assessment and completes lead-based paint clearance testing on the housing rehabilitation projects in Cedar Falls. The City will continue to work with local, county, regional and other government agencies to achieve lead safe homes. The city provides "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" brochure to educate CDBG applicants about the dangers of lead in the home.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City, including Community Development Department and its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (which may also be known as the Cedar Falls Low Rent Housing Agency or Cedar Falls Housing Authority), and their contractor, the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments will work to strengthen the institutional structure used to manage the CDBG Entitlement Program. Together, they will also work to close the housing delivery gap between public and non-public organizations in the community. Said organizations will also address the gap that exists with regard to private housing industry participation in developing the City's institutional structure. Specifically, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program will work with private industry to increase and maintain affordable housing stock for low-to-moderate income households. Through experience, participation in local, regional (PHA Director Association), state (Iowa NAHRO, Iowa Association of Housing Officials), and national (NAHRO, American Planning Association) housing and planning organizations, educational opportunities, and peer-to-peer exchanges with other CDBG Entitlement recipients, staff-members will become more proficient in executing, managing, assessing, and anticipating change within the program. Further, the same entities, together with the City of Waterloo Community Development Department, will continue to do likewise with the institutional

structure associated with administering the HOME Program.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Cedar Falls has incorporated the Continuum of Care approach, providing an integrated system of services and programs to meet the various needs of individuals as they progress toward financial self-sufficiency. Cedar Falls has worked with local service providers to pursue resources and innovative partnerships to support the development of affordable housing; prevent homelessness, abuse, and substance abuse; offer housing education and literacy; and provide emergency food and shelter.

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

Community outreach is key in enhancing coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. Staff attends Community Resource Fairs, and workshops with a number of local public service agencies and non-profit organizations. The meetings offer opportunities to foster relationships as well as identify the services each organization and/or agency is providing. By educating participating organizations on services available in the community, we are better positioned to meet the needs of the low-moderate-income individuals and households in the city.

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - CDBG 91.220(I)(1)

CDBG-funded projects that are expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Summary Table (AP-35) above. The following identifies any program income that may available for use in said projects.

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 percent of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low-and-moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%

AP-90: Program-Specific Requirements-HOME 91.220(I)(2)

The City of Cedar Falls is not a direct HOME recipient. It is part of a consortium with the City of Waterloo, Iowa.

AP-90: Program-Specific Requirements-ESG 91.220(I)(4)

The City of Cedar Falls is not an ESG recipient.

AP-90: Program-Specific Requirements-HOPWA 91.220(I)(3)

The City of Cedar Falls is not a HOPWA recipient.

AP-90: HTF Specific Review 91.220(I)(5)

The City of Cedar Falls does not administer HTF funds.