

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls prepares a five year strategic plan in order to efficiently implement federal programs that fund housing, community development and neighborhood based services within the City. Public participation is essential to this process.

The end result of the process: a consolidated plan and annual applications for the use of federal entitlement funds available through CDBG, HOME and ESG. We submit this five year strategic plan to the HUD for approval.

The plan serves the following functions:

- A management tool that focuses HUD investment on a comprehensive strategy rather than a series of isolated annual applications and projects.
- An application for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds under HUD's formula grants.
- An assessment tool to track annual spending and project based performance.

The plan sets the City of Niagara Falls' goals over the next five years and provides the city's approach to address the following generally defined needs and objectives with a focus on benefiting low to moderate income persons:

- 1) public infrastructure
- 2) the rehabilitation and construction of decent, affordable and safe housing
- 3) creation of a suitable living environment
- 4) removal of slums and blight
- 5) improving public services
- 6) expanding economic opportunities

The City of Niagara Falls' five year plan was built through community input and interaction. Throughout 2014, stakeholder, agency, community meetings, hearings, a nonprofit application process, and public comment periods were held throughout the community. The framework of a new consolidated plan has also been used to help make future financial decisions. City officials had real conversations with traditional stakeholders and the level of available funds versus applicant requests. These meetings have created new partnerships between nonprofit organizations, dedicated to finding new funding sources.

As detailed in this plan, the proposed objectives and the specific projects in the 2015 annual plan attempt to responsibly address the needs of the Niagara Falls community.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

The Five Year Strategic Plan is designed to be straightforward and results driven. As opposed to general goals, our department has evaluated past performance and results to create a list of objectives and desired outcomes. Goal and objective setting has been directly impacted by the citizen participation process.

The plan's specific objectives are simple:

- A 10 percent increase in prime occupant, owner occupied, residential units renovated by United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program throughout the City of Niagara Falls.
- A 15 percent increase in home ownership closing cost grants, funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.
- A 10 percent reduction of vacant housing units citywide.
- An increase the percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent housing.
- Reconfiguration of existing housing renovation target areas to a city-wide model. Currently, limited sections of the city are deemed geographically ineligible for (CDBG) and HOME funded grants. A city wide model, for HUD eligible residents, will increase housing renovation opportunities.
- An annual funding commitment to functional job training programs within the City of Niagara Falls with a focus on entry level trades and medical arts employment opportunities.
- An annual funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range.
- An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
- The formalization of a housing renovation consortium between historic (HUD) funding subrecipients.
- An annual funding commitment to public infrastructure improvements in residential areas.

- An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.
- An annual funding commitment to capital small business development projects.
- A commitment to the sale and renovation of city owned vacant houses whenever financially feasible. Sale and renovation of these structures prevent costly demolition and support tax base growth. Current tax foreclosure auctions perpetuate the cycle of disinvestment and unsuitable housing for low income residents. In addition, these transformations increase the quality of life for surrounding residents.
- Annual investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.
- Adoption of a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Process (CPTED) in cooperation with the city's departments of police, fire and public works for all capital projects funded by CD. This process, supported by the United States Department of Justice, will best help ensure that CD projects are safe and planned appropriately.
- Adoption of quarterly community development meetings with the public in addition to annual action plan meetings. Our department is well served by community input and interaction. Increasing outreach opportunities will assist the department meet strategic goals and objectives.
- Creation of a small business advocate program to better connect local small businesses with internet based advertising and promotional opportunities.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The 2009-2014 consolidated plan period has shown both the city's strengths and weaknesses in administering HUD funds. It was also a period of change for the department. Seth Piccirillo became the Director of Community Development. One of the weaknesses that is being addressed is both the timely expenditure of HOME funds and attraction of qualified contractors. Overall timeliness has also been an area of focus. Past consolidated and annual plans focused on allocation to traditional funding sources, year after year. While these projects focused on the stated national objectives, the allocation of funding has led to timeliness issues, especially for housing renovation efforts. The clearly defined goals and objectives within the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan are designed to expend funding within the FFY that they were awarded.

The 2015 annual plan and the five year plan reflect a commitment to expend HUD funds promptly on eligible projects. A focus on infrastructure and public space improvements allow the city to show the proof and promise of investment within a construction season. These investments also reflect the public input received at neighborhood meetings.

In 2013, the City of Niagara Falls participated in the Strengthening WNY's Safety Net "A Community Report of Niagara Falls." The report was prepared by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute and the John R. Oishei Foundation Mobile Safety-Net Team. The research groups conducted 359 citizen surveys,

created six resident focus groups, conducted agency interviews and focus groups and used the following sources as secondary data:

2010 Census, 2007-2011 American Community Survey, Social Explorer Reports, NYS Department of Health, NYS Education Department 2011 School Card, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Statistics and Reference USA. A copy of the report summary is attached. The report's recommendations were used as part of our strategic plan meetings and helped inform our decision making process. The objectives and specific projects proposed in our plans reflect the needs and concerns discovered during this research.

In 2013, the City of Niagara Falls also completed a full Citywide Parks Master Plan, conducted by Bergmann Associates. It included city, housing authority, police department, block club, state parks and business association input. The plan provides the City of Niagara Falls with clear guidance regarding proposed improvements and capital needs for each city park within the system. In the past, public realm investments were done as individual projects. There was no plan or schedule of investment. This included community development funded projects. With access to a master plan and strong public support for public park improvements, the City of Niagara Falls can now strategically invest HID funds into a better, city-wide parks system.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

NF Community Development is the lead agency in the coordination and development of the five year plan and strategy. The following public and private agencies also participated in its development: NF Housing Auth

NF Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. Center City Neighborhood Dev Corp Highland Community Revit Comm Niagara County Dept of Social Services NF Police Dept Niagara County YWCA NF Memorial Medical Center

Family and Children's Services of Niagara Community Missions of Niagara The NF Block Club Council Niagara Community Action Program Niagara University New Jerusalem Boy's Reporting Center Niagara Arts and Cultural Center

Niagara St Bus Assoc Main St Bus Assoc Youth Motivation Inc. The Isaiah 61 Project The God's Woman Project

In developing the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the city utilized multiple formats for input from the general public, community stakeholders, and traditional recipients of HUD funding, including

Public Services Housing Renovation Recipient Roundtable

4.9.14

Funding limitations, especially within the public services allotment, present challenges for each consolidated and annual plan. Mayor Paul Dyster and Niagara Falls Community Development hosted separate roundtables for traditional public services and housing renovation sub-recipients. We discussed alternative funding sources, outside of HUD, and the potential of consortium applications for funding.

Community Survey-May 2014

Surveys were made available to community in May 2014 for a two month period asking them to prioritize neighborhood needs. The city received 31 responses. The surveys indicated that street, sidewalk and green space improvements, crime prevention and housing renovation were the top three community priorities.

Neighborhood Workshops

We hosted four neighborhood workshops to gather input in different geographic areas of the city for both the consolidated plan and the annual plan.

5.21.14 – Lasalle Public Library

5.22.14 – Neighborhood Housing Services

5.28.14 – Doris Jones Family Resource Center

5.29.14 – Department of Community Development

Consolidated Plan Agency Meetings

Niagara Falls Community Development hosted community stakeholder roundtables to discuss priorities for the five year plan, separated into the following sessions:

1. Housing Strategy–9.4.14
2. The Neighborhoods & Commercial Districts–9.4.14
3. Serving Our Youth and At Risk Populations–9.5.14

4. Sustainability–9.5.14

Not-for-profit funding applications

Applications for the CDBG, HOME and ESG available 5.8.14 to 6.30.14

Public Hearing #1 8.21.14 with 30 day public comment period

The Niagara Falls Community Development Department convened the following stakeholder workshops to gain insight into the needs and goals of the community. The department also added a new public participation feature, not included in past plans. We hosted a public workshop on 9.11.14 (Public Hearing #2) to discuss the community's views on housing, neighborhood services, youth/public services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. These topic areas best reflect eligible HUD fundable programs. The five year strategy, was presented to the public at an 10.2.14 (Public Hearing #3), followed by a 30 public comment period and a hearing on 11.3.14 (Public Hearing #4), along with City Council approval.

5. Summary of public comments

Attached please find a summary of the 31 respondents to the citizen survey, ranking the following priority areas:

1. Youth programs
2. Housing rehabilitation
3. Streets, sidewalks, green space improvements
4. Crime prevention
5. Targeted blight clearance
6. Public facility improvements
7. Storefront/local business investment

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

N/A

7. Summary

This five year plan will be a transition document for the City of Niagara Falls and its Community Development Department. The city is using community assessment reporting, master planning and public input to direct HUD investment. While the city is aware of past weaknesses, it is also confident that the quality and frequency of our community outreach has never been better. This strategic plan was built in the public. We hosted a transparent and welcoming process. As we undergo further structural and procedural changes within the next five years, that community outreach focus will remain strong.

A restatement of our goals, in summary:

The plan's objective's support clearly stated community goals:

Increased percentage of new home ownership over 2010-2014.

Decreased number of city owned vacant housing units over 2010-2014.

Increased number of home renovations, citywide over 2010-2014.

Reportable number of residents placed in actual employment opportunities after completing a CD funded program.

Notable improvements made in at a minimum of seven public parks.

Citywide adoption of a demolition evaluation strategy.

Citywide adoption of a CPTED planning process.

Citywide adoption of citystat reporting.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source

The following are the agencies/entities 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		Niagara Falls Community Development Department
HOME Administrator		Niagara Falls Community Development Department
ESG Administrator		Niagara Falls Community Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The City of Niagara Falls Community Development Department is the lead entity for overseeing the development of the Consolidated Plan as well as related project management after approval of the plan.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls reached out and consulted with public and private entities to develop this plan. In accordance with 24 CFR 91.100, these organizations provided a wide range of input and value to the planning process through coordinated meetings and a hearing.

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

The following public and private agencies also participated in its development:

- Niagara Falls Housing Authority
- NF Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.
- Center City Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Highland Community Revitalization Committee
- Niagara County Department of Social Services
- Niagara Falls Police Department
- Niagara County YWCA
- Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
- Family and Children's Services of Niagara
- Community Missions of Niagara
- The Niagara Falls Block Club Council
- Niagara Community Action Program
- Niagara University
- New Jerusalem Boys' Reporting Center
- Niagara Arts and Cultural Center
- Niagara Street Business Association
- Main Street Business Association
- Youth Motivation Inc.
- The Isaiah 61 Project
- The Woman Project

In developing the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the City of Niagara Falls utilized multiple formats for input from the general public, community stakeholders, and traditional recipients of HUD funding, including

Public Services Housing Renovation Recipient Roundtable

4.9.14

Community Survey

5.2014

Surveys were made available to community in May 2014 for a two month period asking them to prioritize neighborhood needs. The city received 31 responses. The surveys indicated that street, sidewalk and green space improvements, crime prevention and housing renovation were the top three community priorities.

Neighborhood Workshops

Niagara Falls Community Development hosted four neighborhood workshops to gather input in different geographic areas of the City of Niagara Falls for both the consolidated plan and the annual plan.

May 21, 2014 – Lasalle Public Library

May 22, 2014 – Neighborhood Housing Services

May 28, 2014 – Doris Jones Family Resource Center

May 29, 2014 – Department of Community Development

Consolidated Plan Agency Meetings

Niagara Falls Community Development hosted community stakeholder roundtables to discuss priorities for the five year plan, separated into the following sessions:

1. Housing Strategy – September 4, 2014
2. The Neighborhoods & Commercial Districts – September 4, 2014
3. Serving Our Youth and At Risk Populations – September 5, 2014
4. Sustainability – September 5, 2014

Not-for-profit funding applications

Applications for the CDBG, HOME and ESG available May 8, 2014 to June 30, 2014.

Public Hearing #1

August 21, 2014 with 30 day public comment period

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

The City of Niagara Falls is a member of the local Continuum of Care. A specific meeting, focused on five year plan strategy was hosted to discuss how to best serve chronically homeless individuals.

The following groups, also members of the CoC, took part in that meeting:

The five year and annual plans were also discussed at a meeting of the full CoC. The CoC also has the opportunity to review and comment on all ESG applications. The same relationship is being established with the Homeless Alliance of Western New York. These meetings have formed the city's approach to ESG programming, especially the rapid rehousing component. The Strengthening WNY's Safety Net Report, with a great deal of participation from CoC members, served as background for decision making and allocation of resources.

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

As described above, the CoC was part of creation of the goals and objectives and have a role in selection of ESG projects. This is an area that requires improvement in the next five years. The city must create a strong review relationship with HAWNY and find new ways to engage CoC stakeholders.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	NFHA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Education Services-Employment Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Center City NDC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	HCRC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Service-Fair Housing Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Niagara County Department of Social Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services - Victims Child Welfare Agency Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Niagara Falls Police Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Civic Leaders

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	YWCA of Niagara Inc
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	Niagara Falls Block Club Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.

9	Agency/Group/Organization	NIAGARA FALLS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Health Services-Employment Health Agency Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.

10	Agency/Group/Organization	COMMUNITY MISSIONS OF NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services - Victims Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Niagara Community Action Plan
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization participated in the targeted consultation meetings.

12	Agency/Group/Organization	Niagara University
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Business Leaders Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization participated in the targeted consultation meetings.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	New Jerusalem Boy's Reporting Center - Independent Church of God in Christ
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Services-Employment Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization participated in the targeted consultation meetings.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	Niagara Arts and Cultural Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization participated in the targeted consultation meetings.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	NIAGARA STREET BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization participated in the targeted consultation meetings.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	Main Street Business Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business and Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	YOUTH MOTIVATION INC
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	The Isaiah 61 Project
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services-Education Services-Employment Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	God's Woman Project
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Education Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This organization took part in the targeted planning meetings.

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

No agency was knowingly not consulted.

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	HAWNY	In consultation with the CoC, Niagara Falls Community Development used the targeted meetings to determine ESG priorities and allocation.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

The City of Niagara Falls is currently part of a Niagara County public transit study with North Tonawanda, the City of Lockport and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. Niagara County's access to public transit needs to improve. Inadequate service, consistently being reduced, is an economic barrier. Coordination among municipalities, and discussion about future transit improvements was part of this strategic plan.

Mayor Paul Dyster is an ex-officio member of the New York State Regional Economic Development Council. This council determines the award of competitive state funding. The City of Niagara Falls was awarded funding for the Downtown Stabilization Project in 2012 and the Trades Training Facility in 2013.

Narrative (optional):

PR-15 Citizen Participation

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

The City of Niagara Falls Community Development is the lead agency in the coordination and development of the five year plan and strategy. The following public and private agencies also participated in its development:

- Niagara Falls Housing Authority
- NF Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.
- Center City Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Highland Community Revitalization Committee
- Niagara County Department of Social Services
- Niagara Falls Police Department
- Niagara County YWCA
- Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
- Family and Children's Services of Niagara
- Community Missions of Niagara
- The Niagara Falls Block Club Council
- Niagara Community Action Program
- Niagara University
- New Jerusalem Boy's Reporting Center
- Niagara Arts and Cultural Center
- Niagara Street Business Association
- Main Street Business Association
- Youth Motivation Inc.
- The Isaiah 61 Project
- The God's Woman Project

This broad group of stakeholders, including public and assisted housing providers and health and services agencies, provided expertise in the needs of our low to moderate income population.

The Community Mission of Niagara, as the local Continuum of Care’s coordinating agency, bolsters the plan’s focus on the needs of homeless persons. As always, Niagara Falls will continue consultation with the Continuum of Care on all Emergency Solution Grant spending.

The Niagara Falls Community Development Department convened the following stakeholder workshops to gain insight into the needs and goals of the community.

HOUSING-September 4

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES-September 4

YOUTH/PUBLIC SERVICES-September 5

HOMELESS PREVENTION/RAPID REHOUSING-September 5

The department also added a new public participation feature, not included in past plans. We hosted a public workshop on September 11, 2014 to discuss the community's views on housing, neighborhood services, youth/public services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. These topic areas best reflect eligible HUD fundable programs.

The five year strategy, focusing on specific objectives and goals, is being presented to the public at an October 2, 2014 public hearing, followed by a 30 public comment period. All comments will be presented to HUD as part of the five year strategy submission. All public meetings were advertised in the Niagara Gazette, as the city's public record publication.

A 30 day public comment followed the public hearing, allowing the community to offer additional input. At the close of the public comment period, the plan will be presented to the Niagara Falls City Council for approval, and then sent to HUD for final approval.

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 Meeting	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Attendees focused on quality of life issues and a continued commitment to housing renovation. Average of 12 people at each of the four neighborhood meetings.	A wide range of topics were discussed. The main needs, related to HUD funding were renovation of blighted structures, increased police presence and parks improvements.	No comments discarded, all accepted.	www.nf-cd.org
2	Public Hearing	Minorities Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	14 attendees. Comments focused on support for the plan, and the same priority areas voiced throughout the process.	A focus on public realm improvements	No comments discarded, all accepted.	WWW.NF-CD.ORG

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	Newspaper Ad	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Survey	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	31	<p>Surveys were made available to community in May 2014 for a two month period asking them to prioritize neighborhood needs. The city received 31 responses. The surveys indicated that street, sidewalk and green space improvements, crime prevention and housing renovation were the top three community priorities.</p>	No comments discarded, all accepted.	www.nf-cd.org

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

In 2013, the City of Niagara Falls participated in the Strengthening WNY's Safety Net "A Community Report of Niagara Falls." The report was prepared by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute and the John R. Oishei Foundation Mobile Safety-Net Team. The research groups conducted 359 citizen surveys, created six resident focus groups, conducted agency interviews and focus groups and used the following sources as secondary data: 2010 Census, 2007-2011 American Community Survey, Social Explorer Reports, NYS Department of Health, NYS Education Department 2011 School Card, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Statistics and Reference USA. Using the Community Report for the City of Niagara Falls to guide needs assessment, the City created a strategic plan and proposed projects to be funded by entitlement grant funds. The city combined the survey data and the input received during the public participation process to set forth goals and objectives.

In terms of housing, adequate housing is as lacking as is affordable housing, especially taking the following statistics into account:

10,900 residents live on incomes under the federal poverty line. 22,425 are doing poorly or struggling financially. This is nearly one out of every two in Niagara Falls.

55% of rental units are substandard. They either cost greater than 30% of income, lack complete plumbing or kitchen facilities and/or house more than one person per room.

About 15% of Niagara Falls' most vulnerable have urgent concerns for food.

37% of those at risk are unemployed.

36% of respondents report walking as their primary form of travel.

The city's population has been shrinking over the past 50 years. From 1960 to 2010, the population decreased from 102,394 to 50,193, representing a 51 percent reduction. Many remaining Niagara Falls families live through tremendous struggles. According to the New York State Department of Labor, Niagara Falls currently has an 8.6 percent unemployment rate, which is higher than the national rate. The 2010 U.S. Census also shows that the following groups have had sub-poverty level income for at least 12 months:

- 17.6% of all families

- 26.6% of families w/ children under 18
- 42.8% of families w/ children under 5
- 35.7% of families w/ female householder/no husband present
- 43% of families w/ female householder/no husband present w/ children under 18
- 68.9% of families w/ female householder/no husband present w/ children under 5

Considerable poverty creates a need for greater public assistance:

4,000 Niagara Falls City School District students qualify for the free lunch program

18.4% of residents receive Food Stamp/SNAP benefits

8.2% of residents receive supplemental security income

5.8% of residents receive cash public assistance

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

Summary of Housing Needs

As highlighted in the collected data and community outreach:

More affordable housing units, in reach of public transit and employment opportunities.

Beyond that general goal, more units that meet housing quality standards. As detailed below, the city's high vacancy rate allows landlords to charge low/moderate income individuals rents that exceed 30% of their income. This trend is not tenable and has a greater socio-economic impact on the city and its services.

Demographics	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Population	55,593	50,570	-9%
Households	24,071	22,328	-7%
Median Income	\$26,800.00	\$32,617.00	22%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households *	4,835	3,700	4,340	2,290	7,165
Small Family Households *	1,305	1,295	1,515	950	3,845
Large Family Households *	135	165	110	225	380
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	785	660	875	415	1,280
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	600	855	865	230	610
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger *	750	605	360	330	470
* the highest income category for these family types is >80% HAMFI					

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Housing Needs Summary Tables

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	95	25	25	15	160	15	25	35	10	85
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	20	4	0	30	54	0	0	4	0	4
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	2,375	260	30	0	2,665	510	390	150	10	1,060

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	700	1,215	495	40	2,450	225	545	720	185	1,675
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	130	0	0	0	130	125	0	0	0	125

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Data 2007-2011 CHAS

Source:

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	2,495	290	55	45	2,885	525	415	195	20	1,155
Having none of four housing problems	1,250	1,780	1,545	830	5,405	315	1,215	2,550	1,395	5,475
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	130	0	0	0	130	125	0	0	0	125

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Data 2007-2011 CHAS

Source:

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	930	795	145	1,870	190	285	395	870
Large Related	125	45	15	185	0	25	30	55
Elderly	615	190	95	900	389	480	265	1,134
Other	1,520	460	270	2,250	160	155	210	525
Total need by income	3,190	1,490	525	5,205	739	945	900	2,584

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	675	110	0	785	155	120	15	290
Large Related	125	45	0	170	0	25	0	25
Elderly	495	50	0	545	239	220	70	529
Other	1,195	60	30	1,285	115	40	65	220
Total need by income	2,490	265	30	2,785	509	405	150	1,064

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	20	4	0	30	54	0	0	4	0	4

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	20	4	0	30	54	0	0	4	0	4

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Data Source
Comments:

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

There are about 22,230 occupied housing units in Niagara Falls. Fewer than six out of ten are occupied. Over three quarters of low income renters pay more than 30% of their household income on housing.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

About one out of every 100 individuals in the city were a victim of a violent crime in 2011. Approximately 9,000 individuals within the city are disabled, with 75% over the age of 18. It is difficult to attribute these statistics to households.

Attached, please find violent crime heating mapping completed by the Niagara Falls Police Department. This geographic data is a driving force for location of specific HUD funded investments.

What are the most common housing problems?

Cost burden and adequate housing. These two problems are listed together because they often occur simultaneously. 22% of city residents live in poverty. There is a stated vacancy issue, with 3,150

vacancies city wide. This means that these structures do not meet municipal code. This allows active landlords to charge higher rates for apartments, even if the units are barely able to pass code inspection. 5,330 lower-income renters are burdened with housing expenses that exceed 30% of their household income.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

These individuals may be currently housed but not in a sustainable situation. They are at risk of sheltered or unsheltered homelessness, and likely have young children. These individuals are likely not on a wait list for leased housing assistance, but have had some recent contact with social services programs. However, they may also not be enlisted in a sustainable program. According to the CoC, they likely have used day center or food pantry services within the last year. They need extremely affordable housing units, but are likely not finding them because they are not currently enlisted in programming. They lack education or vocational training, or transportation.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

Our definition of at-risk: Living on less than \$19,090 for a family of three.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

Housing cost burden greater than 30% to 50% of income is the most accurate barometer of instability. Such a high percentage of limited income will likely lead to sheltered or unsheltered homelessness, as detailed above. For households earning between 30-50% of medium income, it is nearly impossible to sustain quality housing.

As a result, we see our poorest residents living in our oldest housing stock on the verge of homelessness on a constant basis.

Discussion

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

Per HUD, disproportionately greater need is defined as a rate at least 10% higher than that of corresponding income levels as a whole. As we have seen in all of our data, income level is the driving force that leads to the four housing problems, more so than any other factor.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,945	640	250
White	2,205	255	150
Black / African American	1,485	265	50
Asian	20	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	40	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	120	80	35

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,465	1,235	0
White	1,575	1,010	0
Black / African American	695	190	0
Asian	25	30	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	35	4	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,460	2,880	0
White	950	2,385	0
Black / African American	445	380	0
Asian	0	30	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	20	35	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	40	25	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	290	2,000	0
White	240	1,645	0

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Black / African American	20	315	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	30	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	30	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

Discussion

In general, the percentage of households experiencing housing problems is highest for the lowest income bracket (0-30% AMI) and decreases as income increases. This is consistent with the other finding in our data. The four housing problems correlate with low income levels. Property owners know this. This knowledge drives their investment into the property. Income level is a more important factor than any classification.

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205

(b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing needs when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate at least 1% points greater than that of the corresponding income levels as a whole. The data table below summarizes percentages.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,020	1,565	250
White	1,615	840	150
Black / African American	1,255	490	50
Asian	15	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	20	35	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	50	155	35

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	705	2,995	0
White	480	2,110	0
Black / African American	155	725	0
Asian	10	45	0

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	30	10	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	250	4,090	0
White	230	3,105	0
Black / African American	15	805	0
Asian	0	30	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	55	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	65	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	65	2,225	0
White	25	1,860	0
Black / African American	10	325	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	30	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	30	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2007-2011 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

Discussion

In general, the percentage of households experiencing severe housing problems is highest for the lowest income bracket (0-30% AMI) and decreases as income increases. This is consistent with the other finding in our data. The four housing problems correlate with low income levels. Property owners know this. This knowledge drives their investment into the property. Income level is a more important factor than any classification.

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction:

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing needs when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate at least 10% points greater than that of the corresponding income levels as a whole. The data table below summarizes percentages.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,875	4,170	3,860	250
White	11,220	2,735	2,245	150
Black / African American	2,060	1,220	1,430	50
Asian	145	25	24	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	100	40	24	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	255	115	75	35

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Discussion:

In general, the percentage of households experiencing housing problems is highest for the lowest income bracket (0-30% AMI) and decreases as income increases. This is consistent with the other finding in our data. The four housing problems correlate with low income levels. Property owners know this. This knowledge drives their investment into the property. Income level is a more important factor than any classification.

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)

Are there any income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

Based on our analysis, income level trumps any racial or ethnic group classification. Disproportionate need increases as the amount of household income present decreases. We do not aim to present this as an over generalization. We do see a greater housing need in Black/African American households in the 0-30% and 30-50% AMI categories.

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

Resoundingly, the greatest need and concern is cost burden. Lack of kitchen facilities and complete plumbing facilities are reported as needs, as part of a larger complaint about quality housing. These needs are not unreported. These needs are well known. We do not see overcrowding as a great or reported need. Our five year strategic plan and annual plan are designed to address these needs. However, there is a disconnection. Our renovation programs cannot force existing property owners to repair units for renters. While we can focus on the renovation of housing for willing parties and invest in the construction of new affordable units, we must also find new and more effective code enforcement strategies. While this may not require HUD funds, there must be coordination between programs.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

Geographic: Census Tracts 209, 210, 211 and 212.

NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority operates the affordable housing in the City of Niagara Falls. In existence for more than 70 years, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority serves the low to very-low income population. The Niagara Falls Housing Authority is responsible for over 900 affordable housing opportunities.

NFHA communities include: Packard Court, Beloved Community, Harry S. Jordan Gardens, Anthony Spallino Towers and Henry E. Wrobel Towers. Community Facilities: The Niagara Falls Housing Authority also operates two community facilities – the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building (3001 Ninth Street, Niagara Falls) and the Packard Court Community Center (4200 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls).

The Niagara Falls Community Development Department administers the HUD sponsored leased housing program (section 8)

CD's Section 8 Program is designed to achieve four major goals:

1. Provide Improved living conditions for very low-income families while maintain their rent payments at an affordable level.
2. To Promote Freedom of Housing Choice and a Spatial De-Concentration of Lower Income and Minority Families.
3. To Provide Decent, Safe and Sanitary Housing for Eligible Participants.
4. To Provide an Incentive to Private Owners to Rent to Lower Income Families by Offering Timely Assistance Payments.

How Section 8 Works

CD administers the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program for the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County. Separate waiting lists are maintained for each program and applicants may apply to both waiting lists using one application.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	8	0	685	0	676	0	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	
Average Annual Income	0	5,778	0	12,292	0	12,289	0		0
Average length of stay	0	2	0	7	0	7	0		0
Average Household size	0	1	0	2	0	2	0		0

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers				
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher	
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	0	107	0	106	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	1	0	281	0	278	0	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	8	0	685	0	676	0	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

Race	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	7	0	244	0	241	0	0	0
Black/African American	0	1	0	425	0	420	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Program Type									
Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	16	0	15	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 24 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Program Type									
Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	0	31	0	31	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	8	0	654	0	645	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that no qualified individual shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, service or activity receiving federal financial assistance; this applies to housing administered by a public housing authority.

The NFHA is committed to policies that provide access to all individuals, regardless of disability. The City of Niagara Falls are committed to the same policies in administration and supervision of the leased housing program.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders

Currently, the City of Niagara Falls has a 1,700 person wait list for Section 8 Voucher assistance. The NFHA has a 497 person wait list.

A majority of people on the wait list have at least one dependent. Over 50% are in the extremely low income qualification. It is assumed that a majority of people on the wait list have a two room preference.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

The size of the wait list illustrates the greater finance distress of the area. Even more than the population, the size of the wait list speaks to the quality of the city's housing stock. There is a serious lack of housing units that are affordable, easily reachable and that meet basic housing quality standards. This creates an over dependence on housing programs.

Discussion

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

According the Annual Report on the State of Homelessness in the Erie-Niagara Metropolitan Area, conducted by the Homeless Alliance of Western New York, 452 homeless individuals were recorded in HNIS, with a 2014 estimate of 1,888.

The Niagara County Department of Social Services provided aggregate data to HAWNY on the number of clients served per month from 10/1/2013 to 10/1/2014. Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier keeps records in HMIS of which clients sought the assistance from DSS. They also keep records of clients received services from Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission and Lockport Cares and shared them with HAWNY. This was subtracted from the overall total.

The concentration of that number was found in Niagara Falls. There is a prevalent homelessness issue in the City of Niagara Falls, although it is not easily visible. We do not have street homelessness issue. However, there are people that can be either classified as sheltered or un-sheltered homeless without sustainable housing.

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

The detail of homelessness reporting must and will improve in the next five year plan. This has been discussed at the CoC. Our staff recently had a meeting with HUD Buffalo, discussing homeless reporting deficiencies. The City of Niagara Falls is creating a ESG Review Panel as part of the CoC.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	0	0
Black or African American	0	0
Asian	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0

Data Source

Comments: 54% White 37% Black or African American 3% Multiple Races 3% American Indian or Alaska Native 1% Asian

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

The total estimated unduplicated homeless count for Niagara County is 1,888 Total unique persons includes those who recieved assistance from Niagara County Department of Social Services.

Total unique homeless persons - 1,888

Emergency Shelter - 796

Transitional Housing - 160

Current bed inventory

ES - 90

TH - 65

PSH - 19

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

54% White 37% Black or African American 3% Multiple Races 3% American Indian or Alaska Native 1% Asian

Ethnicity

92% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino 92%

Black and African Americans comprise 21 percent of the total population but 37% of the homeless population. However, household income adjustments show that the homelessness rate equalizes the different racial classifications.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

There needs to be a better understanding of unsheltered homelessness. As stated above, HMIS participation and reporting must improve. As HUD recipient, the city understands that this is our responsibility.

Discussion:

There is a total of 88 sheltered beds among the Niagara County Dept. of Social Services, Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission, the Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier and YWCA.

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction:

With regards to special needs, the city identifies citizens with extremely low-moderate income households as its highest priority. This is the population that is most susceptible to spending a disproportionate amount of their income on unsuitable housing and/or becoming homeless. This issue is at the heart of our needs assessment, community outreach and five year/annual plan.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Households which have an annual household income that is between 0-80% AMI. As identified in the housing needs assessment section, persons making less than 80% of AMI are the most afflicted with disproportionate housing cost burden. In addition, there is a greater likelihood that they are living in housing units that do not meet minimal housing quality standards, have regular employment, access to reliable transportation or have access to healthy food options.

The elderly make up a special needs population in the Niagara Falls community that requires attention. The consolidated plan, through housing renovations, public services and emergency solutions activities, aims to serve this population. The overarching goal is to provide effective opportunities to stay in their homes, renovate them when possible and interact with their community in a productive manner. According to the Niagara County Office of the Aging and US Census, 15 percent of the Niagara Falls population is over 65 years old. The decline of the young adult population is not only detrimental to stabilizing the population, but in particular to the emergence of an entrepreneurial culture in Niagara Falls. A young adult demographic typically promotes and supports a willingness to venture in new directions, exhibits a willingness to take informed risks, and supports cultural development and renewal. In the absence of strong representation by these younger age cohorts, the city's cultural and entrepreneurial potential will not be fully realized and its available workforce will continue to be reduced, leaving employers with fewer options for new employees. The presence of an educated and available workforce is a significant factor, which cannot be over-emphasized in attracting new employers to locate their operations in the City.

While the population of Niagara Falls is declining, it is also aging. A growing elderly population will place increased demands on health care services and already stretched social agencies over time. The burden of these demands will intensify if the city's tax base continues to fall due to a declining population, high unemployment, an absence of new development, and a lack of growth in key industry sectors.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

Affordable and accessible housing units - Low to moderate income individuals, especially the elderly, need assistance with home renovations and investment. If they are able to improve their home, there is a greater likelihood of productive life use of the property and less reliance on outside services and housing.

Improved public transportation - Regional public transportation is inadequate. The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority continually reduces bus route service, with a disproportionate amount of service reduction in the Niagara County area. 77 percent of NFTA riders are going to school, work or shopping. A majority of these people are transit dependent and low to moderate income individuals.

Job training - Additional and more specialized job training is needed to connect the un/under employed to realistic employment opportunities.

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

According to the New York State Department of Health's 2013 report:

4% of Niagara County residents have HIV/AIDS (per 100,000). This is less than the New York State rate for county level municipalities.

Discussion:

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:

The City of Niagara Falls plans to use CDBG funds to renovate and construct public facilities, with a focus on park and public space improvements.

In 2013, the City of Niagara Falls also completed a full Citywide Parks Master Plan, conducted by Bergmann Associates. It included city, housing authority, police department, block club, state parks and business association input. The plan provides the City of Niagara Falls with clear guidance regarding proposed improvements and capital needs for each city park within the system. In the past, public realm investments were done as individual projects. There was no plan or schedule of investment. This included community development funded projects. With access to a master plan and strong public support for public park improvements, the City of Niagara Falls can now strategically invest HID funds into a better, city-wide parks system.

How were these needs determined?

Needs were determined by public input gathered as part of both HUD Action Plan/Five Year Plan outreach, and public outreach to the city as a whole.

These needs were formalized as part of the Parks Master Plan to create a real strategy for investment and community benefit.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

Historically, the city has used CDBG funds for limited public realm improvements. The city is very aware that HUD funds should not be used to fund activities that should be the responsibility of general funds. The parks master plan, and the recommended park improvements, are direct neighborhood improvements. An improved park is a benefit to both home owners and renters. There is a link between a quality park system and property value. As it is a major goal to motivate housing renovation and adequate rental units, we see improved neighborhood parks as a motivator. We know that it is difficult to encourage the scale of housing renovation that is needed. Public realm improvements can be of assistance.

How were these needs determined?

These needs were determined through months of extensive citizen outreach, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, agency meetings and data review. A consolidated parks master plan was discussed for decades in the public. The specifically proposed improvements, as well as the larger strategy, were crafted via civic engagement.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

The city has traditionally used CDBG public services funds for youth programming. Any funds expended for public services, under CDBG regulations, are capped at 15% of the total CDBG annual allotment. There is a great need for youth services in our community. In 2015, the YMCA located on Main Street closed. While the YMCA has stated that youth programming will continue at other locations, this is a great loss. The city is committed to use eligible funds to provide youth programs with the ability to operate, in addition to the city's existing youth services, funded by the general fund.

How were these needs determined?

The need for CDBG funded youth services is demand driven. Programs apply to the CDBG fund via the nonprofit application. Requests exceed the amount allowed by the 15% cap.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

Over three quarters of low income renters pay more than 30% of their household income on housing, and over half of all renters live in housing that is substandard, overcrowded, lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, or costing more than 30% of household income. Still have unresponsive landlords, a major challenge in Niagara Falls, according to both residents and human service providers.

Absentee landlords are common, especially in selected low-income tracts where they account for 95% or more of owners of multi-unit properties.

While the Niagara Falls Housing Authority has 845 units at five sites, and new affordable sites are currently under construction by other developers, demand far exceeds availability.

MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

Introduction

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	15,475	56%
1-unit, attached structure	483	2%
2-4 units	7,474	27%
5-19 units	1,844	7%
20 or more units	1,631	6%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	523	2%
Total	27,430	100%

Table 26 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	0	0%	180	2%
1 bedroom	261	2%	2,328	24%
2 bedrooms	2,610	21%	4,126	43%
3 or more bedrooms	9,793	77%	3,030	31%
Total	12,664	100%	9,664	100%

Table 27 – Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

845 units are provided through the Niagara Falls Housing Authority. The leased housing program provides ___ units. In 2016, 41 new affordable housing units will be added at the Walnut Avenue Homes Project. The Walnut Homes development is an infill housing development, funded in part with 2014 CDBG funds, on Walnut Avenue and 5th and 7th Streets.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

There are no anticipated contract expirations that would change any residential access to section 8 opportunities.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

No. There is a persistent lack of not just affordable, but quality rental housing reported consistently. Both the Niagara Falls Housing Authority and the city's leased housing program have significant waiting lists. There is also a barrier between other units and the renting public. A part of the issue may be adequate advertising.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

There is a need for both ownership opportunities and better rental properties. This need covers both extremely low and low to moderate income residents. For both rentals and home ownership, multi-room units are needed to better accommodate families. All new units need to be serviceable by public transit.

Discussion

MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

Introduction

The cost of housing has increased since 2000. These numbers are expected to increase as more downtown market rate units are added. 38 have been added in the last three years alone. There is not a large gap between fair market rents and affordable HOME rents. There is a misconception that subsidized rents, and the income limits required, are much different than market rate rents and renters. This coupled with cost burden issues show a greater need to provide additional affordable and accessible units.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Median Home Value	59,300	66,500	12%
Median Contract Rent	342	432	26%

Table 28 – Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	6,586	68.2%
\$500-999	2,858	29.6%
\$1,000-1,499	158	1.6%
\$1,500-1,999	29	0.3%
\$2,000 or more	33	0.3%
Total	9,664	100.0%

Table 29 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	2,555	No Data
50% HAMFI	6,950	2,745
80% HAMFI	9,660	5,530
100% HAMFI	No Data	6,924
Total	19,165	15,199

Table 30 – Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	557	591	736	941	1,065
High HOME Rent	573	574	710	908	1,027
Low HOME Rent	573	574	710	859	958

Table 31 – Monthly Rent

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

No. There is not sufficient housing at all income levels. All presented data shows that there is not sufficient housing available for the extremely low and low income households within the City of Niagara Falls.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

Housing is going to be less affordable for two reasons.

1. The continued cost burden for extremely and low income residents is expected to persist.
2. New market rate units, being renovated in the downtown core will not be affordable to low income residents.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

High home rents are actually higher than fair market rents, outside of newly remodeled fair market units.

Discussion

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

Introduction

Definitions

The following section outlines “selected” housing conditions as defined by the Census. These conditions are generally considered identifiers of substandard housing, although the last two conditions on the list relate to the household, not the housing unit. The Census defines a “selected” condition as:

-Lacking complete plumbing facilities

-Lacking complete kitchen facilities

-More than one person per room

-Housing costs greater than 30% of household income

-An analysis of each of these items was completed in the Needs Assessment

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	2,920	23%	5,282	55%
With two selected Conditions	38	0%	126	1%
With three selected Conditions	37	0%	0	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	9,669	76%	4,256	44%
Total	12,664	99%	9,664	100%

Table 32 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	50	0%	159	2%
1980-1999	433	3%	472	5%
1950-1979	4,904	39%	2,968	31%
Before 1950	7,277	57%	6,065	63%
Total	12,664	99%	9,664	101%

Table 33 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	12,181	96%	9,033	93%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	10	0%	180	2%

Table 34 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Total Units) 2007-2011 CHAS (Units with Children present)

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	0	0	0
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 35 - Vacant Units

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

A majority of houses were built before 1950. These older homes require both owner occupied and rental rehabilitation. As stated in other portions of this report, the condition of the housing stock is a driving factor in the city's socio economic struggles. There is a need for both minor and full scale renovations of these homes in order for them to benefit the value of the tax base as well as be candidates for quality housing.

Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards

12,000

Discussion

Niagara Falls Community Development is focused on the city's aging housing stock and aging population, Housing that is affordable and well maintained is a top priority. Each year both CDBG and HOME programs incorporate closing cost payment assistance and home maintenance assistance into the annual plan. We will continue to utilize these federal funds to better the housing stock via strategic investment.

MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

Introduction

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority operates the affordable housing in the City of Niagara Falls. In existence for more than 70 years, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority serves the low to very-low income population. The Niagara Falls Housing Authority is responsible for over 900 affordable housing opportunities.

Totals Number of Units

	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0	8		795	0	795	0	0	0
# of accessible units									
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 36 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

The NFHA owns and operates 845 public housing units in Niagara Falls and is rated as a high performer.

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Spallino Towers	89
Wrobel Towers	90
Packard Court	92
Jordan Gardens	96
Beloved Community - Phase 1	91
Beloved Community - Phase 2	97

Table 37 - Public Housing Condition

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

There has been significant investment in new and renovated public housing units over the past ten years. There is a need to maintain these properties. As highlighted in other sections of this plan, the greater need is renovation of housing units outside of public housing footprints. There is a need for more infill housing within existing neighborhoods.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

Following text from NFHA staff:

“Living Large” and “I Can Read” Tutorial Programs

The “Living Large” and “I Can Read” after-school tutorial programs are designed to increase the reading and comprehension skills of children and youth in grades K –12, as well as, improve scores on standardized tests. Classes are held Monday – Friday from 2:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building and Packard Court Community Center. Students are instructed by NYS certified teachers, Niagara University and Niagara County Community College students, Niagara Falls Housing Authority staff and community volunteers. In addition to tutoring, the program provides violence prevention and self-esteem building seminars, arts and crafts, math BINGO, college prep activities, educational movies, incentive awards and prizes.

Currently there are 140 children enrolled in the “Living Large” and “I Can Read” programs.

“The Living Large” and “I Can Read” tutorial programs address the need for improved literacy, which is the key to increased self-esteem, greater learning, higher income and economic self-sufficiency.

Kid’s Café

Held in conjunction with the Housing Authority's "Living Large" and "I Can Read" tutorial programs, the Kid's Café program provides a nutritionally adequate meal to children (primarily under the age of 17) who are at risk of hunger.

As a result of the Kid's Café program the Niagara Falls Housing Authority has provided a nutritionally adequate meal to children at risk, educated children and their parents about nutrition, educated the public about childhood hunger and offered solutions. The Niagara Falls Housing Authority's ultimate goal is to take at risk children from youth to adulthood realizing their full potential. Since the program's inception in 1999, the Kid's Café program has provided a hot balanced meal to nearly 1,000 children. The program is staffed by community volunteers, parents of children enrolled in the program, Niagara Falls Housing Authority staff and chefs from local food service chains. Funding for the Kid's Café program is provided by the New York State Department of Health's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Doris W. Jones Summer Enrichment Program

The Niagara Falls Housing Authority's Doris W. Jones Summer Enrichment program is a comprehensive summer program that provides individualized educational, social, cultural and recreational components geared to each individual child's level of learning. Activities include: storytelling, music, computer instruction, etiquette classes, arts and crafts, African-American dance and nature hikes/walks. Educational field trips are taken each Friday, enabling children from low-income families to have exposure to the arts, museums, nature, and a host of cultural enrichment activities, such as the Underground Railroad. The program operates July – August. An average of 200 children are enrolled in the Summer Enrichment program each year.

Discussion:

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

This section summarized the homeless facilities and services. It was completed with data from HUD and the Continuum of Care

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	0	0	25	0	25
Households with Only Adults	37	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Households	18	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 38 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source Comments:

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons

In addition to special needs services, the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Orleans Niagara BOCES, the City of Niagara Falls John Duke Senior Center and the Niagara Community Action Program and Child and Family services offer mainstream services that can be accessed by the homeless or those in danger of homelessness. The CoC meets on a monthly basis to coordinate the services of both homeless and non-homeless care providers. In 2014, a home ownership/ landlord subcommittee was created as an arm of the CoC. The goal is to focus on quality housing as both an economic driver.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

The organizations listed as part of SP-40 offer direct services to the homeless. They provide a safety net of services including emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, connections to employment and health care services.

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls is committed to investing in proper and effective environments for homeless individuals and others who have special needs and require rapid, permanent and/or supportive housing options. Homeless and supportive housing adds stability to communities by bringing safe, stable permanent housing that offers a continuum of supportive services to victims of domestic violence, youth aging out of foster care, formerly homeless and homeless veterans, and others with special challenges.

The City of Niagara Falls does not directly operate homeless shelters or supportive housing. However, the city does show an annual commitment to investing in our community's care facility. Through the CoC, ESG are dedicated to both rapid rehousing and emergency services at facilities like YWCA Carolyn's House, the Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc., Niagara Community Action Plan, Fellowship House, and Family and Children's Services. In addition, the City of Niagara Falls granted \$150,000 of its 2015 municipal budget to support the Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. and partnered with YWCA Carolyn's House to create the Walnut Avenue Home development. The bedroom unit configuration within the 8 buildings will be (12) 1 Bedroom Units; (18) 2 Bedroom Units; and (11) 3 Bedroom Units. 5 units will be fully accessible and adapted for person(s) who have mobility impairment, and 3 units will be adapted for person(s) who have hearing and/or vision impairment. Additionally, Walnut Avenue Homes will provide 13 units of stable, long-term housing for those who are victims of domestic violence and their families. Support Services for these residents will be offered through a partnership with the YWCA of Niagara. The City of Niagara Falls invested both CDBG funds, URA funds, and executed a tax agreement in support of the project.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

An increase in the number of older adults with addiction and health issues will have a major impact on health service utilization and costs, highlighting the need to integrate mental health into an affordable and accessible continuum of community based health and longterm care. These needs are compounded by a lack of public transit to get these individuals to effective and affordable supportive services.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing

Beyond, traditional rapid rehousing and emergency services, the city is investing in more effective permanent housing solutions, within walkable neighborhoods. Quality housing cannot be geographically segregated for food access and service access. The City of Niagara Falls has invested in affordable and

supportive housing at the Walnut Homes Development and Niagara City Lofts as well as health care services at the Niagara Falls the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Stroke Center, Heart Center and Community Health Center and a O/N BOCES medical arts training center. All of these investments are within two miles of each other. We fully realize that we cannot rely on transit services. The alternative is clustering housing, supportive services, and employment opportunities together through strategic planning and investment.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

As stated above, the city is committed to investing in clustered housing, supportive housing, and healthcare and employment investment. We have seen decades of failed, scattered investment. Over the next five years the City of Niagara Falls will continue to request use of HUD funds for complete neighborhood investments, in consideration of special needs and transit dependent residents. The City will not rely only on HUD funds alone. As the city has in the past five years, the city will continue to invest nonfederal capital funds in clustered development.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

Linking to year one goals, the City of Niagara Falls will invest in a combination of rapid rehousing services via the YWCA of Niagara and Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. In addition, the city will invest in emergency shelter and outreach via the Niagara Community Action Plan, Fellowship House and Family and Children's Services.

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

The current housing authority and section 8 leased housing waiting lists force extremely low to low income residents to rent substandard housing while waiting for assistance. While this is not a policy deficiency, it is a programmatic one.

The current renovation of more market rate apartments, focusing of "loft style" will create more expensive apartments in Niagara Falls. However, these renovations are primarily occurring in vacant buildings. Once affordable apartments are not being converted into units that are now not reachable by low income residents.

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

More job training is needed in the City of Niagara Falls. There is a disconnect between emerging employment markets in the region and applicable job skills. The trades and manufacturing sector is a prime example. Our residents need to be better prepared for living wage opportunities within those sectors. This section describes the city's workforce, analyzes current employment trends and helped drive CDBG allocation within the five year plan.

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	27	0	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	2,202	2,564	15	20	5
Construction	650	396	4	3	-1
Education and Health Care Services	3,611	2,792	24	21	-3
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	938	467	6	4	-2
Information	217	157	1	1	0
Manufacturing	2,295	1,912	15	15	0
Other Services	677	705	4	5	1
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	1,147	493	8	4	-4
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	2,122	2,641	14	20	6
Transportation and Warehousing	546	404	4	3	-1
Wholesale Trade	620	457	4	4	0
Total	15,052	12,988	--	--	--

Table 39 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Workers), 2011 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	24,034
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	21,688
Unemployment Rate	9.76
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	18.43
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	6.42

Table 40 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	3,163
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	1,114
Service	3,647
Sales and office	6,426
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	1,369
Production, transportation and material moving	1,453

Table 41 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	17,467	83%
30-59 Minutes	3,032	14%
60 or More Minutes	433	2%
Total	20,932	100%

Table 42 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	1,272	239	1,397

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,166	646	3,681
Some college or Associate's degree	6,449	640	2,043
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,179	180	606

Table 43 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	91	78	76	305	820
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	646	563	576	1,310	1,260
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	2,202	2,433	2,355	5,705	3,602
Some college, no degree	1,789	1,508	1,459	3,221	910
Associate's degree	337	736	678	1,577	432
Bachelor's degree	281	856	523	965	519
Graduate or professional degree	10	398	383	848	375

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	17,386
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	25,396
Some college or Associate's degree	28,626
Bachelor's degree	34,142
Graduate or professional degree	53,915

Table 45 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The city's top three employers are:

1. The Niagara Falls Air Base

2. The Seneca Niagara Casino

3. The Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

Main sectors could be referred to as: Public Sector, Tourism and Health Care.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The greatest need within our city is trades/manufacturing training. The proportion of households with incomes under \$25,000 is 150% higher than across Niagara County as a whole. The top 20% of households have half of household wealth while the lowest 20% of earners have only 3%, an indicator of disparity between the wealthy and poor in Niagara Falls. Extremely low and low to moderate income residents need an immediate pathway to employment. There are construction trade opportunities in the Western New York Region. The City of Niagara Falls is working with O/N BOCES, the Isaiah 61 Project and local trades unions to provide a 500 hour free trades training course that includes OSHA 10 certification. Currently, O/N BOCES adult vocational training is located in Sanborn, New York. This facility is takes approximately two hours to reach via public transit. Compounding that issue, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority is announcing additional route reductions. Simply put, it is almost impossible for residents in need to reach real job training. The greatest workforce and infrastructure need of both our business and residential community is real access to construction trades training.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

As described above, growth in construction over the past five years, which is expected to continue, will add more construction and manufacturing job opportunities. There needs to be additional training and placement efforts for our residents to take advantage of these opportunities.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

There is a disconnect. As stated above, extremely low and low to moderate income residents need an immediate pathway to employment. There are construction trade opportunities in the Western New York Region. The City of Niagara Falls is working with O/N BOCES, the Isaiah 61 Project and local trades unions to provide a 500 hour free trades training course that includes OSHA 10 certification. Currently, O/N BOCES adult vocational training is located in Sanborn, New York. This facility is takes approximately two hours to reach via public transit. Compounding that issue, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority is announcing additional route reductions. Simply put, it is almost impossible for residents in need to reach real job training. The greatest workforce and infrastructure need of both our business and residential community is real access to construction trades training.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Please see above.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

No

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

Discussion

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Niagara Falls census tracts classified as CDBG area benefit eligible (median income below 80 percent of the area median income) include the neighborhoods with the oldest housing stock and the most prevalent socio economic issues.

The housing in these neighborhoods are often in in need of extensive rehabilitation or removal. These neighborhoods are also where the lowest income households in the city live, in housing stock that is in poor condition. There are higher percentages of income properties. There is more transit dependence.

Niagara Falls, using the percentage threshold defined by HUD, focuses on census tracts 202, 296, 209, 211, 212, 213, and 214.

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Of the seven census blocks mentioned above that meet the low income qualification, 202 includes the highest percentage of black or African American residents. Of a total of 2,262 residents, 1,822 are black or African American. Of a total of 998 households, only 117 are husband-wife families. A concerning 432 are female only house holder.

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

Census Tract 202 is an appropriate sample area for this analysis:

Of a total of 1,228 units, 998 are occupied and 230 are vacant. 104 are owned with a mortgage, 106 are owned without debt and 788 are renter occupied. A majority of the homes, not included in a public housing footprint, were constructed prior to 1960. A majority of those houses were constructed to be one or two family houses.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

The neighborhoods are home to public service assets, direct there due to high rates of poverty. All neighborhoods are in close proximity to the tourism district. However, commerce and home ownership are not assets in these neighborhoods. The strategy of directing social services, social programming and

traditional public housing have not increased the number of home owner occupied units, market rate rental units, employment opportunities or food access.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

The City of Niagara Falls is opening a trades job training facility in this neighborhood in 2016. The city is hopeful to start a housing, job training, food service cluster in this area, much as we have within the Walnut Avenue corridor.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The City of Niagara Falls, New York, prepares a five year strategic plan in order to efficiently implement federal programs that fund housing, community development and neighborhood based services within the City. Public participation is essential to this process.

The end result of the process: a consolidated plan and annual applications for the use of federal entitlement funds available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. The City of Niagara Falls submits this five year strategic plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval.

The plan serves the following functions:

A management tool that focuses HUD investment on a comprehensive strategy rather than a series of isolated annual applications and projects.

An application for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds under HUD's formula grants.

An assessment tool to track annual spending and project based performance.

Based on Federal Fiscal Year 2014 HUD entitlement levels, the plan will direct the following resources:

CDBG Annual: \$2,234,848 CDBG 5 Year Estimate: \$11,174,240

HOME Annual: \$359,489 HOME 5 Year Estimate: \$1,797,445

ESG Annual: \$180,862 ESG 5 Year Estimate: \$904,310

Annual Total: \$2,775,199 5 Year Total: \$13,875,995

In Niagara Falls, the principles of the consolidated plan include:

Targeted Housing Renovation - The City and its housing renovation partners are focused on consistent renovation.

Community Engagement - The city will continue to engage the community through annual plan consultation to receive neighborhood needs and priorities.

Leveraging Resources:

Priorities were determined through research and census data, existing planning documents and consultation with stakeholders and the community.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

Geographic Area

Table 46 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	Housing Renovation
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	
	HUD Approval Date:	
	% of Low/ Mod:	
	Revital Type:	Housing
	Other Revital Description:	
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	NF Consolidated Plan (CP) Target Area. Census tracts: 202, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 217, 220, 221 Physical boundaries: Northern: Highland Avenue. Western: The Robert Moses Parkway Eastern: 77th Street Southern: Buffalo Avenue
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	Housing stock was primarily built between the 1880 and 1930. There is a mix of single family house, two family, multi-unit residential buildings and mixed use buildings. A majority of commercial districts are in mixed use buildings.
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	We discussed the target area and community priorities as part of the public participation process detailed in the consolidated plan.

	Identify the needs in this target area.	<p>Renovation of owner occupied housing units.</p> <p>Construction of owner occupied housing units.</p> <p>Renovation of rental housing units.</p> <p>Construction of rental housing units.</p> <p>Creation of job training opportunities.</p> <p>Increased police presence and foot patrols.</p> <p>Demolition of blighted structures.</p> <p>Youth services programming.</p> <p>Small business growth.</p> <p>Small business advocacy.</p>
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Housing stock renovation and renovation of mixed use buildings. The city's high vacancy rate provides an opportunity to renovate both residential and commercial units that are currently underutilized.
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	There are no overwhelming barriers. The deterioration of housing stock will make renovation more complicated and possibly more expensive.

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA

for HOPWA)

While inputting the Con Plan, the city has repeatedly attempted to modify the "housing renovation" target area without success. The above mentioned census tracts are our prime target/investment areas. However, the entire city qualifies under the 51% classification.

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 47 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Housing Renovation
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly
	Geographic Areas Affected	Housing Renovation
	Associated Goals	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfiguration of existing housing renovation target areas to a city-wide model. Currently, limited sections of the city are deemed geographically ineligible for (CDBG) and HOME funded grants. A city wide model, for HUD eligible residents, will increase housing renovation opportunities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of new home ownership over 2010-2014.
2	Priority Need Name	Public Space Improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents

	Geographic Areas Affected	Housing Renovation
	Associated Goals	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Description	Execute the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, to provide productive, free public spaces for the city's young people, focusing on the 12-17 year old age range.
	Basis for Relative Priority	City parks need to be improved to offer accessibility and productive use.
3	Priority Need Name	Community Policing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	Geographic Areas Affected	Housing Renovation
	Associated Goals	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation Increased youth services
	Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.
	Basis for Relative Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.
4	Priority Need Name	Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach
	Priority Level	Low

	Population	Extremely Low Low Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Housing Renovation
	Associated Goals	Increase % of homeless persons in perm ho
	Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.
	Basis for Relative Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.

Narrative (Optional)

•

Reconfiguration of existing housing renovation target areas to a city-wide model. Currently, limited sections of the city are deemed geographically ineligible for (CDBG) and HOME funded grants. A city wide model, for HUD eligible residents, will increase housing renovation opportunities.

- An annual funding commitment to functional job training programs within the City of Niagara Falls with a focus on entry level trades and medical arts employment opportunities.
- An annual funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range.
- An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
- The formalization of a housing renovation consortium between historic (HUD) funding subrecipients.
- An annual funding commitment to public infrastructure improvements in residential areas.
- An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.
- An annual funding commitment to capital small business development projects.
- A commitment to the sale and renovation of city owned vacant houses whenever financially feasible. Sale and renovation of these structures prevent costly demolition and support tax base growth. Current tax foreclosure auctions perpetuate the cycle of disinvestment and unsuitable housing for low income residents. In addition, these transformations increase the quality of life for surrounding residents.
- Annual investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.

- Adoption of a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Process (CPTED) in cooperation with the city's departments of police, fire and public works for all capital projects funded by CD. This process, supported by the United States Department of Justice, will best help ensure that CD projects are safe and planned appropriately.
- Adoption of quarterly community development meetings with the public in addition to annual action plan meetings. Our department is well served by community input and interaction. Increasing outreach opportunities will assist the department meet strategic goals and objectives.
- Presentation of quarterly spending and project progress information to the Niagara Falls City Council and the public, in line with already developed, nationwide CompStat principles. In addition to the HUD Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) these quarterly reports will both help our department effectively manage project and contractors and keep our residents informed.
- Creation of a small business advocate program to better connect local small businesses with internet based advertising and promotional opportunities.
- The hosting of one cyber-town hall meeting regarding community development issues during each year of the strategic plan time frame. While public meetings and comment periods will always be essential parts of the city's public participation process, we must embrace new technology whenever possible.

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	The city does not anticipate HOME or CDBG funded tenant-based rental assistance. Rental assistance is provided through section 8 leased housing vouchers.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	The city has no plan to utilize HOME or CDBG for permanent based rental assistance for non-homeless special needs.
New Unit Production	There are a high percentage of vacant sites in the city for new infill construction. We have had success with the infill development of the Walnut Homes project on 5th through 7th Streets. Infill, affordable housing can be successful in Niagara Falls. This commitment will continue in the 2015-2019 consolidated plan.
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of housing, both rental and owner-occupied, is the key to the city's consolidated plan. CDBG and HOME funds will be dedicated to rehabilitation.
Acquisition, including preservation	There are no plans to use any HUD funds on acquisition at this time. Building preservation is a top priority, leveraging HUD investment with application for state and federal historic tax credits.

Table 48 – Influence of Market Conditions

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder 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	2,241,544	40,000	0	2,281,544	8,966,176	Allocations based on final FFY 2015 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City Council.

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder 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	317,911	75,000	0	392,911	1,271,644	Allocations based on final FFY 2015 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	199,375	0	0	199,375	797,500	Allocations based on final FFY 2015 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City

Table 49 - Anticipated Resources

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 2015 Match via New York State grant funding, private sources and foundation giving: \$1,139,000

HOME 2015 Match via New York State grant funding, private sources and foundation giving: \$543,000

ESG 2015 Match via New York State grant funding, private sources and foundation giving: \$129,000

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

The plan does include public park improvements, with the property owned by the City of Niagara Falls. Those parks include Gill Creek Park and Jerald Avenue Park.

Discussion

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
City of Niagara Falls Police Department	Government	Economic Development Ownership neighborhood improvements public facilities public services	Jurisdiction

Table 50 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The City of Niagara Falls Community Development Dept. has extensive experience managing federally funded projects.

We have tried repeatedly to change the responsible entity from our police department to community development department. IDIS continues to reject our valid Federal ID and DUNS.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance	X	X	X
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	X
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	X	X	X
Mobile Clinics	X	X	X
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	X
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X	X	
Education	X	X	X

Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS		X	X
Life Skills	X	X	
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation		X	
Other			

Table 51 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

The above mentioned services are available via CoC organizations, but do not target HIV populations specifically.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

The city needs better homeless tracking data.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

Better coordination with the CoC and the HAWNY.

SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Housing Renovation	Housing Renovation Community Policing	CDBG: \$2,241,544 HOME: \$317,911	Homeowner Housing Added: 50 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 20 Households Assisted Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 10 Household Housing Unit
2	City Park/Public Space Improvement	2015	2019		Housing Renovation	Public Space Improvements	CDBG: \$326,696	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15000 Persons Assisted
3	Residents placed in employment opportunities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Renovation	Housing Renovation	CDBG: \$150,000	Jobs created/retained: 100 Jobs

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Increase % of homeless persons in perm ho	2015	2019	Homeless	Housing Renovation	Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach	ESG: \$199,375	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 10000 Persons Assisted Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 250 Beds
5	Increased youth services	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Renovation	Community Policing	CDBG: \$116,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 12000 Households Assisted

Table 52 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfiguration of existing housing renovation target areas to a city-wide model. Currently, limited sections of the city are deemed geographically ineligible for (CDBG) and HOME funded grants. A city wide model, for HUD eligible residents, will increase housing renovation opportunities.
2	Goal Name	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.

3	Goal Name	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Goal Description	Reportable number of residents placed in actual employment opportunities after completing a CD funded program
4	Goal Name	Increase % of homeless persons in perm ho
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase the percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent housing.
5	Goal Name	Increased youth services
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

We anticipate that at least 30 renovated units would be made available for extremely low income individuals. The estimated number of low to moderate income families assisted is dependent of participation. The plan's rapid-rehousing and emergency solutions programming will also provide temporary housing opportunities to extremely low income and homeless individuals.

SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)

There is currently a waiting list for both Niagara Falls Housing Authority housing units and section 8 leased housing units. There is a clear need for an increased number of accessible units.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

Continue job training efforts in partnership with the NFHA's ATTAIN LAB

Seek partnerships with public/private entities for social and economic services to residents

Conduct quarterly public meetings with residents

Seek additional funding for current youth services program

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

No

Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation

SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)

Barriers to Affordable Housing

The current housing authority and section 8 leased housing waiting lists force extremely low to low income residents to rent substandard housing while waiting for assistance. While this is not a policy deficiency, it is a programmatic one.

The current renovation of more market rate apartments, focusing of "loft style" will create more expensive apartments in Niagara Falls. However, these renovations are primarily occurring in vacant buildings. Once affordable apartments are not being converted into units that are now not reachable by low income residents.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

In an effort to remove and reduce barriers to the development of affordable housing, the City of Niagara Falls will work for the next five years to:

Conduct an updated housing market analysis (contracted) to evaluate the effect on both new market rate and affordable housing on the city

Continue to work as a consortium to apply for additional state and federal affordable housing funds

Incentivize developers to invest in infill affordable housing

Help developers identify site for quality housing

Utilize HOME funding to provide energy improvements to rental housing

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, as well as Heart and Soul Food Pantry, YWCA Carolyn's House, The Niagara Action Program and Family and Children Services' all actively interact with homeless persons. The city will be creating an ESG project review panel with the Homelessness Alliance of Western New York to find new and improved ways to increase participation and input.

The panel will be made up of HAWNY, Department of Community Development and Niagara County Social Services Department staff. The members of the panel are organizations that do not receive ESG funds via the City of Niagara Falls annual action plan. Each project will be reviewed and scored based on compliance with ESG goals, federal regulations and support of the goals and objectives included in the comprehensive plan.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

YWCA Carolyn's House and Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc.		Rapid Re-Housing Program. 50% to Carolyn's House for Housing stability case management and 50% to Community Missions for Housing relocation and stabilization services.	
\$64,797			
YWCA Carolyn's House		Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach.	
\$39,813			
Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.		Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach.	
\$44,812			
Niagara Community Action Program		Homelessness Prevention.	
\$10,000			
Fellowship House		Homelessness Prevention.	
\$10,000			
Family and Children's Services		Essential Services.	
\$15,000			
City of Niagara Falls		ESG Administration.	
\$14,953			

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.

[illegible]

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

[illegible]

\$10,000	Fellowship House	Homelessness Prevention.
\$10,000	Family and Children's Services	Essential Services.
\$15,000	City of Niagara Falls	ESG Administration.
\$14,953		

SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards

Niagara Falls has a high percentage of housing built prior to 1978. This older housing stock is often occupied by low to moderate income families. Further, they are often in the areas of the city that Niagara Falls Community Development has targeted for renovation and investment. Our primary method of addressing LBP hazards are renovation through CDBG and HOME. Abatement and repair is the most effective way to remove this hazard. In addition, the city's home ownership and renter's guides pay significant attention to avoiding the hazards of lead paint.

How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

These actions reduce the likelihood of lead poisoning and hazards via inspection, testing and abatement. If hazards are found in an owner occupied home, the resident is informed and educated about the clear danger. Most importantly, the hazardous area of the property is sealed so that the proper abatement can occur in a timely fashion.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

As stated above, any home owner taking part in the city's home renovation program must comply with applicable lead paint abatement and education.

SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

The five year strategic plan allocates resources to census tract areas with the greatest existence of low to moderate income residents and in the most need of substantial housing renovations, public realm investments and public services programming.

- **Reconfiguration of existing housing renovation target areas to a city-wide model. Currently, limited sections of the city are deemed geographically ineligible for (CDBG) and HOME funded grants. A city wide model, for HUD eligible residents, will increase housing renovation opportunities.**
- **An annual funding commitment to functional job training programs within the City of Niagara Falls with a focus on entry level trades and medical arts employment opportunities.**
- **An annual funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range.**
- **An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.**
- **The formalization of a housing renovation consortium between historic (HUD) funding subrecipients.**
- **An annual funding commitment to public infrastructure improvements in residential areas.**
- **An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.**

- **An annual funding commitment to capital small business development projects.**
- **A commitment to the sale and renovation of city owned vacant houses whenever financially feasible. Sale and renovation of these structures prevent costly demolition and support tax base growth. Current tax foreclosure auctions perpetuate the cycle of disinvestment and unsuitable housing for low income residents. In addition, these transformations increase the quality of life for surrounding residents.**
- **Annual investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.**
- **Adoption of a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Process (CPTED) in cooperation with the city's departments of police, fire and public works for all capital projects funded by CD. This process, supported by the United States Department of Justice, will best help ensure that CD projects are safe and planned appropriately.**
- **Adoption of quarterly community development meetings with the public in addition to annual action plan meetings. Our department is well served by community input and interaction. Increasing outreach opportunities will assist the department meet strategic goals and objectives.**
- **Presentation of quarterly spending and project progress information to the Niagara Falls City Council and the public, in line with already developed, nationwide CompStat principles. In addition to the HUD Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) these quarterly reports will both help our department effectively manage project and contractors and keep our residents informed.**
- **Creation of a small business advocate program to better connect local small businesses with internet based advertising and promotional opportunities.**

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan

Our housing renovation plan is designated to assist low/mod income residents.

SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures that the jurisdiction will use to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and will use to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The Niagara Falls Community Development staff is and will be responsible for the monitoring of the various sub-recipients that receive entitlement funding through CDBG, HOME and ESG. The following elements service as monitoring tools:

1. Sub-recipient Agreement
2. Individual Draw Review
- 3.Ex-Officio Membership on sub-recipient boards
4. Annual audit Review
5. CAPER Audit Review

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
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Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder 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	317,911	75,000	0	392,911	1,271,644	Allocations based on final FFY 2015 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	199,375	0	0	199,375	797,500	Allocations based on final FFY 2015 HUD figures. Annual Action plan built via public participation and approved by the Niagara Falls City

Table 53 - 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

CDBG 2015 Match via New York State grant funding, private sources and foundation giving: \$1,139,000

HOME 2015 Match via New York State grant funding, private sources and foundation giving: \$543,000

ESG 2015 Match via New York State grant funding, private sources and foundation giving: \$129,000

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

The plan does include public park improvements, with the property owned by the City of Niagara Falls. Those parks include Gill Creek Park and Jerald Avenue Park.

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	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Housing Renovation	Housing Renovation	CDBG: \$2,241,544 HOME: \$317,911 ESG: \$199,375	Homeowner Housing Added: 25 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 35 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 45 Households Assisted
2	City Park/Public Space Improvement	2015	2019		Housing Renovation	Public Space Improvements	CDBG: \$326,696	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50000 Persons Assisted
3	Residents placed in employment opportunities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Renovation	Housing Renovation	CDBG: \$150,000	Jobs created/retained: 75 Jobs

Table 54 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10 percent increase in prime occupant, owner occupied, residential units renovated by United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program throughout the City of Niagara Falls. • A 15 percent increase in home ownership closing cost grants, funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. • A 10 percent reduction of vacant housing units citywide.
2	Goal Name	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range. • An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
3	Goal Name	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Goal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reportable number of residents placed in actual employment opportunities after completing a CD funded program.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The annual plan was directed by a 22 week public participation process.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	2015 Niagara Falls Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc Closing Cost Assistance Grants
2	2015 City of Niagara Falls Closing Cost Assistance Grants
3	2015 City of Niagara Falls DPW Special Operations Project
4	2015 Hyde Park Playground
5	2015 Niagara Falls Skatepark Project
6	2015 70th Street Park Project
7	2015 The Isaiah 61 Project
8	2015 HCRC CDBG Housing Renovation
9	2015 Demolition of Blighted Structures
11	2015 City of Niagara Falls CDBG SF Targeted Housing Rehab
12	2015 NHS CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation
13	2015 Center City CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation
14	2015 Niagara Falls Commercial Facade Rehabilitation Program
15	2015 Community Missions Capital Project
16	2015 City of Niagara Falls Small Business Advocate
17	2015 Niagara Falls Wrestling Club Improvements
18	2015 Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Community Health Center
19	2015 Niagara Falls Police Dept. Police Salaries
20	2015 Niagara Falls Police Ranger Program
21	2015 Youth Motivation - Early Detection and Correction
22	2015 Niagara Arts and Cultural Center - Art Summer Camp
23	2015 Niagara Falls Housing Authority After School Program
24	2015 God's Woman Program
25	2015 Niagara County Financial Literacy Coalition
26	2015 CDBG Administration
27	2015 CDBG Administration - Fair Housing Program
29	ESG15 Niagara Falls

Table 55 – Project Information

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

needs

All projects are able to be executed.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc Closing Cost Assistance Grants
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Closing cost grants, not to exceed \$2,500, will be made available to first time home buyers, administered through the Carolyn Van Scheck Homeownership Center.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	14
	Location Description	City-wide
2	Planned Activities	Closing cost grants, not to exceed \$3,500, will be made available to first time homebuyers, administered through the Carolyn Van Scheck Homeownership Center.
	Project Name	2015 City of Niagara Falls Closing Cost Assistance Grants
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Closing cost grants for income eligible home buyers per HUD requirements, administered by Niagara Falls Community Development Staff. The closing cost grant assistance program does not use HOME funds, but is funded with CDBG funds. The property can only be transferred to a qualifying homebuyer (less than 80% of the median income) for a period of 5 years, or the grant must be repaid. The terms of the grant are reflected in a regulatory agreement which is recorded at the time of closing.
	Target Date	6/30/2016

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	14
	Location Description	The specific location is dependent on the home owner's specific address.
	Planned Activities	Closing cost assistance grants to home owners.
3	Project Name	2015 City of Niagara Falls DPW Special Operations Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,000
	Description	As stated in our five year plan narrative, there is a housing unit vacancy and housing unit quality standards issue in the City of Niagara Falls. These issues do not just exist within the housing units. The exteriors as well as the streets they are located on also suffer. In addition, national banks are not properly caring for foreclosure properties, letting the grounds and exteriors of the buildings suffer. The city's "ZOOM" team can execute neighborhood clean-up efforts to address these growing issues. This is beyond the scope of regular general fund work. Beyond making existing improvements, cleaner neighborhoods can help attract more home ownership and better rental property ownership. This activity both benefits low-and moderate income persons and eliminates slums and blight. It is the city's determination that this project qualifies under Matrix Code 06 (Interim Assistance)
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is difficult to quantify the number of families. Based on census tract concentration, extremely low, low and moderate income families will benefit.
	Location Description	Department of Public Works - Special Operations Project. Blight Clearance. Targeted clean-up task force addressing needs primarily within Census tracts 202, 204, 206, 207, 209, 210, 213, 214, 212. Specific Activities: Code Enforcement Officer expenses for ZOOM blitzes, DPW man hours for clean-up and repair activities.

	Planned Activities	Department of Public Works - Special Operations Project. Blight Clearance. Targeted clean-up task force addressing needs primarily within Census tracts 202, 204, 206, 207, 209, 210, 213, 214, 212. Specific Activities: Code Enforcement Officer expenses for ZOOM blitzes, DPW man hours for clean-up and repair activities.
4	Project Name	2015 Hyde Park Playground
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$126,696
	Description	Construction of a new municipal playground (replacement) at Hyde Park. Hyde Park is the city's largest public green space and centrally located in a dense residential area. Improvements to this playground/park are consistent with the recently completed Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
	Target Date	10/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	18,000
	Location Description	Hyde Park. Hyde Park Cross Streets: Pine Avenue and Hyde Park Blvd.
5	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be dedicated to playground construction.
	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Skatepark Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Construction of a public skate park, providing a constructive space for the 12-17 year old youth population. Creation of a urban skate park is consistent with the recently completed Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
	Target Date	11/30/2015

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 people.
	Location Description	Hyde Park Cross Streets: Pine Avenue and Hyde Park Blvd.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be dedicated to playground construction.
6	Project Name	2015 70th Street Park Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	70th Street Park Improvements - park accessibility and playground improvements within this green space, surrounded by a dense residential area. Improvements to this parcel are consistent with the recently completed Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
	Target Date	10/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 people
	Location Description	Corner of 68th Street and Girard Avenue
	Planned Activities	70th Street Park Improvements - park accessibility and playground improvements within this green space, surrounded by a dense residential area. Improvements to this parcel are consistent with the recently completed Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
7	Project Name	2015 The Isaiah 61 Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,000

	Description	Rehabilitation of vacant houses by students enrolled in the Isaiah 61 Project free trades job training program for under-employed residents. The renovations are supervised by licensed contractors and Orleans/Niagara BOCES instructors. HUD funds will be dedicated to material costs, instructor fees and administration.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	150 students
	Location Description	432 Memorial Parkway
	Planned Activities	O/N BOCES instructor fees, building materials and administrative costs.
8	Project Name	2015 HCRC CDBG Housing Renovation
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Targeted housing rehabilitation - HCRC will administer housing rehabilitation programs in targeted areas of the city.
	Target Date	6/30/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4 families (4 renovations)
	Location Description	Home owner address dependent.
	Planned Activities	Deferred loans for home renovations.
9	Project Name	2015 Demolition of Blighted Structures
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing

	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Demolition of blighted structures in low to moderate income areas. Asbestos abatement service is an eligible cost.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 persons.
	Location Description	Addresses selected at the time of demolition contract.
	Planned Activities	Contracting for demoltion.
10	Project Name	2015 City of Niagara Falls CDBG SF Targeted Housing Rehab
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$160,000 HOME: \$105,971
	Description	Targeted Home Rehabilitation - The City will administer deferred home rehabilitation loans and grants in its designated target area of the city. \$40,000 in CDBG Program income will be used for program delivery costs as a supplement. Previous unexpended funding is available for additional housing activities. The city anticipates \$40,000 in CDBG Program income. A minimum of of 15% of HOME funds will be allocated for an eligible CHDO project.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	8-20 homes.
	Location Description	Dependent on home address. The City of Niagara Falls is responsible for housing renovation outside of the Center City Neighborhood Development Corp., Neighborhood Housing Services of Niagara Falls and Highland Community Revitalization Committee housing target areas.

	Planned Activities	Targeted Home Rehabilitation - NF Neighborhood Housing Services-NHS will administer housing rehabilitation programs in targeted areas of the City using \$40,000 in CDBG for rehabilitation, and \$100,000 for program delivery.
11	Project Name	2015 NHS CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$140,000 HOME: \$105,971
	Description	Targeted Home Rehabilitation - NF Neighborhood Housing Services-NHS will administer housing rehabilitation programs in targeted areas of the City using \$40,000 in CDBG for rehabilitation, and \$100,000 for program delivery.
	Target Date	6/30/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	8-20 homes
	Location Description	Home address dependent.
	Planned Activities	Deferred home loan renovations.
12	Project Name	2015 Center City CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation
	Funding	CDBG: \$140,000 HOME: \$105,970
	Description	Targeted Home Rehabilitation - Center City Neighborhood Development Corp. will administer housing rehabilitation programs in targeted areas of the City, using \$53,500 for rehabilitation costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2016

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	8-20 homes
	Location Description	Dependent on home address.
	Planned Activities	Deferred loans for home renovations.
13	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Commercial Facade Rehabilitation Program
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$20,000
	Description	Commercial Facade Rehabilitation Program - Matching, reimbursable grant for building owners making capital improvements to the facade of a structure. National Objective - Preventing or eliminating slums or blight.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Low to moderate income families.
	Location Description	Business address specfic.
	Planned Activities	Commercial Facade Rehabilitation Program -Elimination or prevention of slums and blight. Matching, reimbursable grant for building owners making capital improvements to the facade of a structure.
14	Project Name	2015 Community Missions Capital Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach
	Funding	CDBG: \$80,000
	Description	Capital Improvement Project - Mill and overlay of facility parking lot at 1590 Buffalo Avenue.

	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	500
	Location Description	1590 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
	Planned Activities	Mill and overlay of the Community Missions Parking lot.
15	Project Name	2015 City of Niagara Falls Small Business Advocate
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$12,000
	Description	Small Business Advocate - Part time position supervised by the Niagara Falls Community Development Department. The small business advocate will coordinate with Niagara Falls business associations and oversee a campaign to better highlight local businesses through social media, targeted advertising and community based events. National Objective - Benefiting low and moderate income persons.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 persons.
	Location Description	City-wide.
	Planned Activities	Small Business Advocate - Part time position supervised by the Niagara Falls Community Development Department. The small business advocate will coordinate with Niagara Falls business associations and oversee a campaign to better highlight local businesses through social media, targeted advertising and community based events. Matric Code - 18B ED: Technical Assistance.
16	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Wrestling Club Improvements
	Target Area	Housing Renovation

	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	Capital Improvements - Replacement of mats, alarm system and facade renovation at 2402 Niagara Street.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	150 - low income.
	Location Description	2402 Niagara St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
	Planned Activities	Facility improvements - replaced matts.
17	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Community Health Center
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Public Space Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Construction of the Center for Community Health within the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Medical Campus on 10th Street.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 persons.
	Location Description	621 10th St, Niagara Falls, NY 14301
	Planned Activities	Construction of the Center for Community Health within the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Medical Campus on 10th Street.
18	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Police Dept. Police Salaries
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement

	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$95,000
	Description	Contribution to Police Officer salaries, Police Department Community Liaison salary.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 persons.
	Location Description	2616 Highland Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14305
	Planned Activities	Contribution to Police Officer salaries, Police Department Community Liaison salary, and payment of rent and utilities at the Highland Avenue Police Substation and Resource Center.
19	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Police Ranger Program
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Niagara Falls Ranger Program - Targeted police/ambassador foot patrol operation that incorporates the hiring of local residents. This is not a project that pays for regular police services. This project established a new (in existence for one year thus far) prevention and awareness activity in a high crime area. The downtown corridor has experienced high larceny rates over the past five years. These rates increase during peak tourism season. The ranger patrol is a new and proactive way to combat that trend.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Low to moderate income families, especially those within
	Location Description	Census tracts 212-214.

	Planned Activities	Niagara Falls Ranger Program - Targeted police/ambassador foot patrol operation that incorporates the hiring of local residents. This is not a project that pays for regular police services. This project established a new (in existence for one year thus far) prevention and awareness activity in a high crime area. The downtown corridor has experienced high larceny rates over the past five years. These rates increase during peak tourism season. The ranger patrol is a new and proactive way to combat that trend.
20	Project Name	2015 Youth Motivation - Early Detection and Correction
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$45,000
	Description	Youth counseling program designed to prevent crime thorough coordinated case management. Services include anger management, anti-drug and anti-gun workshops, and life skills workshops.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	250 children.
	Location Description	1365 Pierce Avenue.
	Planned Activities	Youth counseling program designed to prevent crime thorough coordinated case management. Services include anger management, anti-drug and anti-gun workshops, and life skills workshops.
21	Project Name	2015 Niagara Arts and Cultural Center - Art Summer Camp
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$8,500
	Description	Art Summer Camp Program that will provide academic, youth development and cultural activities for up to 120 students from ages 7-18 at the NACC (1201 Pine Avenue.)

	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	150 children
	Location Description	1201 Pine Avenue
	Planned Activities	Art Summer Camp Program that will provide academic, youth development and cultural activities for up to 120 students from ages 7-18 at the NACC (1201 Pine Avenue.)
22	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Housing Authority After School Program
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$60,000
	Description	After school Program providing literacy training, music instruction, educational field trips, arts and crafts held at the Doris Jones Resource Center and at the Packard Court Community Center. Funding will be used to pay for contractual services, field trips, arts and crafts and music instruction.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,500 children.
	Location Description	3001 9th St
	Planned Activities	After school Program providing literacy training, music instruction, educational field trips, arts and crafts held at the Doris Jones Resource Center and at the Packard Court Community Center. Funding will be used to pay for contractual services, field trips, arts and crafts and music instruction.
23	Project Name	2015 God's Woman Program
	Target Area	Housing Renovation

	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	Youth program focused on teen pregnancy rate reduction and improved life and leadership skills.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	150 persons.
	Location Description	city-wide.
	Planned Activities	Youth program focused on teen pregnancy rate reduction and improved life and leadership skills.
24	Project Name	2015 Niagara County Financial Literacy Coalition
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Community Policing
	Funding	CDBG: \$14,000
	Description	Provision of financial literacy classes in the City of Niagara Falls and one on one financial coaching.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	500
	Location Description	1522 Main Street.
	Planned Activities	Provision of financial literacy classes in the City of Niagara Falls and one on one financial coaching.
25	Project Name	2015 CDBG Administration
	Target Area	Housing Renovation

	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation City Park/Public Space Improvement Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation Public Space Improvements Community Policing Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach
	Funding	CDBG: \$440,348
	Description	Administration - Cannot Exceed 20% of the total 2014 CDBG Amount. The City of Niagara Falls is aware that it proposes to expend the entire 20% allotment on 2015 administration of CDBG activities. The Community Development is currently creating a five year staff transition plan. We expect to reduce staff costs within the next two years in order to reduce our use of administrative funds.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	CDBG administration impacts the entire city. There is a clear concentration on low to moderate income families.
	Location Description	CDBG administration covers the locations of all CDBG funded projects. including site monitoring. The Community Development Department is responsible for CDBG administration, located in The Carnegie Building - 1022 Main Street, Niagara Falls.
26	Planned Activities	CDBG funds are allocated to the following salaries: Director of Community Development, Program Administrator, Neighborhood Specialist, Administrative Assistant, Loan Technician, and housing rehabilitation specialists. Planned activities include project monitoring, staff supervision, reporting, project execution, and extensive civic outreach.
	Project Name	2015 CDBG Administration - Fair Housing Program
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Renovation

	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	City-wide Fair Housing Program administered by the HCRC. These funds are a component of the 20% CDBG administration cap.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000
	Location Description	City-wide.
	Planned Activities	City-wide Fair Housing Program administered by the HCRC.
27	Project Name	ESG15 Niagara Falls
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Rapid Rehousing/Street Outreach
	Funding	ESG: \$199,375
	Description	2015 Rapid Rehousing and emergency shelter and street outreach programs.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. will service approximately 849 people. YWCA Carolyn's House's emergency shelter and street outreach will serve approximately 95 people. The joint rapid rehousing program, administered by Carolyn's House and Community Missions will serve 13 individuals and 22 families, totaling 42 adults and 45 children. Niagara County Action Plan will serve approximately 150 people. Family and Children's Services will serve 205 people. There is over a 100% match to all ESG activities.

	Location Description	<pre> <table border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="1498"><colgroup><col width="369" /> <col width="668" /> <col width="111" /> <col width="193" /> <col width="157" /> </colgroup><tbody><tr height="32"><td class="xl75" height="32" width="369">EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS PROGAM</td><td class="xl76" width="668"> </td><td class="xl77" width="111"> </td><td class="xl78" width="193"> </td><td class="xl78" width="157"> </td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl70" height="42" width="369">Entity </td><td class="xl71" width="668">Activity Description</td><td class="xl74" width="111">2015 ESG</td><td class="xl72" width="193">Needs Addressed </td><td class="xl72" width="157">HUD Eligible Activity </td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">YWCA Carolyn's House and Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. </td><td class="xl66" width="668">Rapid Re- Housing Program. 50% to Carolyn's House for Housing stability case management and 50% to Community Missions for Housing relocation and stabilization services.</td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$64,797</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Persons. </td><td class="xl64" width="157">Rapid-Re- housing.</td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">YWCA Carolyn's House</td><td class="xl69" width="668">Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach.</td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$39,813</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Persons. </td><td class="xl65" width="157">Emergency Shelter.</td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.</td><td class="xl69" width="668">Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach.</td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$44,812</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Persons. </td><td class="xl65" width="157">Emergency Shelter.</td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">Niagara Community Action Program</td><td class="xl69" width="668">Homelessness Prevention. </td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$10,000</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Persons. </td><td class="xl65" width="157">Homelessness Prevention. </td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">Fellowship House</td><td class="xl69" width="668">Homelessness Prevention. </td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$10,000</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income </pre>
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	<p>Persons. </td><td class="xl65" width="157">Emergency Shelter.</td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">Family and Children's Services</td><td class="xl69" width="668">Essential Services. </td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$15,000</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Persons. </td><td class="xl65" width="157">Street Outreach.</td></tr><tr height="42"><td class="xl68" height="42" width="369">City of Niagara Falls </td><td class="xl66" width="668">ESG Administration. </td><td class="xl67" width="111">\$14,953</td><td class="xl64" width="193">Benefits Very Low, Low and Moderate Income Persons. </td><td class="xl65" width="157">Street Outreach.</td></tr></tbody></table></p>
Planned Activities	<p>The 2015 ESG budget is divided among six sub-recipients, detailed above. The City of Niagara Falls is responsible for ESG administration. The YWCA Carolyn's House and Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. are responsible for rapid rehousing services. The other sub-recipients provide emergency shelter and street outreach.</p> <p>The total estimated unduplicated homeless count for Niagara County is 1,888 Total unique persons includes those who recieved assistance from Niagara County Department of Social Services.</p> <p>Total unique homeless persons - 1,888</p> <p>Emergency Shelter - 796</p> <p>Transitional Housing - 160</p> <p>Current bed inventory</p> <p>ES - 90</p> <p>TH - 65</p> <p>PSH - 19</p>

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

Census tracts 202-217

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Housing Renovation	51

Table 56 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Niagara Falls is focusing resources on scalable projects that are ready to be executed immediately. The census tracts were chosen to maximize quality of life impact for low to moderate income residents.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	750
Non-Homeless	3,000
Special-Needs	250
Total	4,000

Table 57 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	800
The Production of New Units	45
Rehab of Existing Units	250
Acquisition of Existing Units	10
Total	1,105

Table 58 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

administration of leased housing vouchers and home ownership programming.

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

administration of leased housing vouchers and home ownership programming.

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

no.

Discussion

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

Introduction

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

Increased rapid rehousing efforts via ESG.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Increased rapid rehousing efforts via ESG.

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

Increased rapid rehousing efforts via ESG.

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

Increased rapid rehousing efforts via ESG.

Discussion

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

Introduction:

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

We have instituted a home ownership auction and created a housing task force to examine and eliminate barriers to housing.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

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

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	20,000
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	140,000
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	160,000

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.	78.00%

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

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

as follows:

\$400,000 New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal grant.

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:

Lien placed on all deferred loans.

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:

n/a

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:

n/a

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

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)
2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Coordinated assessment via HAWNY.

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).

1. Sub-recipient agreement

2. Monitoring.

3. Audit.

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.

n/a

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Rapid rehousing and street outreach programs

Discussion:

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

City of Niagara Falls – Dept. of Community Development Minutes of 2015 CPS Neighborhood Meeting Dept. of Community Development – Carnegie Building May 29, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. Niagara Falls, New York

Present: Grant Babcock, Community Missions
Jim Haid, Isaiah 61 Project
Kathie Kudela, NACC

Staff

Present: Seth Piccirillo, Director Jim Marasco, Project Administrator
Gail Bimont, Neighborhood Dev. Specialist MaryAnn Colangelo, Admin. Asst.

The public meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Each participant received a 2015 CPS Schedule of Events and Citizen Survey. Mr. Piccirillo welcomed those in attendance and introduced staff. He talked about the three previous neighborhood meetings that have been held. He talked about how we advertise the meetings through the Niagara Gazette, our CD web page, Facebook, mailings and there is a story out in the Gazette to try and get the word out. Mr. Piccirillo explained the budget process. He stated that in 2014 \$2.7 million was received through three grant programs; namely, Community Development Block Grant, HOME and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. He broke down the amounts received for each program and explained each program to the participants. He stated that at least one of the following national objectives must be met for a project to be considered for CDBG funding: benefit low to low/mod income persons; eliminate slums and blight; or meet an urgent need. An urgent need is a very specific meaning, for example, responding to a natural disaster. Mr. Piccirillo talked about the types of projects that CD funds with CDBG funds, such as housing rehab, youth services, demolition, capital improvement, play grounds, etc. He talked about the HOME program and the housing work that is done through the program. HOME money is divided amongst CD, NHS and Center City. The Emergency Solutions Grant Program assists individuals and families to quickly regain stability in housing after experiencing a housing crises or homelessness. He noted the following organization have received ESG funds: Community Missions, YWCA – Carolyn's House, Family and Children's Services, YMCA, and NiaCap. He talked about the changes in the ESG program. The program now has more of a rapid rehousing focus. He noted that Community Missions and Carolyn's House have helped us with the rapid rehousing program component.

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Carnegie Building – 1022 Main Street

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Mr. Marasco, went through the 2015 CPS Schedule of Events. Mr. Marasco stated that the neighborhood meetings is CD's opportunity to hear from people at the grassroots level concerning their ideas for the budget. He talked about the different ways people could express their ideas, they could come to the meetings where everything is recorded and will be answered to in the plan. Written comments can also be submitted at the meetings or we can receive those written comments at our office. He stated that applications are available this evening or they can be obtained on the CD website or in the CD office. He noted the deadline for submission of an application or comments for the 2015 budget was June 30th.

Mr. Marasco did a line by line review of the Schedule of Events leading up the adoption of the 2015 budget. He emphasized the dates and times available for public comment and input.

After Mr. Marasco's presentation, Mr. Piccirillo opened the meeting for comment.

Ms. Kudela asked how much weight do petitions and written letters of support have in the budgeting review decision process.

Mr. Piccirillo stated that over the last couple of years we have had petitions and written letters of support. He said that all the different types of outreach are effective. Mr. Piccirillo stated that we have to respond to all comments so it does mean something.

Mr. Marasco stated that numbers mean a lot.

Mr. Haid from Isaiah 61 stated that the CDBG funding they have received in the past has been very effective for their program and he felt funding received in the future would be just as effective if not more effective in eliminating blight, creating good housing for low income persons, putting houses back on the tax rolls and putting people back to work. He felt the project was a win for everyone particularly the citizens of the City.

Mr. Babcock, speaking on behalf of Community Missions, talked about what they are doing to get people reintegrated into permanent housing as quickly as possible through rapid rehousing. He stated that Community Missions was pleased that CD funded their organization. He stated that Community Missions is straining with their budget and they are looking for every avenue to help with funding. He said that last year there was a 30 percent increase in the number of shelters at their facilities. He stated that the Agency is reaching a threshold where they are, unfortunately, very close to the point where they are going to have to start turning

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people away. Mr. Babcock stated that the system seems to be taking longer to get people assistance. He stated that the number of people coming in has gone up 8 percent but the nights of stay have gone up 30 percent. He stated that the rapid rehousing money has helped a great deal.

Ms. Kudela from the NACC talked about their summer program. She stated it is so important for young people to have a safe place and rich environment. It is so important for downtown children who often don't go anywhere or don't see anything and really lack that kind of enriching experience. Since 2003 the NACC has held a Summer Program. Often times it is extremely difficult to fund. She said the NACC hasn't had any CDBG funding for the last two years so we have struggled to put things together. She said all of the money goes for teachers and supplies. It doesn't go for electric bills or any overhead. The NACC has been very fortunate over the last two years to have worked with the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area. Sharon Capin has funded weekly field trips for the kids. She talked about the trips and activities that the children are involved in. She stated that the program is integrated into the arts and music area as well. She said there is a final session where the kids actually write the program and the parents are involved. She said the NACC has had young adults come back and talk about the program. She stated that they know they have changed lives. She said they only charge \$50 for the entire session and the kids get free lunches. She hoped that CD would fund the program in 2015.

Mr. Piccirillo stated that there was conversation at last night's neighborhood meeting concerning youth services and what is funded and what is not funded. He stated that we spend our cap on public services each year. Obviously, that will never been seen as enough. I think what we need to do is sit down with all of our youth service providers that we have funded over the last few years and talk about the reality of the situation. We know that every dollar we give to this group is taking away a dollar from another group. So let's talk about the strategy and about what is sufficient and what is not sufficient and what other funding can be out there from the City or from somewhere else to help fund these programs. Because what we often hear is that we are ignoring a program. So we want to talk specifically about youth services and about what we fund and the fact that we try and spread that money as far as we can. But maybe that is not the right strategy maybe we have to focus on a few. Maybe we have to talk to all the youth service providers as we make that determination.

Ms. Kudela stated that she was open to working with other groups. She said it was really all about the kids.

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Mr. Piccirillo asked for any other comments.

Mr. Babcock stated that the neglect of the landscaping in the medians on John Daly Drive and Niagara Street are an embarrassment for the City and that should be addressed. He stated that what was planted there required a lot of maintenance.

Mr. Piccirillo stated that workers have been out there this week and it does look better. It was noted that the same complaint about the maintenance of those medians came up at another neighborhood meeting.

There being so further questions or comments the meeting concluded at 5:50 p.m.

**City of Niagara Falls – Dept. of Community Development
Minutes of 2015 CPS Neighborhood Meeting
Neighborhood Housing Services – 479 – 16th Street
May 22, 2014 – 5:30 p.m. Niagara Falls, New York**

Present: Ron Anderluh, Niagara Street Business Association
Stephen Dojka, NHS East Side Block Club
Patricia Frederick
Ruth Cooper
Diane Tattersall
Christine Sanborn, East Side Block Club
Lola McCreary, Niagara Falls Bus. Association
Nicholas D'Agostino

Staff

Present: Seth Piccirillo Jim Marasco
Gail Bimont MaryAnn Colangelo

The public meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Seth Piccirillo, Director of Community Development, welcomed those in attendance. Each participant received a 2015 CPS Schedule of Events and a Citizen Survey to complete. Mr. Piccirillo talked about the CPS process and the need to get input from the neighborhoods concerning City needs. He explained the CDBG, HOME and ESG program and outlined the funding that was received last year for each program. He stated that CDBG project funding is meant to meet at least one of three national objectives; namely, to benefit low to low/mod income persons, eliminate slums and blight or meet an urgent need. By meeting an urgent need HUD is talking about something catastrophic or disaster relief. He talked about the level of funding that was given to NHS over the last year. He talked about the CD investments made to the East Side such as demolitions, Gill Creek Park investments, the South Jr. Playground and commercial façade investments, youth programming and police services. In 2014 we added street repairs and side walk repairs in the East Side area. He talked about HOME funds and noted that the City, Center City and NHS receive HOME funds to do housing rehab to benefit low to low/mod income persons in specified low to low/mod income targeted areas. He explained the Emergency Solutions Grant program and outlined who receives those funds.

Mr. Piccirillo stated that CD needed to talk to the neighborhood to hear what the needs are and give us an evaluation of how our past funding is working or not working and get

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feedback.

Jim Marasco, CD Project Administrator, reviewed the distributed Schedule of Events and did a line by line review of all of the public meetings and event dates leading up to the adoption of the 2015 budget. He reviewed the process in detail and stressed the importance of hearing from the neighborhoods concerning community needs. He outlined the submission deadline for the application process. He stated that all comments will be recorded and answered to in the process. He talked about the application review process and the formulation of the 2015 draft plan that will be presented to the City Council. He stated that we usually get twice as much in requests as we have funding available.

Mr. Piccirillo asked for comments from the participants.

Ron Anderluh stated that as we are putting so much money into the parks it was important that we have adult supervision present. He said a lot of the parents drop their kids off with no supervision.

Diane Tattersall stated that years ago there was always adult supervision at the parks either a college leader or a “coach” that supervised the parks. She felt we needed more youth programming at the parks for the children.

Mr. Marasco asked for specifics on how we could offer supervision in the parks. Are you suggesting the City fund this?

Mr. Anderluh stated that it could be a combination of CDBG money, money we could get from the Police Department or other grant money. Ms. Tattersall stated that the need was for the summer months.

There was discussion about some of the problems Gill Creek Park is experiencing with the congregation of older kids hanging out at the park. After 5 or 6 o'clock older kids are at the park that shouldn't be there.

Diane Tattersall stated that the older children are there because there is nothing for them to do.

Seth Piccirillo stated that we have our 5-year plan coming up. He noted that one thing he was going to suggest is that we need to address the needs of the 12 – 17 year old age group

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to give them something to do. Mr. Piccirillo talked about the Ranger program that will be starting. He said if there were issues at certain parks at certain hours we could send them to problem area.

The discussion came up about the need for a skate park in the City. Some mentioned that Hyde Park would be a good location. Mr. Piccirillo stated that we hear a lot about the need for a skate park and that is something the City needs to look at. The group felt a skate park and adult supervision at the parks were two needed things in the community.

Christine Sanborn stated that perhaps we could contact the criminal justice students at NCCC and NU and see if there is a way they can work park supervision in as part of their college curriculum. Mr. Piccirillo felt there had to be a way we could incorporate supervisory assistance at the parks through the Ranger Program.

Stephen Dojka stated that one thing the City has to look at when they do a project is long term maintenance. He talked about the plantings in the Niagara Street median but they are high maintenance and the City doesn't have the ability to upkeep the median and they look horrible.

Mr. Piccirillo talked about when we did Gill Creek Park we kept maintenance in mind and we choose specific materials that would be as low maintenance and vandalism proof as possible. He noted that we are waiting for our third bid for the fence at the Gill Creek Park. The fence will be done this construction season.

Mr. Dojka asked if there was any discussion about doing anything with Hyde Park Lake other than just fishing. He suggested such activities as having kayaking available. He stated that he has seen that in other cities. Seth said that a private operator would have to do something like that. It was mentioned by staff that the idea was looked at previously and the liability insurance made it prohibitive. It was asked by participants if it was legal to kayak in Hyde Park Lake. Mr. Piccirillo stated he did not know but could find out about kayaking.

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Mr. D'Agostino stated that he and Mr. Anderluh went through the east side area and compiled a list of streets that needed to be repaved and demolitions that were needed. The list was provided to staff and outlined the following needs:

Street to be Repaved: 24th Street from Ferry Avenue to Buffalo Avenue, 27th Street from Ferry Avenue to Buffalo Avenue, E. Falls Street, from 19th Street to Portage Road.

Requested Demolitions:

1765 Falls Street	1621 Falls Street	2226 Falls Street	1951 Falls Street
1821 Niagara Street	1926 Niagara Street	1928 Niagara Street	358 Portage Road
364 Portage Road	252 – 24 th Street	237 – 24 th Street	216 – 24 th Street
Cudaback Ave.	1951 Cudaback Ave.	1904 Cudaback Ave.	1760 Cudaback Ave.
1968 Mackenna Ave	1970 Mackenna Ave	2215 Mackenna Ave.	2203 Mackenna Ave.

Mr. Dojka complained that often paving is done and then shortly thereafter the road is cut into for sewer work. He said when a road is paved they should do it right and do the curb and sewer work as well.

Mr. Marasco stated it is a funding issue why full scale road reconstruction repairs are not made.

Mr. D'Agostino stated that a sign was needed for Gill Creek Park, whether it be a brick and mortar sign or a sign advertising the park concerts. He talked about signs in parks in North Tonawanda that advertise their parks and activities.

Mr. Anderluh stated that that Niagara Street Business Association will be putting in an application for a sign. He stated that the sign needed to be appropriate with the Greenway Commission standards. There was talk that the sign should be "kid proof" maybe making it a little bit higher to deter vandalism.

A participant stated that there is no shelter at the South Jr. Park. She felt a shelter would be beneficial as there was no protection for the kids to get out of the sun for their activities.

It was suggested that picnic tables would be beneficial for the east side parks.

Mr. Dojka asked that NHS be given full support for the programs they provide.

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NHS – 479 – 16th Street

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It was questioned if CD funds the Inspections Department. Mr. Marasco stated that we fund a housing inspector that works through our housing rehab program, commercial façade and demolitions project. CD also funds clean neighborhood efforts.

Ms. Tattersall stated that she felt there has been an improvement in the cleanliness of the area in the last few years.

Mr. Dojka complained that a lot of the demolition sites are not properly planted with grass and graded properly. He said that before the contractors are paid those sites should be inspected.

Mr. Marasco stated that when demolitions are bid out all of the finish work is included, including sidewalk repairs.

Mr. Dojka talked about 1640 Falls Street which was a vacant lot and people are using it for a dirt track. He said this has been going on for years. He said 1640 Falls Street is an absolute mess. Mr. Marasco stated that that is an Inspections and DPW code enforcement issue. He said he would make a call on that property to see what the status was.

There was talk about illegal dumping and overgrowth of weeds on vacant lots.

Mr. D'Agostino stated that he has been on the Section 8 program for many years and he commended the inspectors for the job they do in citing work that needs to be done. He stated that, unfortunately, there is fraud taking place in the program and that should be concentrated on.

Mr. Dojka stated that he supported helping out the Police and Fire Departments with CD money. They praised the Fire Department's Fire Prevention program that was funded in the past by CD. Many felt that lives had been saved through that program educating young people about the dangers of fire and what to do in a fire emergency.

Mr. Dojka asked how projects were chosen to be funded. Mr. Marasco stated that there is a lot of input that is considered ranging from the community input, to CD staff to the Mayor and City Council.

It was stated by a participant that the City Council need to do what's good for the City when approving the budget.

There being no further comments the meeting concluded at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Marasco thanked everyone for their attendance.

City of Niagara Falls – Dept. of Community Development
Minutes of 2015 CPS Neighborhood Meeting
Doris Jones Resource Bldg. – 3001 – 9th Street
May 28, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. Niagara Falls, New York

Present: Kelly Mariano, NFHA Melissa Matsulavagh, NFHA Stephanie Cowart, NFHA
Willie Price Maria Vitello, NFHA Sam Pulliam, NFHA
Ian Seright, NFHA Brittany Searight, NFPD Khaleelah Shauq
Sonya Hall-Pearson, HCRC Selicia Phipps Carol Poole, NFHA
Willie Dunn, NFHA Deborah Hicks Yolanda Price
Diana Lewis Owen Steed Ernie Bivins
Eric Fields Janie Guy Felissa Davies
Samika Sullivan Sheree Sabater Marcia Massaro
Yvonne McKinnon Shalonda Wallace Andrea Burgos
Kendall Davis Charletta Tyson (original sign in sheet attached to minutes)
Lee Whittaker

Staff

Present: Jim Marasco, Project Administrator Seth Piccirillo, Director
Gail Bimont, Neighborhood Dev. Specialist MaryAnn Colangelo, Admin. Asst.

The public meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Each participant received a 2015 CPS Schedule of Events and Citizen Survey. Mr. Marasco introduced staff and explained that Mr. Piccirillo had a Planning Board meeting conflict and would join the meeting as soon as possible. Mr. Marasco welcomed those in attendance and stated that each year we are required by HUD to reach out to the community and hold neighborhood meetings to get input from the public as to what they would like to see in the upcoming budget. He talked about the series of community meetings that were being held. Mr. Marasco noted that a total of \$2.7 million was received from our funding sources last year. He reviewed each funding program. He noted that CDBG projects must meet at least one of three national objectives; namely, assist low to low mod income persons, eliminate slums and blight and or meet an urgent need. Mr. Marasco stated that the housing authority received approximately \$145,000 over the last five years. He outlined the amount of money spent over the last several years for Youth Motivation and New Jerusalem. He talked about the funding for D'Amelio Park and the police substation funding on Highland Avenue. He stated that over 50 demolitions were completed in the urban core. He outlined the HOME program and the CSG program and who receives those funds. He reviewed the timeline of the Schedule of Events leading up to the adoption of the budget. He talked about

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Doris Jones Family Resource Building – 3001 – 9th Street
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the 5-year plan which is being formulated. He noted that each year we receive at least twice as many requests as we have funding available. He said it's important for us to know where the community needs are which is why everyone's input is important. Mr. Marasco asked for comments from the audience.

A participant stated that she had two children who participated in the Housing Authority's After School Program. She asked if CD was going to fund the After School Program. Mr. Marasco stated that we hoped to fund the program and that this was the purpose of the meeting, to give the community an opportunity to tell us what they wanted.

The participant stated that continued funding for the After School Programming was important to protect the progress that has already been made and for continued progress.

A participant stated that she lived on the 2200 block of Michigan Avenue and talked about the expense of summer programs which many families in her neighborhood could not afford, which makes the Housing Authority's Summer Youth Program so important. She talked about the good work they do with the children citing the field trips and other positive activities that they do.

A participant talk about her first job being at this building (Family Resource Building) and how the youth programs helped her be successful in life. She talked about going away to college but opting not to live out of town but wanting to come back to the community and live here. She talked about the need to assist youth programs and how important faith counseling, children and family counseling and violence family counseling is.

Ernie Bivins – He stated that we are doing a lot of demolitions but asked what are we doing to build up the infrastructure of the community. He stated the community needed a gas station and a pharmacy so elderly people won't have to walk so far to get their medicine. He said we need something to enhance the quality of life for the children in the Highland area. He felt there was a lot of land in the area that could be built on.

Mr. Marasco stated that bringing in businesses would have to be private development. He said the City works with developers but they have to see the market to come in. He said in the past CD did play a role in economic development. CD currently concentrates a lot in housing rehab.

Mr. Davis talked about how basketball and athletics have made a positive difference in his life. He talked about the importance of basketball courts in the City as they kept kids off the streets.

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He stated that there was a lack of basketball courts in the area and City. He talked about the basketball court at Center Court Park and how it was not maintained.

Mr. Bivins asked about what improvements were going to take place at D'Amelio Park. Mr. Marasco stated that those plans are not in place yet. Ms. Bimont stated that CD will be meeting next week to talk about the needs in that park. She told Mr. Bivins to get in touch with her if he had ideas for the park. Mr. Bivins stated that he would contact her.

A 7-year old girl came before the group and stated that the After School Program has taught her a lot. She asked that the program not be taken away and continue to be supported.

Marsha Massaro from LaSalle stated that the audience should have received the 2014 budget to review. She talked about the 50 homes that were knocked down. Mr. Marasco clarified that not all 50 homes were demolished with CD money; casino money was used as well. She said that it was unbelievable that we have knocked down 50 houses and we want to knock down more. She asked where were people supposed to live and she said that demolition was a loss of taxes for the City. Mr. Marasco explained that the homes we demolish are not livable and are beyond rehab and those properties were not tax paying properties. She asked about Isaiah 61. Mr. Marasco talked about the funding they received and explained the work of the organization.

Ms. Massaro talked about the parks in the City. She said that there were only a few that were maintained properly. She talked about the neglect of parks in LaSalle. Mr. Marasco talked about investments we have made in the City parks but explained funds are limited and only so much could be spent on the parks. She asked what was spent in 2014 on parks. Mr. Marasco talked about Gill Creek Park and the matching funds received there and the money allocated to D'Amelio Park. She said if we can't fund youth programs during the day and the kids don't have parks to play in that is a big problem. She said she wanted to see funding directed to youth programs and neighborhood parks.

Ms. Sheriff talked about the importance of funding Summer Youth Enrichment Programs at the Doris Jones Center. She talked about parents not being able to afford decent daycare. She said the facility is a safe haven for children. She talked about the success of her children and how she felt the quality youth programs they participated in at the Doris Jones Center helped play an important positive role in her children's lives. She talked about how thrilled parents are that they can have an affordable, safe place for their kids to go.

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A participant stated that it was so important to fund after school programs because it kept children out of trouble. He said we should reverse funding of the Police Department. He felt funding concentration should be more on Youth Programs than Police services. He noted that we may not need Police services as much if we concentrated more on youth programs because of the positive influences these programs play in a young person's life.

A participant asked how many houses are rehabbed versus demolition and what the criteria was for the demolishing a property. Mr. Marasco stated that we put a substantial amount of money into housing rehab.. Approximately 100 units per year are rehabilitated the cost of which is hundreds of thousands of dollars. It costs approximately \$20,000 to demolish a building. The City's Inspection Department sets the criteria which determines what houses will be demolished. Neighborhood complaints, health and safety issues, and several other factors are considered before a house is put on the demo list. He noted that the list of homes needing demolition is long and we only do approximately 50 per year. He noted rehab and demolition components are both needed.

A participant stated we should try and rehab these properties. Mr. Marasco talked about the Isaiah 61 project and the work they are doing.

A participant asked what the criteria was for CD funding programs saying that the Highland area had not received enough money. Mr. Marasco stated that no area has received enough money to meet its needs. Mr. Marasco stated that there is a 15 percent cap on the amount of money that can be spent on public services. Mr. Marasco reviewed the amount of money New Jerusalem and Youth Motivation received over the years. Mr. Marasco told the participant he could come into the office and he would give him an exact breakdown of all of our project funding.

Mr. Bivins stated we needed to hear more specifics on where the money is going.

Ms. Cowart stated that some entities receive \$250,000 every year. She said the Summer Enrichment Program costs \$500,000 to operate per year. We keep all of these children off of the streets every day. If it weren't for this facility and the Packard Ct. Community Center children would be running rampant with nothing to do. I think it is important that CD continue its relationship with our afterschool program and work to enhance the amount of money we receive. Ms. Cowart clarified that the NFHA receives \$20,000 per year. She noted that the \$145,000 dollar amount Mr. Marasco was quoting for the Summer Youth Programs was a five-year funding total. She said we need a more cooperative relationship with CD. She said she

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applauded CD's relationship with Isaiah 61 but CD should not forget HCRC. We are very interested in eliminating slums and blight and investing in the neighborhoods.

A participant felt that casino money should be appropriated to after school programs. He asked why the community didn't receive casino funds for youth programs. Mr. Marasco stated that the casino funds are not controlled by CD. The City Council and the Mayor's office controls those funds. Mr. Marasco said he would support casino funds being used for youth programs to match CD funds.

Debra Hicks, President of HCRC, stated that what she was hearing at the meeting was the importance of children and infrastructure in the community. She said the children were vital to what we will be doing in our future. We need money to help provide structured programs for our children and I'm sure it is going to take a lot more than what CD is giving us. She stated that Charletta Tyson, Exec. Director of HCRC, was going to show a presentation about the needs in the Highland Community. She said we don't need to hire private contractors to come in and fix up houses as we have enough people in our community to do the work.

Lee Whittaker stated that she supported demolition of dilapidated houses. She said those homes present an eyesore to the entire block. She asked who was responsible for maintaining the lots after the demolition. She also said that people shouldn't have to go out and beg for money for youth programs as they should automatically be supported.

Mr. Marasco stated that the vacant lot, after a demolition, is maintained by the City unless the lot is sold to an adjacent neighbor, which the City is encouraging.

A participant stated that she felt it was quite telling that Mr. Piccirillo could not be at the meeting. She stated that she understood that there was a Planning Board meeting tonight but those meetings are scheduled. So this one certainly could have been scheduled at a time where he could have attended. "I feel it is intentional".

Mr. Marasco stated that Mr. Piccirillo would have liked to have attended the meeting but sometimes the Planning Board meetings are scheduled at the last minute.

Ms. Colangelo stated that she was the one that selected and scheduled the community meetings dates. She was not aware when she set the meeting date that there was a meeting conflict.

The same participant stated that she heard what was being said she just mentioned it because this was her second instance that this happened. She said she was a staff member of the NFHA

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and she received a call from Mr. Piccirillo to pull our residents together to speak to them about their concerns about the parks. At the last minute I get a call from Mr. Piccirillo that he could not attend. So I just find it interesting that whenever meetings come up in this community he is unavailable.

Mr. Marasco collected the citizen surveys and mentioned that they didn't have to be turned in tonight but could be turned into the CD office any time before June 20th for consideration.

Charletta Tyson, Exec. Director, of HCRC came before the audience. She suggested that in the future CD should avoid scheduling meetings on Wednesday nights which is Bible study night. She stated she knew the Highland community deserved more and should receive more funding. She told the audience that we need to talk about how much money we want in the future not so much about what was received in the past for such programs as the Summer Youth Program and demos, paving etc.. She said having information on previous plans would be good and participants could see Mr. Marasco about that. She noted there was a comment on casino funds. She stated HCRC did receive \$10,000 in casino funds by the City for the construction job training program which they are working on with the Isaiah 61 project. She gave a history on Isaiah 61 and talked about the work they were doing. She said prior to Isaiah 61 starting on their second house she meet with Seth Piccirillo and Jim Haid as a formal introduction as to who Isaiah 61 was and what they were here to do. We talked about potential future partnerships at then after that point there were no further discussions. The next thing HCRC heard was they had purchased the fire hall on Highland Avenue. Myself and my Board were a little put off by that because we felt like the City and Isaiah 61 should have come back to the table to discuss more partnerships on how we could work with that. But that didn't happen. But we still hold our heads high and we moved on forward and we decided to work with them instead of against them for a construction job training program. She said there were 23 applicants for the Isaiah 61 project. HCRC is working with Isaiah 61 on participant recruitment. A person must be 18 or older and able to pass a drug test and interested in the construction trade. She said she had applications available if anyone was interested. She talked about the partnership HCRC has with the other housing agencies to offer and to host a first time homebuyer fair on June 5th.

Ms. Tyson showed a power point presentation outlining housing and street conditions in the Highland Avenue area (copy of power point presentation included in record). She outlined the service area of Highland Avenue area. She stated that HCRC had by far the smallest and most sparsely populated service area out of all the housing rehab organizations. She said there are over 200 residential properties in the area. She said that out of the 200 properties there are at

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least 51 vacant or dilapidated properties in addition to commercial properties. The power point presentation showed all the properties in question. She said the reason she was showing these homes was to get ideas about what types of programs the public would like to see with these homes instead of demolition. How can we repair these homes and bring them back to code so that they could become available to a homeowner. She talked about the expense of rehabbing a house. She talked about HCRC rehab program noting that it was for owner occupied properties only as they don't offer a Rental Rehab program. She talked about the lack of funding for rehab and talked about how HCRC is partnering with CC and NHS to receive State funding as well.

Participants talked about the importance of housing rehab, homeownership and support was expressed for the Isaiah 61 project.

Ms. Tyson's power point presentation also outlined streets in the Highland Avenue area that needed pothole attention; namely, the 1100 block of Fairfield Avenue; 9th Street between Fairfield and Center Avenues; Garden Avenue between the 900 and 1100 Block; Beech Avenue between Highland and Aaron Griffin Way; 21st St. from Tennessee Avenue to Center Avenue and Richard Allen Way. She showed vacant lots on Highland Avenue and Center Avenue that have not been properly graded or seeded after demolition. Mr. Marasco stated that the demo contractors are not finished with those sites and they will be back to grade and seed. Ms. Tyson told the audience that if anyone was interested she would provide them with a copy of the power point presentation.

Mr. Piccirillo arrived at the meeting during Ms. Tyson's presentation. At the conclusion of her presentation he addressed the audience apologizing for his late arrival due to a meeting conflict. He asked the participants for their community ideas. He also gave out his direct office phone number and cell number for any one that wanted to talk to him personally.

A participant talked about the need for park improvements at the 70th Street Park. She said there was nothing in that park and that parks in LaSalle needed attention.

Participants talked about the importance of funding Housing Authority's Youth Programs.

A participant noted that a pharmacy would be beneficial for the area.

A participant stated that the College Avenue viaduct area needed attention.

A participant talked about the need for more basketball courts in the City giving the youth something to do.

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Mr. Piccirillo talked about the up-coming 5-year plan and how we would like to address services for the 12 – 17 year old age group.

A participant stated that it was important for all of the agencies to work together. Mr. Piccirillo agreed and stated that he was open to having more community meetings. The meetings didn't necessarily have to be just for the budget. He said CD wants to talk to the community as much as possible.

A participant talked about the importance of addressing street paving issues in the Highland area, especially on Hyde Park and Highland. Mr. Piccirillo stated that CD has the ability to do some street repairs and he will look at the list that Charletta provided, but he will also pass on the street information to DPW.

There being no further comments, Mr. Piccirillo apologized once again for being late and he said he would be available after the meeting for any one that wanted to speak with him. He thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

**City of Niagara Falls – Dept. of Community Development
Minutes of 2015 CPS Neighborhood Meeting
LaSalle Public Library – 8728 Buffalo Avenue
May 21, 2014 – 5:30 p.m., Niagara Falls, New York**

Present: Ron Anderluh Ken Sherman
Michele Keiper Terry Lasher Winslow
Kory Koiper Tom Lowe
Lynda Grozio Marge Gillies
Dawn Marasco
Mark Kudela
Chris Kudela

Staff

Present: Seth Piccirillo Jim Marasco
Gail Bimont MaryAnn Colangelo

The public meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Piccirillo welcomed those in attendance and introduced staff. Each participant received a 2015 CPS Schedule of Events and a Citizen Survey to complete. Mr. Piccirillo stated that we wanted to hear from the neighborhoods concerning ideas for the 2015 Plan and Budget. He asked that everyone please fill out the survey that was distributed. He reviewed the different funding sources, namely, CDBG, HOME and ESG, and the amount of money usually received from each grant source. He talked about different eligible uses for each program.

Mr. Marasco did a line by line review of the 2015 Schedule of Events outlining all the public meeting/hearing dates, due dates for the application process and submission deadlines for the CPS. Mr. Marasco stated that all the comments and recommendations made at our neighborhood meetings are recorded and those ideas are reviewed for consideration in the preparation of the CPS. He talked at length about the times and methods available for the public to comment on the plan and the draft budget that will be presented in August. He talked about the 5-year plan that is also to be submitted this year. He noted that the 5-year plan was an overall plan mapping the direction and priorities of Community Development from 2015-2019.

Mr. Piccirillo opened the meeting to the audience asking for any comments or ideas concerning the 2015 CPS.

Mr. Chris Kudela asked about the boundaries of the CD housing rehab program and what the qualifying criteria was to participate in the program. Mr. Piccirillo outlined the current target areas and did a review of the income limits for family size to participate in the program. Mr. Piccirillo stated that we have to serve low to low mod clients. He noted that we have been in the current targeted area since 2011.

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Ms. Michele Kepier who lives at 124 – 57th Street expressed her desire that the LaSalle area off of Buffalo Avenue be considered once again for a housing rehab target area as there is a lot of need in that general area. Ms. Kepier was furnished with the guidelines of the CD rehab program.

Ron Anderluh representing the Niagara Street Business Association talked about the need for youth programs. He also talked about the need to implement the City's Master Plan for Parks. He talked about the need to have more adult supervision of the parks in the City. He talked about how parents drop their children off at parks and leave them unsupervised.

Terry Lasher Winslow, chairman person of LaSalle pride addressed the group. She talked about how her group is trying to have areas of LaSalle designated as a historic village. She stated that she would like to see Buffalo Avenue rebuilt as a walkable one mile historic commercial district starting from S. Military Road. She noted that we want to get that district back to the Main Street that it used to be. She talked about the fruit orchard farming history of the area before industry came to the area. She wanted there to be a focus of establishing a community garden near the former Pacific Avenue School site. She also talked about wanting the planting of fruit trees in that area to compliment the garden evoking a history of the area.

There was discussion about the need to focus efforts for new sidewalks and road improvements in the LaSalle area neighborhoods and commercial district. A participant stated that the area between 79th and 80th needed attention. Ms. Winslow stated that the repair of the LaSalle sidewalks and streets in the commercial corridor was important to the historic district plan.

Ms. Winslow felt we needed focus on the preservation of the historic motels in the LaSalle area located on the Niagara Falls Boulevard strip. She gave a brief history of the motels in the LaSalle area and noted that there are 10 original motels remaining.

Mr. Piccirillo asked for any further questions or comments. There being none, the meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m. Staff collected the completed citizen surveys from participants.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND STRATEGY -
PUBLIC HEARING**

**August 21, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers - 745 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York**

Attendees: (sign in sheet attached to minutes)

Nicholas D'Agostino, 2249 Welch Ave.
Tom Lowe, 8605 Munson Avenue
Kathy Steinman, NHS
Ron Anderluh, Niagara St. Bus. Assoc., NHS
Diane Tattersall, 1420 Fort Ave.
Stephen Dojka, 3517 Westwood Drive
Anne Chapman, 1883 Niagara Ave.
Rob Kazeangin, 3009 Macklem Ave.
Mike Parsnick, 4217 McKoon Ave.
Joyce Scorniers, 728 Townsend Place
Dan Davis, 2638 Welch Ave.
Brook D'Angelo
Council Member Andrew Torma, 732 College Terrace
John Drake, Center City
Michael Rozanski, 9909 Black Creek Drive
Jeffrey Hunt, Jr., 1712 Ferry Avenue
Vanessa Scott, God's Women Ministry
Donna Owens, City Administrator, CNF
Time Warner Cable
Niagara Gazette Reporter

Staff Present:

Seth Piccirillo, Director	James Marasco, Project Administrator
MaryAnn Colangelo, Admin. Assist.	Gail Bimont, Neigh. Dev. Specialist

The public hearing began at 6:00 p.m. All participants received a copy of the 2015 proposed budget and the 2015 CPS Schedule of Events.

Mr. Piccirillo welcomed all those in attendance and introduced staff. He stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss the draft 2015 action plan and budget. He stated that the budget will be reviewed line by line and questions about how the process works or questions about specific projects or the budget as a whole will be answered. Most importantly he stated that everyone will have the opportunity to give us their thoughts and make comments on specific projects or the entire budget. He stated that starting tomorrow through September 21st the public can also write in any comments they may have concerning the budget. Comments can be dropped off or mailed to the Carnegie Building at 1022 Main Street or e-mailed to the Director (e-mail address was provided).

Mr. Piccirillo stated that the budget was made up a total of \$2.7 million in federal funding from the U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The budget is divided into the following programs and estimated 2015 dollar amounts: \$2.2 million in CDBG funding, \$359,000 in HOME investment funding and \$180,000 in Emergency Solutions Grant funding.

Community Development is responsible for managing these programs for the City of Niagara Falls and the Dept. submits an annual update and audit to HUD every March.

Mr. Piccirillo stressed that the annual plan is built through community input. He stated this year's participation period was 17 weeks long. He stated that we want everyone to be involved in the process and we want to be sure to follow HUD guidelines as closely as possible and never leave anybody out of the conversation.

Mr. Piccirillo did a line by line review the Schedule of Events handout that was distributed to the audience which outlined the series of events leading up the presentation of the budget and approval of the plan and budget. He stated that the projects that will be approved will probably not be fundable until July of 2015 when funds are expected to be available. He stated that all of these steps are advertised in the Niagara Gazette and all documents are available for review at the Carnegie Building and the Main Street Library and at the CD website nf-cd.org.

Mr. Piccirillo stated that this is a draft budget and it is not final until HUD approves it. We have based the budget on dollar amounts that were received in 2014. We want to be conservative because that dollar amount can go up or down based on the availability of federal funds. Changes can be made to the budget based on input that we receive during the review period or during HUD review. CD's goal is to base the budget on what the public says. He noted that is why everyone's attendance and comments were so important. Council will have the final vote on the budget in October.

Mr. Piccirillo stated that resident comments that were made clear during community meetings were for neighborhood investments, activities for our young people as well as housing renovation programs, job training and blight clearance. CD received more requests than we have funds. He noted that he felt this budget was a response to what we have heard from the community and the process continues to be as transparent as possible.

Mr. Piccirillo did a line by line review of each activity that was funded in the CDBG, HOME and ESG budget. He asked if everyone in the audience had received a copy of the budget that he was reviewing.

When reviewing funding for the Center City, Neighborhood Housing Services and HCRC, Mr. Piccirillo commended the organizations for working together in applying for State funding as a consortium. He stated that we are very lucky that our subrecipients worked together and did this.

When discussing the funding of a Skate Park, Mr. Piccirillo stated that a location has not been chosen. He stated that we want to get more public input from the young people and the community at large.

Mr. Piccirillo also thanked all of the public service subrecipients who met with him as a group to discuss how there could be collaboration and perhaps shared services to cut down costs. He said the meeting was a very productive conversation which is something we want to continue.

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He stated that public service activities is a difficult part of the budget because we get a large amount of applications. All of the programs are beneficial to the community but we can't fund all of them. We are only able to fund approximately \$330,000 out of our budget for public service activities. This year New Jerusalem Reporting Center and the Police Dept. is not in the CD budget as it was decided to use casino money to fund these programs as they relate to crime prevention.

After review of the budget, Mr. Piccirillo opened the meeting to questions or comments.

Diana Tattersall asked for further explanation of the different types of programs that the God's Woman Program would provide.

Vanessa Scott, founder and Exec. Director of God's Woman Ministry, addressed the question. She went into detail about the history of program which mentors women in life skills. She said a main focus is teens and teen pregnancy prevention. She stated that their next meeting is Sept. 3rd on Calumet at the Love Center, and anyone is welcomed to attend. She said life skills ranging from setting a table, making good choices to public speaking is addressed, etc.. She said they also listen to the participants for ideas and recommendations to address through the program.

Joyce Seoniers, representative from God's Women, stated that City has highest teen pregnancy rate in the county and that needs to be addressed. She said the heart of the program is to try and lower that teen pregnancy rate. They wanted to start working with young girls educating them in making good life choices and give them life skills to help them avoid future life problems. She said they do tours of colleges and teach participants how to do job interviews and dress for work, etc. She talked about the young women homelessness problem in the City and how it was their goal that the program would put girls on a right life path so those types of problems could be avoided.

Kathy Steinman, Exec. Director of Neighborhood Housing Services, read the following statement into the record: I would like to thank the City of Niagara Falls, Mr. Piccirillo and the staff at Community Development for their support of NHS and the mission activities we administer such as homeowner promotion and preservation. In a time when funding on every level becomes less sustaining we are faced with challenges and choices in our priorities to survive. This forces us to suspend services that help preserve specific properties. While we recognize that CD faces similar challenges we implore you to work with the area neighborhood development program nonprofits to seek out and secure future funding that addresses the non-owner occupied multi-dwelling units in need of rehabilitation. We know that for many of these properties preservation may be too late but we strongly feel that addressing multi-family properties today will help the future of Niagara Falls tomorrow. In closing on behalf of NHS and its Board of Directors we support the proposed activities as outlined in the budget that outline housing development that preserves and stabilize neighborhoods and communities and we thank you.

Ron Anderluh, representing the NIRS Board and Niagara St. Revitalization, thanked CD for their years of partnership not only with NHS but also with the Niagara Street area. He said without CD funds a lot of the projects in the Niagara Street area would not have happened. He stated that he was very happy with the money that was funded in the budget and the fact that all the agencies were working together.

Mr. Anderluh stated that the only thing that he would like to see was if we could find some money to work with senior citizens to help with specific repairs to their houses. Seniors are living on a fixed income and then code enforcement comes around and says you have to fix this or that and they don't have the funds. If there is a pool of money that could be made available through the rehab agencies for specific minor repairs, that should be included.

Mr. Anderluh stated it was great that money was being invested into City parks. He said he was all in favor of addressing the parks. He also stated that he supported the proposed Skate Board Park. He felt the best location would be at the Legends Park. He said he was 100 percent behind the Isaiah 61 project. He felt it was the greatest program that has come along in a long time. He said he would like to see more money put into demolition.

Mr. Anderluh stated that he would like to see more money put into the façade program. He said that only \$20,000 was proposed for this year. He said that more money should be found for that program. Mr. Piccirillo stated that we were able to find some other funding sources for the façade program and more than \$20,000 is available.

Mr. Anderluh supported the Niagara Falls Wrestling Club funding.

Mr. Anderluh stated that he supported park funding but the parks need to be policed. He said he asked the Police Chief if they could hire two police officers that would do nothing but patrol the parks but an alternative to that would be to have rangers not only in the downtown area but have them supervise our parks when the youth recreation people leave.

Mr. Anderluh thanked CD for all the funds that were coming to the Niagara Street area and NHS and he looked forward to working with our Department in the future.

A participant asked if CD had a working relationship with NiaCap. Mr. Piccirillo stated that we have funded them for many years and they are in this year's HSG budget for \$10,000.

Tom Lowe, from the City's Youth Board and Niagara Beautification Commission, stated that he appreciated the budget's focus on the City's youth population and City parks. He said the skate park was sorely needed in the community and it is also promising to see the City following through on its Master Plan that they spent a lot of money to produce. He also said from his perspective with the Main Street Business Association he felt funding a Business Advocate position was a great idea and he looked forward to working with that person and with CD.

Diane Tattersall stated that she was especially happy to see something in the budget for the teenagers in the City. She said it was brought up in the community meetings that the needs of the 12-17 year age group needed to be addressed. She felt that the success of Legends Park was because they had adult supervision at that park from the beginning. She said that anytime a park is opened it is necessary to have someone there for supervision, especially for teenagers.

Vanessa Scott from God's Women Project thanked CD for the funds allocated to her God's Woman project. She said they also operate a homeless women's shelter called the WINGS (Women in Need of Gainful Service). They take in pregnant teens and young women to 18 years of age. She said they were having some problems with that project but things have been rectified. She said she hoped CD would reconsider funding for WINGS. She said one of the things that the extra money is needed for is emergency homeless housing. They have and had to turn people away because of lack of funding. Additional funds could also provide more services for the women at the facility. She said there was a great need concerning the homelessness of women in the community. She said that they will be sending a letter to CD to be reconsidered for funding.

Joyce Scomiers talked about the uniqueness of their facility. She said that they work with the larger homeless providers in the City like Community Missions and they take persons from those providers. She said they are small enough that their clients can receive a lot of individual care.

Robert Kazeangin stated that CD really knows what the word community means and he commended the Dept. for the budget. He felt the budget truly touched all aspects of the community and he felt that was what it was all about. He also commended Council Member Touma for being at the meeting to listen to all of the comments so that the Council will be able to make good decisions.

Nick D'Agostino NUIS Board Member and Niagara Street Business Association member, stated he supported the funding that was in the budget for the parks and for the young people in the City. Concerning the Small Business Manager, he stated that he hoped that the right person would be chosen and there would be "no favorites" given the position.

Mr. D'Agostino complimented and gave his support to the Section 8 program. He also talked about the importance of the new garbage policies and noted the Solid Waste Enforcement Team should work with landlords to make the program work.

John Drake, Director of Center City Neighborhood Dev. Corp., submitted the following comments in writing for the record: Center City supports the 2015 draft CDBG and HOME plan, however we would request a technical correction. The current plan funds Center City at \$140,000 of which \$66,500 is for program delivery and \$73,500 for rehabilitation costs. Based on an analysis of our loan portfolio we anticipate program income during the period to be \$27,000 providing all loans are paid in a timely fashion. At the time the budget was prepared we were not asked for a projection of cash flow which is based on the same program used by the City for portfolio management. Based on actual data we request that the distribution be revised

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to \$74,000 for program delivery and \$66,000 for rehabilitation. Mr. Drake also submitted in a written comment a question/comment concerning the \$25,000 that was in the program income column under the HOME program. He asked Community Development for clarification stating that CC remits its program income to the City on a quarterly basis. He said if the \$25,000 should be under the "City" column or he questioned if CD was letting CC retain its program income for rehabilitation?

There being no further comments or questions Mr. Piccirillo thanked all those in attendance. He noted that the public still had a 30- day opportunity to make comments. Written or e-mailed comments will be accepted through September 21. He said a specific date has not been set to take the budget to Council would be it would in the October timeframe.

The public meeting concluded at 6:35 p.m.



Grantee Unique Appendices

5 Year Strategic Plan

This document was provided to the public for comment at an October 2, 2014 public hearing in the City of Niagara Falls.

NAME OF JURISDICTION: The City of Niagara Falls

Consolidated Plan Time Period: 2015-2019

GENERAL

Executive Summary

5 Year Strategic Plan Executive Summary:

The City of Niagara Falls, New York, prepares a five year strategic plan in order to efficiently implement federal programs that fund housing, community development and neighborhood based services within the City. Public participation is essential to this process.

The end result of the process: a consolidated plan and annual applications for the use of federal entitlement funds available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. The City of Niagara Falls submits this five year strategic plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval.

The plan serves the following functions:

- A management tool that focuses HUD investment on a comprehensive strategy rather than a series of isolated annual applications and projects.
- An application for CDBG, HOME and ESG funds under HUD's formula grants.
- An assessment tool to track annual spending and project based performance.

Based on Federal Fiscal Year 2014 HUD entitlement levels, the plan will direct the following resources:

CDBG Annual: \$2,234,848 CDBG 5 Year Estimate: \$11,174,240

HOME Annual: \$359,489 HOME 5 Year Estimate: \$1,797,445

ESG Annual: \$180,862 ESG 5 Year Estimate: \$904,310

Annual Total: \$2,775,199 5 Year Total: \$13,875,995

The CDBG, HOME and ESG programs are the primary federal funding resources in the 2015-2019 consolidated plan. A brief overview of each program is as follows:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Niagara Falls is a HUD entitlement community. The City receives annual CDBG funds to develop viable neighborhoods with decent housing, a suitable living environment, and real economic opportunities, especially for the low- and moderate-income population.

CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- Rehabilitation of Residential and Non-Residential Structures
- Demolition of Blighted Structures

- Commercial Rehabilitation
- Community and Public Services
- Non-Profit Organization Public Services
- Neighborhood Clean-Up and Clearance Assistance
- Support for/Improvement of Public Facilities
- Code Enforcement
- Closing Costs Assistance Grant Program
- First Time Home Owner Housing Rehabilitation Assistance
- Homebuyer Education Services

Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

The HOME Program makes housing rehabilitation and homeownership investments throughout the City of Niagara Falls. HOME's flexibility empowers people and communities to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities. CD's HOME Program includes the following:

- Residential Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Deferred Loan Program – Owner Occupied (One to Four Family Properties)
- Rental Rehabilitation Program
- Lead Based Paint Safe Work Practices Training

Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)

ESG funds are available for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and data collection through the Homeless Management Information System or HMIS.

Below is a summary of the components and related eligible costs:

- **Street Outreach:** funds may cover costs related to essential services for unsheltered persons (including emergency health or mental health care, engagement, case management, and services for special populations).
- **Emergency Shelter:** funds may be used for renovation of emergency shelter facilities and the operation of those facilities, as well as services for the residents (including

case management, child care, education, employment assistance and job training, legal, mental health, substance abuse treatment, transportation, and services for special populations)

- **Homelessness Prevention:** The costs of homelessness prevention are only eligible to the extent that the assistance is necessary to help the program participant regain stability in the participant's current permanent housing or move into other permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Rapid Re-Housing: Housing relocation and stabilization services (including rental application fees, security deposits, utility deposits or payments, last month's rent and housing search and placement activities). Funds may also be used for short- or medium-term rental assistance for those who are at-risk of becoming homeless or transitioning to stable housing.

- **HMIS:** funds may be used to pay the costs for contributing data to the HMIS designated by the Continuum of Care for the area. Eligible activities include (computer hardware, software, or equipment, technical support, office space, salaries of operators, staff training costs, and participation fees).

The City of Niagara strives to meet three overarching objectives, set by HUD, with each strategic plan:

- Provide decent housing
- Create suitable living environments
- Create economic opportunities

More specifically, the Niagara Falls Community Development (CD) Department 2015-2019 Five Year Strategic Plan is designed to be straightforward and results driven. As opposed to general goals, our department has evaluated past performance and results to create a list of objectives and desired outcomes. Goal and objective setting has been directly impacted by the citizen participation process.

The plan's specific objectives are simple:

- A 10 percent increase in prime occupant, owner occupied, residential units renovated by United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program throughout the City of Niagara Falls.
- A 15 percent increase in home ownership closing cost grants, funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.
- A 10 percent reduction of vacant housing units citywide.
- An increase the percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent housing.
- Reconfiguration of existing housing renovation target areas to a city-wide model. Currently, limited sections of the city are deemed geographically ineligible for (CDBG) and HOME funded grants. A city wide model, for HUD eligible residents, will increase housing renovation opportunities.
- An annual funding commitment to functional job training programs within the City of Niagara Falls with a focus on entry level trades and medical arts employment opportunities.
- An annual funding commitment to youth programming that focuses on the 12-17 age range.
- An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
- The formalization of a housing renovation consortium between historic (HUD) funding subrecipients.
- An annual funding commitment to public infrastructure improvements in residential areas.
- An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents.
- An annual funding commitment to capital small business development projects.
- A commitment to the sale and renovation of city owned vacant houses whenever financially feasible. Sale and renovation of these structures prevent costly demolition and support tax base growth. Current tax foreclosure auctions perpetuate the cycle of

disinvestment and unsuitable housing for low income residents. In addition, these transformations increase the quality of life for surrounding residents.

- Annual investment in safety net stakeholders dedicated to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.
- Adoption of a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Process (CPTED) in cooperation with the city's departments of police, fire and public works for all capital projects funded by CD. This process, supported by the United States Department of Justice, will best help ensure that CD projects are safe and planned appropriately.
- Adoption of quarterly community development meetings with the public in addition to annual action plan meetings. Our department is well served by community input and interaction. Increasing outreach opportunities will assist the department meet strategic goals and objectives.
- Presentation of quarterly spending and project progress information to the Niagara Falls City Council and the public, in line with already developed, nationwide CompStat principles. In addition to the HUD Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) these quarterly reports will both help our department effectively manage project and contractors and keep our residents informed.
- Creation of a small business advocate program to better connect local small businesses with internet based advertising and promotional opportunities.
- The hosting of one cyber-town hall meeting regarding community development issues during each year of the strategic plan time frame. While public meetings and comment periods will always be essential parts of the city's public participation process, we must embrace new technology whenever possible.

The plan's objective's support clearly stated community goals:

- Increased percentage of new home ownership over 2010-2014.
- Decreased number of city owned vacant housing units over 2010-2014.
- Increased number of home renovations, citywide over 2010-2014.
- Reportable number of residents placed in actual employment opportunities after completing a CD funded program.
- Notable improvements made in at a minimum of seven public parks.
- Citywide adoption of a demolition evaluation strategy.

- Citywide adoption of a CPTED planning process.
- Citywide adoption of citystat reporting.

MANAGING THE PROCESS

Consultation 91.200(b)

The City of Niagara Falls Community Development is the lead agency in the coordination and development of the five year plan and strategy. The following public and private agencies also participated in its development:

- Niagara Falls Housing Authority
- NF Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.
- Center City Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Highland Community Revitalization Committee
- Niagara County Department of Social Services
- Niagara Falls Police Department
- Niagara County YWCA
- Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
- Family and Children's Services of Niagara
- Community Missions of Niagara
- The Niagara Falls Block Club Council
- Niagara Community Action Program
- Niagara University
- New Jerusalem Boy's Reporting Center
- Niagara Arts and Cultural Center
- Niagara Street Business Association
- Main Street Business Association
- Youth Motivation Inc.
- The Isaiah 61 Project
- The God's Woman Project

This broad group of stakeholders, including public and assisted housing providers and health and services agencies, provided expertise in the needs of our low to moderate income population.

The Community Mission of Niagara, as the local Continuum of Care’s coordinating agency, bolsters the plan’s focus on the needs of homeless persons. As always, Niagara Falls will continue consultation with the Continuum of Care on all Emergency Solution Grant spending.

The Niagara Falls Community Development Department convened the following stakeholder workshops to gain insight into the needs and goals of the community.

HOUSING-September 4

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES-September 4

YOUTH/PUBLIC SERVICES-September 5

HOMELESS PREVENTION/RAPID REHOUSING-September 5

The department also added a new public participation feature, not included in past plans. We hosted a public workshop on September 11, 2014 to discuss the community’s views on housing, neighborhood services, youth/public services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. These topic areas best reflect eligible HUD fundable programs.

The five year strategy, focusing on specific objectives and goals, is being presented to the public at an October 2, 2014 public hearing, followed by a 30 public comment period. All

comments will be presented to HUD as part of the five year strategy submission. All public meetings were advertised in the Niagara Gazette, as the city's public record publication.

A 30 day public comment follows the public hearing, allowing the community to offer additional input. At the close of the public comment period, the plan will be presented to the Niagara Falls City Council for approval, and then sent to HUD for final approval.

Grantee SF-424's and Certification(s)

CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing -- The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing, which means it will conduct an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice within the jurisdiction, take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting that analysis and actions in this regard.

Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan -- It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR 24; and it has in effect and is following a residential antidisplacement and relocation assistance plan required under section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the CDBG or HOME programs.

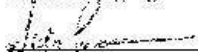
Anti-Lobbying -- To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-L.L.L., "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction -- The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

Consistency with plan -- The housing activities to be undertaken with CDBG, HOME, ESCL, and HOPWA funds are consistent with the strategic plan.

Section 3 -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 135.


Signature/Authorized Official

3/23/15
Date

Specific CDBG Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

Citizen Participation -- It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105.

Community Development Plan -- Its consolidated housing and community development plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that provide decent housing, expand economic opportunities primarily for persons of low and moderate income (Sec CFR 24.570.2 and CFR 24 part. 570)

Following a Plan -- It is following a current consolidated plan (or Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) that has been approved by HUD.

Use of Funds -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1. **Maximum Feasible Priority.** With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it certifies that it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low and moderate income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available;
2. **Overall Benefit.** The aggregate use of CDBG funds including section 108 guaranteed loans during program year(s) 2014, 2015 (a period specified by the grantee consisting of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years), shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period;
3. **Special Assessments.** It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

The jurisdiction will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108, unless CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of fee or assessment attributable to the capital costs of public improvements financed from other revenue sources. In this case, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds. Also, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its


jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction;

Compliance With Anti-discrimination laws -- The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-3619), and implementing regulations.

Lead-Based Paint -- Its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR Part 35, subparts A, B, J, K and R;

Compliance with Laws -- It will comply with applicable laws.


Signature/Authorized Official

5/20/15
Date

Director, Community Development Dept
Title

**OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION
CDBG**

Submit the following certification only when one or more of the activities in the action plan are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency as specified in 24 CFR 570.208(c):

The grantee hereby certifies that the Annual Plan includes one or more specifically identified CDBG-assisted activities which are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.


Signature/Authorized Official 3/20/15
Date

Director, Community Development Department
Title

Specific HOME Certifications

The HOME participating jurisdiction certifies that:

Tenant Based Rental Assistance -- If the participating jurisdiction intends to provide tenant-based rental assistance:


The use of HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance is an essential element of the participating jurisdiction's consolidated plan for expanding the supply, affordability, and availability of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing.

Eligible Activities and Costs -- It is using and will use HOME funds for eligible activities and costs, as described in 24 CFR § 92.205 through 92.209 and that it is not using and will not use HOME funds for prohibited activities, as described in § 92.214.

Appropriate Financial Assistance -- Before committing any funds to a project, it will evaluate the project in accordance with the guidelines that it adopts for this purpose and will not invest any more HOME funds in combination with other Federal assistance than is necessary to provide affordable housing.


Signature/Authorized Official


Date


Title

ESG Certifications

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program Recipient certifies that:

Major rehabilitation/conversion – If an emergency shelter's rehabilitation costs exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before rehabilitation, the jurisdiction will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed rehabilitation. If the cost to convert a building into an emergency shelter exceeds 75 percent of the value of the building after conversion, the jurisdiction will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed conversion. In all other cases where ESG funds are used for renovation, the jurisdiction will maintain the building as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 3 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed renovation.

Essential Services and Operating Costs – In the case of assistance involving shelter operations or essential services related to street outreach or emergency shelter, the jurisdiction will provide services or shelter to homeless individuals and families for the period during which the ESG assistance is provided, without regard to a particular site or structure, so long the jurisdiction serves the same type of persons (e.g., families with children, unaccompanied youth, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence) or persons in the same geographic area.

Renovation – Any renovation carried out with ESG assistance shall be sufficient to ensure that the building involved is safe and sanitary.

Supportive Services – The jurisdiction will assist homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing, appropriate supportive services (including medical and mental health treatment, victim services, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living), and other Federal, State, local, and private assistance available for such individuals.

Matching Funds – The jurisdiction will obtain matching amounts required under 24 CFR 576.201.

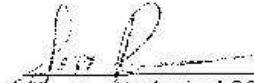
Confidentiality – The jurisdiction has established and is implementing procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including protection against the release of the address or location of any family violence shelter project, except with the written authorization of the person responsible for the operation of that shelter.

Homeless Persons Involvement – To the maximum extent practicable, the jurisdiction will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under the ESG program, in providing services assisted under the ESG program, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted under the program.

Consolidated Plan – All activities the jurisdiction undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

Discharge Policy – The jurisdiction will establish and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from

publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent this discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for these persons



Signature/Authorized Official

5/20/12

Date

Director, Community Development Dept.

Title

HOPWA Certifications

The HOPWA grantee certifies that:

Activities -- Activities funded under the program will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources.

Building -- Any building or structure assisted under that program shall be operated for the purpose specified in the plan:

1. For at least 10 years in the case of assistance involving new construction, substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a facility,
2. For at least 3 years in the case of assistance involving non-substantial rehabilitation or repair of a building or structure.

N/A

Signature/Authorized Official

Date

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING:

A. Lobbying Certification

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Appendix - Alternate/Local Data Sources