

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls 2015 AAP is the result of a 22 week public participation process. The Niagara Falls Community Development Department, as lead agency, worked with stakeholder groups and residents to create a plan that effectively targets the causes and symptoms of blight, disinvestment and homelessness within our community. Using the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) national objectives as guidance, the 2015 AAP Plan proposes both housing investment and quality of life improvements that can be executed effectively and in a timely manner.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

Objectives:

- 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.
- Increase in home ownership closing cost grants, funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.
- An increase the percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent housing.
- Execution of quality of life improvements, targeting the 12-17 year old age range.
- City park improvement projects, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.
- The formalization of a housing renovation consortium between historic (HUD) funding sub recipients.
- An annual funding commitment to community policing strategies that both increase police visibility and make the police department accessible to residents

The plan's objective's support clearly stated community goals within the five year plan time period.

- 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.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The City of Niagara Falls must improve its housing renovation expenditure rate and project execution. In consultation with the community, the 2015 AAP is composed of projects that can be executed and completed within one year, with a two year maximum time period.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City of Niagara Falls held four neighborhood workshops on the following dates:

May 21, 2014: Lasalle Public Library

May 22, 2014: Niagara Falls Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

May 28, 2014: Doris Jones Family Resource Building

May 29, 2014: Niagara Falls Department of Community Development

On May 12, 2014, funding application handbooks were released to the public, both in paper form, and available at our website, www.nf-cd.org. Applications were due on June 30, 2014, reviewed by CD staff, and a public hearing and 30 day public comment period followed.

5. Summary of public comments

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

The public comment received at the workshops and hearings stressed a need for neighborhood based improvements and investment in city parks.

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

No comments, other than those documented in the attached meeting minutes were received. CD accepts all comments.

7. Summary

N/A

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

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

Agency Role		Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator			Niagara Falls Community Development Department
HOME Administrator			Niagara Falls Community Development Department
ESG Administrator			Niagara Falls Community Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

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

As listed in the City of Niagara Falls 2015 AAP Citizen Participation Comments Attachment, the City of Niagara Falls met with, and coordinated with a wide range of housing providers, and public service agencies during the 22 week participation process, leading up to the finalization of the AAP.

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 met with, and coordinates all planning with the Niagara County CoC and the Homelessness Alliance of Western New York. Both groups have access to the draft plan, and participated in planning sessions.

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

The City of Niagara Falls met with, and coordinates all planning with the Niagara County CoC and the Homelessness Alliance of Western New York. Both groups have access to the draft plan, and participated in planning sessions.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

We affirm that all agency types with applicable services were given the opportunity to participate.

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	Homlessness Alliance of Western New York	Rapid Rehousing and emergency services
2009 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan	City of Niagara Falls	Execution of park improvements

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Public participation drives the AP planning process in the City of Niagara Falls. Our four neighborhood workshops, public hearing, public comment period, and meetings with housing renovation and public service providers, allows all interested parties and the public at large, to have a voice in the decision making.

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	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Both the workshops and the hearing were well attended.	A emphasis on quality of life issues.	N/A	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Based on 2015 actuals, the City of Niagara Falls is budgeting for \$2,241,544 in CDBG, \$317,911 in HOME and \$199,375 in ESG.

Priority Table

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	Housing renovation, public investments, public service programs, administration

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	Home renovation funding allocated to the City of Niagara Falls, Center City Development Corp and Niagara Falls Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.
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	Rapid Rehousing and emergency services

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

matching requirements will be satisfied

Total leveraged state and private funds for CDBG, HOME and ESG programs listed in SF 424s.

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

Hyde Park is a municipal park that will improved as park of the CDBG program.

Discussion

The City of Niagara Falls fully understands the federal dollar amounts are not finalized until the United States Congress approves HUD funding and HUD approves individual municipal plans.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

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	Provide decent housing	CDBG: \$740,000 HOME: \$317,911	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 200 Household Housing Unit
2	City Park/Public Space Improvement	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Renovation	Provide a suitable living environment	CDBG: \$446,696	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50000 Households Assisted
3	Increase in youth services	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Renovation	Provide a suitable living environment	CDBG: \$342,500	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50000 Persons Assisted
4	Residents placed in employment opportunities	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Housing Renovation	Provide expanded economic opportunities,	CDBG: \$182,000	Jobs created/retained: 100 Jobs
5	Permanent Housing for the Homeless	2015	2019	Homeless	Housing Renovation	Provide decent housing	ESG: \$199,375	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 4000 Persons Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Goal Description	Through home renovation programs the the first time home owner closing cost grant, the City of Niagara Falls aims to provide real home improvement and equity assistance.
2	Goal Name	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Goal Description	An annual funding commitment to public park improvements, consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan. Park improvements provide productive spaces for our community's young people and can help bring value to neighborhood housing markets.
3	Goal Name	Increase in youth services
	Goal Description	
4	Goal Name	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Goal Description	The City of Niagara Falls is committed to trades training and medical arts training programs, within city limits, are sustainable pathways to employment.
5	Goal Name	Permanent Housing for the Homeless
	Goal Description	

Table 7 – Goal Descriptions

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 91.215(b):

According to HOME 91.215, the 2015 annual plan targets 24,000 persons. The provision of affordable housing is ultimately dependent on program participation and outreach.

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

TEST

#	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
10	2015 City of Niagara Falls CDBG SF Targeted Housing Rehab
11	2015 NHS CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation
12	2015 Center City CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation
13	2015 Niagara Falls Commercial Facade Rehabilitation Program
14	2015 Community Missions Capital Project
15	2015 City of Niagara Falls Small Business Advocate
16	2015 Niagara Falls Wrestling Club Improvements
17	2015 Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Community Health Center
18	2015 Niagara Falls Police Dept. Police Salaries
19	2015 Niagara Falls Police Ranger Program
20	2015 Youth Motivation - Early Detection and Correction
21	2015 Niagara Arts and Cultural Center - Art Summer Camp
22	2015 Niagara Falls Housing Authority After School Program
23	2015 God's Woman Program
24	2015 Niagara County Financial Literacy Coalition
25	2015 CDBG Administration
26	2015 CDBG Administration - Fair Housing Program
30	ESG15 Niagara Falls

Table 8 – Project Information

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

Projects

AP-38 Projects Summary

Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

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	Provide decent housing
	Funding	:
	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	Addresses dependent on the location of the home.
	Planned Activities	Closing cost assistance grants to home owners.
2	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	Provide decent housing
	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	Dependent on homeowner 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	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	10/31/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000
	Location Description	City-wide.
	Planned Activities	Department of Public Works - Special Operations Project. Targeted clean-up task force addressing needs in CDBG eligible areas.
4	Project Name	2015 Hyde Park Playground
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 persons will benefit from this significant and needed improvement in the city's largest greenspace.
	Location Description	Hyde Park Cross Streets: Pine Avenue and Hyde Park Blvd.
	Planned Activities	CDBG funds will be dedicated to playground construction.
5	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Skatepark Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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 persons.
	Location Description	Hyde Park - Hyde Park Blvd. 1200 Block
	Planned Activities	Design is funded by the City of Niagara Falls. CDBG funds will be dedicated to construction.
6	Project Name	2015 70th Street Park Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	City Park/Public Space Improvement

	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	11/30/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 persons.
	Location Description	Corner of 68th Street and Girard Avenue
	Planned Activities	Installation of new park equipment.
7	Project Name	2015 The Isaiah 61 Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Residents placed in employment opportunities
	Needs Addressed	Provide expanded economic opportunities,
	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	A year of the training program will impact approx. 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	Provide decent housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Targeted housing rehabilitation - HCRC will administer housing rehabilitation programs in targeted areas of the city.
	Target Date	6/30/2016
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Four renovations thus four families
	Location Description	Dependent on home owner address.
	Planned Activities	Deferred loans for home renovations
9	Project Name	2015 Demolition of Blighted Structures
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Demolition of blighted structures in low to moderate income areas. Asbestos abatement service is an eligible cost.

	Target Date	9/30/2015
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Project will fund approx. five blight demolitions.
	Location Description	Addresses selected at the time of demolition contract.
	Planned Activities	Contracting for demolition.
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	Provide decent housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$160,000 HOME: \$105,970
	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 15% of HOME funds will be allocated for an eligible CHDO project.
	Target Date	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This amount will fund approx. eight home renovations.
	Location Description	Dependent on home addresses.
	Planned Activities	Deferred loans to home owners.
11	Project Name	2015 NHS CDBG SF Targeted Home Rehabilitation

	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Provide decent housing
	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	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Will provide funding for approx. 8 home renovations.
	Location Description	Dependent on home addresses.
	Planned Activities	Deferred loans for home owner 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	Provide decent housing
	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	6/30/2017

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Will provide funding for approx. eight home renovations.
	Location Description	Dependent on home addresses.
	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	Provide expanded economic opportunities,
	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	6/30/2017
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Small business owners in the City of Niagara Falls.
	Location Description	Dependent on small business addresses.
	Planned Activities	Matching grants for store front renovations.
14	Project Name	2015 Community Missions Capital Project
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Permanent Housing for the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Provide decent housing

	Funding	CDBG: \$80,000
	Description	Capital Improvement Project - Mill and overlay of facility parking lot at 1590 Buffalo Avenue.
	Target Date	10/31/2015
	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	Provide expanded economic opportunities,
	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	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The small business community would benefit from the small business advocate.
	Location Description	City-wide.
	Planned Activities	The Small Business Advocate would be dedicated to promoting and supporting small business marketing efforts.

16	Project Name	2015 Niagara Falls Wrestling Club Improvements
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Increase in youth services
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	Capital Improvements - Replacement of mats, alarm system and facade renovation at 2402 Niagara Street.
	Target Date	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	150
	Location Description	2402 Niagara St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
	Planned Activities	Facility improvements - replaced mats.
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	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50,000 person.
	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 Increase in youth services
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	5000
	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	Increase in youth services

	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	50,000 persons.
	Location Description	Downtown Niagara Falls.
	Planned Activities	Niagara Falls Ranger Program - Targeted police/ambassador foot patrol operation that incorporates the hiring of local residents.
20	Project Name	2015 Youth Motivation - Early Detection and Correction
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Increase in youth services
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	Increase in youth services
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	Increase in youth services

	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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	Increase in youth services
	Needs Addressed	Provide a suitable living environment
	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
	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	Increase in youth services
	Needs Addressed	Provide expanded economic opportunities,
	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 persons.
	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 Increase in youth services Residents placed in employment opportunities Permanent Housing for the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Provide decent housing Provide a suitable living environment Provide expanded economic opportunities,
	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	N/A Admin. Functions.
	Location Description	N/A Admin. Functions.
	Planned Activities	N/A Admin. Functions.
26	Project Name	2015 CDBG Administration - Fair Housing Program
	Target Area	Housing Renovation
	Goals Supported	Higher percentage of home ownership & renovation
	Needs Addressed	Provide decent housing
	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	24000
	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	Permanent Housing for the Homeless
	Needs Addressed	Provide decent housing
	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	10,000 persons.
	Location Description	City-wide.
	Planned Activities	Rapid Rehousing and emergency shelter and street outreach programs.

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 202-214

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Housing Renovation	44

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Renovation of aging housing stock and the increased percentage of home ownership are the highest priorities for Niagara Falls Community Development.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	1,000
Non-Homeless	2,000
Special-Needs	0
Total	3,000

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	10
The Production of New Units	25
Rehab of Existing Units	35
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	70

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

Discussion

n/a

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

Rapid rehousing and street outreach programs

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Rapid rehousing and street outreach programs

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

Rapid rehousing and street outreach programs

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.

Rapid rehousing and street outreach programs

Discussion

Rapid rehousing and street outreach programs

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family

Tenant-based rental assistance
Units provided in housing facilities (transitional or permanent) that are being developed, leased, or operated
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds
Total

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

Introduction

The City of Niagara Falls is dedicated to tax and governmental policies that assist the pursuit of affordable housing.

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

The City of Niagara Falls is dedicated to tax and governmental policies that assist the pursuit of affordable housing.

Discussion

The City of Niagara Falls is dedicated to tax and governmental policies that assist the pursuit of affordable housing.

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	115,000
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	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	115,000

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.	83.00%

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

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

New York State Home and Community Renewal Grant Funding.

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:

Deferred loan

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)

The 2015 ESG APPLICATION HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM PAST YEARS. There has been no substantial changes from the 2014 application, but this notice bears repetition. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made specific changes to this program. The former Emergency Shelter Grant Program is now the Emergency Solutions Grant Program.

The objectives of the ESG Program are partially to increase the number and quality of emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities for homeless individuals and families, to operate these facilities and provide essential social services. The program has now been revised and expanded to include a strong emphasis on homelessness prevention and on rapid re-housing.

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).

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOUR APPLICATION AND PROJECTS IN NIAGARA FALLS?

Per HUD guidelines, no more than 60 percent of the City's total ESG allocation can be used for emergency shelter and street outreach activities and 32.5 percent must be used for rapid re-housing assistance activities. Under the previous ESG, a larger percentage was available for transitional shelter programs. HUD cannot approve an ESG budget that does not adhere to these percentages. The Niagara Falls Community Development budget will reflect these new guidelines.

To learn more about the ESG Program, visit:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/homeless/programs/esg

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

N.A

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).

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http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/homeless/programs/esg

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.

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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.

2015 CPS – Minutes of Neighborhood Meeting

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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

2015 CPS CNF Community Development Neighborhood Meeting

NHS – 479 – 16th Street

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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.

CPS CNF Community Development Neighborhood Meeting

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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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LaSalle Public Library – May 21, 2014
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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 Seoniers, 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.

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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 NIS 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 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.

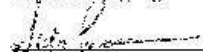
Anti-Lobbying -- To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

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, ESF, 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 2/20/15
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.

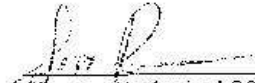
Confidentiality – The jurisdiction has established and is implementing procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including protection against the release 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.

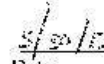
Homeless Persons Involvement – To the maximum extent practicable, the jurisdiction will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities assisted under the ESG program, in providing services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

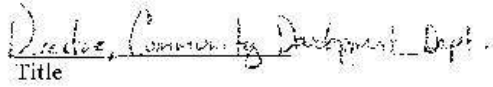
Consolidated Plan – All activities the jurisdiction undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with the jurisdiction's consolidated plan.

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


Date


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.