



**CITY OF GULFPORT  
PY2023 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)**

**CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes**

**Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)**

The City of Gulfport's 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan identifies goals and outcomes expected from implementation of projects funded with CDBG and HOME resources. Progress made toward achieving the goals is identified by annually evaluating the City's performance implementing projects budgeted in each One-Year Action Plan. This involves reviewing the City's compliance with applicable federal regulations; verifying projects are implemented within budget and on time; and by comparing actual, quantifiable outcomes of each project to the expected benefits identified in the applicable Action Plan. The City historically invests its CDBG and HOME resources principally to benefit low- to moderate-income persons rather than the other national objectives to address urgent needs and prevent or eliminate blight. The City of Gulfport's Program Year (PY) runs January 1 through December 31.

Information required to be included in a 5-Year ConPlan and associated Annual Action Plans is organized into a structure like that of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Each of these three documents is submitted to HUD through its Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) software, which organizes the information as specified by HUD. A variety of reports then can be generated to identify such things as compliance with annual budget expenditures by project; compliance with expenditure caps for applicable categories; and cumulative expenditures benefitting low- to moderate-income (low/mod) persons. This supports a quick evaluation of the City's performance during and at the end of each program year and supports efforts of staff to self-monitor in compliance with internal controls for management of the federal funds.

PY2023 CDBG and HOME projects were identified during development of the City's 2023 Action Plan to support achieving goals and objectives identified in the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan).

While the City's PY2023 CDBG and HOME Entitlement Program funds had not been released by HUD (release is subject to submission and approval of the City's 2023 Action Plan and other federal regulations and policies), when IDIS report PR26 "CDBG Financial Summary Report" was generated on February 19, 2024. Part II, Line 09 Disbursements Other Than Section 108 Repayments and Planning/Administration, of that report identifies a disbursement of \$3,422.18 was made for the PY2019 Bullis Park Improvements Project, leaving a PY2023 unexpended balance of (\$3,442.18), according to Line 16.

In the table below, benefits expected to be provided in PY2023 are identified in the "Expected Program Year" column and progress toward achieving each goal is identified in the "Actual Program Year" column. Outcomes expected to be achieved on a cumulative basis during the 2022-2026 ConPlan period are identified in the "Expected Strategic Plan" column and outcomes achieved during the 5-year period are identified in the "Actual Strategic Plan" column. The "Actual" columns for both the Program Year and Strategic Plan identify "0" outcomes, supporting information identified in the IDIS-generated PR26 "CDBG Financial Summary Report" that no CDBG or HOME funds were expended in PY2023 for 2023 Action Plan projects.

**Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)**

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected Strategic Plan	Actual Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected Program Year	Actual Program Year	Percent Complete
Administration Costs - CDBG-HOME	Administration	CDBG: \$ HOME: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
CHDO set-aside funds - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	4	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
CHDO set-aside funds - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Housing Acquired & Rehabbed	Household Housing Unit	2	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
Emergency/Minor Housing Repairs - Gulfport	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	25	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%

Homebuyer Assistance - Gulfport-- HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	30	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
Homebuyer Assistance - Harrison County - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	15	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
Homeowner Rehabilitation - Gulfport - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	7	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Public Parks and Facilities - Gulfport	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure other than LMI Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3000	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Public Safety Specialized Equipment - Gulfport	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure other than LMI Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	12285	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Public Services - Gulfport - CDBG	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public services other than LMI Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3000	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Streets, Drainage, Sewer Improvements - Gulfport	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure other than LMI Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	15000	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Rental Assistance - HOME	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	HOME: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	40	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%

Table 1 - Accomplishments -- Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

**Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.**

Upon receipt of HUD's notification that the City of Gulfport's CDBG and HOME Entitlement Program 2023 Action Plan, submitted in August 2023,

was determined not to comply with HUD regulations and policies, the City was directed to revise and resubmit an Annual Action Plan. The City anticipates it will resubmit its revised 2023 Action Plan by March 21, 2024. Until such time as the City has a HUD-approved Action Plan for Program Year 2023 and has satisfied all the federal grant conditions for release and use of funds, it will not be possible for the City to address the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan.

**CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted**

**Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted). 91.520(a)**

	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>HOME</b>
White	0	0
Black or African American	0	0
Asian	0	0
American Indian or American Native	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Hispanic	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0

Table 2 assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

**Narrative**

At this time, no Gulfport families or individuals have been assisted through the use of PY2023 CDBG or HOME funds.

**CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)**

**Identify the resources made available**

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	\$723,144.00	0
HOME	public - federal	\$549,635.00	0

Table 2 - Resources Made Available

**Narrative**

In PY2023, the City of Gulfport received a CDBG allocation from HUD in the amount of \$723,144.00 and a HOME Investment Partnerships allocation of \$549,635.00. From the HOME allocation, the required minimum of 15% was set aside to support a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) increase the inventory of affordable housing in the City of Gulfport or the unincorporated areas of Harrison County through acquisition and rehabilitation or new construction of housing units. The City reached out to several nonprofit organizations as an initial step in designating a PY2023 CHDO, but none of the organizations contacted expressed interest at that time. PY2023 HOME Entitlement funds are proposed to continue assisting low-income households purchase affordable housing either within the City Limits or in unincorporated areas of Harrison County through the Harrison County HOME Consortium. HOME Entitlement funds also are proposed to fund two new housing assistance programs to help alleviate housing cost burdens by providing rental assistance to qualified households and assisting qualified homeowners with emergency repairs or minor rehabilitation in compliance with HUD regulations and policies.

The City has requested guidance from the HUD Field Office in Jackson regarding how adjustments should be made in IDIS to correctly identify in the PR26 reports the amount of unexpended funds at the end of the prior program years. Guidance also has been requested to verify that adjustments for eligible project costs are recorded in the appropriate program year: 1) to allow prior program years eventually to be closed out; 2) to ensure the City is complying with HUD expenditure caps; 3) to support calculation of low/mod benefits by program year; and 4) to verify there are no outstanding project expenses or commitments needing adjustment.

**Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments**

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Citywide Homebuyer Assistance - Eligible Low/Mod Income (LMI) Household	30	0	Homebuyer Assistance Program -HOME funds
Citywide Homeowner Housing Repairs/Rehab - Eligible LMI Homeowners	0	0	Owner-Occupied Home Repairs/Rehab - Citywide LMI benefit CDBG/HOME funds

Citywide Public Services	0	0	Eligible services provided by non-profit agencies to qualified Gulfport citizens - CDBG funds
Consortium Jurisdiction - Citywide and Unincorporated Harrison County	0	0	New Construction, TBRA, Rental, Homeownership Housing – HOME funds
County-eligible LMI Homebuyers in Un-Incorporated Harrison County	10	0	HOME Homebuyer Assistance – HOME funds
Ward 1 - Low Mod Designated Area	60	0	Public Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements, Water/Sewer/ Street Improvements/ Public Safety – CDBG funds
Ward 2 - Low income Census Tract Area	0	0	Public Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements, Water/Sewer/ Drainage/Streets/ Public Safety – CDBG funds
Ward 3 - Low/Mod Designated Areas	0	0	Public Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements, Water/Sewer/ Drainage/Streets/ Public Safety – CDBG funds
Ward 4 - Low Income Census Tract	0	0	Public Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements, Water/Sewer/ Street Improvements/ Public Safety – CDBG funds
Ward 5 – Low Income Census Tract area	0	0	Public Facilities and Improvements
Ward 6 – Low Income census tract area	0	0	Public Facilities and Improvements
Ward 7 Low Income Census Tract area	0	0	Public Facilities and Improvements
Water and/or Sewer Drainage Improvements	80	0	Other

Table 3 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

**Narrative**

Information in the table above is from the HUD-approved Gulfport 2022 Action Plan.

Gulfport geographically assigns use of its CDBG funds to targeted areas to meet the high priority needs of low- to moderate-income (LMI) citizens. All seven wards of the City of Gulfport have identified areas of low- to moderate-income concentration, according to the 2022-2026 ConPlan. Wards 1 and 3 have the largest concentrations of LMI households and minority concentrations and, historically, the majority of the City’s CDBG resources have been invested there.

As it plans, develops and implements eligible CDBG projects to help address high priority community needs identified in its ConPlan, effort is made to provide equal opportunity to all income-eligible households, but especially to those who live in areas with high concentrations of low- and very low-income households. The City also considers the total number of eligible residents who will directly benefit from implementation of a CDBG-funded project, with the intent of providing suitable living environments for as many residents as possible. When budgeted in an Action Plan, public service activities supported with the City's CDBG funds generally are available on a citywide basis, such as funding for the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence and The Salvation Army-Gulfport to prevent and address homelessness in Gulfport.

HOME funds generally are budgeted to programs available to income-eligible households on a citywide basis. Historically, Harrison County has invested its share of the Harrison County HOME Consortium funds to improve the affordability of housing in its unincorporated areas for the benefit of low-income households. The City met with a Harrison County representative January 2024 and confirmed that, according to County records, the Board did not receive recommendations from the City during PY2022 to fund housing assistance activities from the County's portion of the Consortium allocation. Harrison County's records indicate that one housing assistance expenditure in the amount of \$24,000.00 was recommended by the City in PY2021 and the Board approved payment from its share of the Harrison County HOME Consortium allocation. Other than that, no County HOME funds have been expended since 2020. At such time as the City has an approved 2023 Action Plan, and before any HOME funds are expended, the City plans to request a meeting with Harrison County representatives of the Harrison County HOME Consortium to discuss the Consortium's status and the proposed use of HOME and ARP allocations.

**Leveraging - Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.**

The HOME Entitlement Program requires a 12.5% match of non-federal funds for every dollar of HOME funds expended. The City of Gulfport has met its match requirements through a variety of ways in the past. For instance, for every home sold under its appraised value through the Consortium's Homebuyer Assistance Program, the seller/owner authorizes the difference to be counted as match. The Consortium's CHDO, which receives a minimum 15% set aside from the annual HOME allocation, contributes in-kind match generated by volunteers' manhours rehabilitating houses to be acquired by eligible homebuyers. The valuation of private donations of construction materials and cash grants from businesses, including Home Depot and Lowes, as well as other corporate donors are other eligible sources of match.

Match requirements for federal fiscal years 2019 and 2020 were waived due to Covid-19 and no match contributions were required in 2021, 2022 and 2023 as IDIS-generated reports do not identify that HOME funds have been expended. The City is in the process of working with Harrison County to document the amount and use of Consortium funds approved by the County for one homebuyer in PY2021 to identify if matching funds are required and, if so, in what amount. The City will continue to work with Harrison County and the Harrison County HOME Consortium to meet and document HUD match requirements as HOME funds are expended.

While the CDBG Entitlement Program does not require matching funds, the City of Gulfport generally designs public improvements projects, such as the Quarters District Street Improvements Project, to incorporate City-owned easements as in-kind match. The City also has publicly owned land from unpaid taxes that is available for affordable housing development, but most of the parcels are not suitable for residential

development because they have limited or no access, are located in areas with recurring flooding or are too small to comply with the City's minimum lot size requirements.

No program income was generated or expended during PY2023 for TBRA or other forms of housing assistance.

Until data entered in IDIS has been reviewed and adjusted per HUD guidance, the City is not confident about the accuracy of IDIS information to complete the tables below. The City is not aware of any HOME-funded contracts being advertised or awarded; it did not participate in a residential rental assistance program or acquire property with HOME funds during PY2023.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Prep, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
Not applicable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**HOME MBE/WBE report**

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period	Amount received during reporting period	Total amount expended during reporting period	Amount expended for TBRA	Balance on hand at end of reporting period
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
0	0	0	0	0



<b>Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period</b>						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
<b>Contracts</b>						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-Contracts</b>						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
<b>Contracts</b>						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
<b>Sub-Contracts</b>						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

<b>Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted</b>						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Relocation and Real Property Acquisition</b> – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

**CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)**

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of non-homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	2	0
Number of special-needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	2	0

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through rental assistance	12	0
Number of households supported through the production of new units	0	0
Number of households supported through rehab of existing units	1	0
Number of households supported through acquisition of existing units	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>

**Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.**

According to the proposed annual goals and objectives identified in the City of Gulfport’s 2023 Action Plan, which is in the process of being revised, the City expected to assist 12 low-income households through its proposed rental assistance program; one non-homeless, low-income household through acquisition and rehabilitation of a housing unit by the CHDO; two non-homeless, low-income households with downpayment assistance through the Harrison County HOME Consortium.

No eligible households or individuals were assisted with purchasing affordable housing and no rental assistance was provided by the City during Program Year 2023, regardless of family size or combined household income.

The retirement of long-time staff and lack of trained staff as back up contributed to the City’s lack of success in achieving one-year goals. At this time, one administrative assistant position has been filled and the City is continuing the search for qualified applicants with CDBG and/or HOME Entitlement Program (or substantially similar) experience to fill open positions in the Community Development Office.

**Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.**

Staff capacity and administrative requirements of the CDBG and HOME Programs will continue to be considered by the City when identifying projects to be included in future Annual Action Plans. The City will consider budgeting eligible projects in reasonable phases to minimize the impact of delays on its ability to comply with timely expenditure requirements. Consideration will also be given to identifying project sites/areas with limited potential for negative environmental impact.

**Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where**

information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	0
Low-income	0	0
Moderate-income	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 4 – Number of Households Served

**Narrative Information**

In the City of Gulfport’s 2023 CDBG and HOME Action Plan, which is in the process of being revised, a portion of the City’s and Harrison County’s share of HOME Consortium funds is budgeted to provide homebuyer assistance to eligible households on a citywide basis and in unincorporated areas of Harrison County. Information is not provided in the 2023 Action Plan that identifies the number of extremely low-income, low-income and moderate-income persons expected to be or actually served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity. While the required minimum 15% of the HOME allocation is budgeted for the CHDO set aside, the process of identifying a qualified local nonprofit to be responsible for CHDO-required activities is pending HUD approval of the 2023 Action Plan.

**CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)**

**Evaluate the jurisdiction’s progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:  
Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

During PY2023, the City continued to encourage and support the work with local and regional agencies to reduce and end homelessness in all categories within the City. The Open Doors Homeless Coalition Curriculum of Care shared information from the 2023 Point In Time Count with the City regarding the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families by category in Gulfport. Information provided through Open Doors’ assessments of homeless individuals and families is entered into the HMIS database and helps the City, Open Doors and its member agencies identify trends to support efficient allocation of resources to meet current and anticipated needs.

Information generated from HMIS-generated data also re-enforces the City’s and general public’s awareness about the need for greater emergency shelter capacity (especially during extreme weather events); expanded inventory of transitional housing to serve all family sizes and

those with special needs; and additional, available affordable permanent housing to comprehensively meet the shelter and housing needs of homeless and near-homeless individuals and families in the City of Gulfport.

While the Gulfport-Harrison County Consortium HOME-ARP Allocation Plan's Analysis of Unmet Housing and Service Needs of Qualifying Populations, developed in 2020-2021, states there is not an immediate need for more shelter space in the six-county COC service area, the annual PIT Counts in Gulfport and neighboring cities indicate otherwise. Rural areas north of the Mississippi Coast and included in the CoC do not provide the level or variety of supportive services that are made available in more densely populated areas, such as Gulfport. This contributes to higher concentrations of homeless and near-homeless families and individuals along the Coast, where there is immediate need for expanded capacity at emergency shelters and in the number of available transitional housing units, especially for the elderly, those with disabilities and families with children.

The City continues to collaborate with local and regional agencies and organizations that, in addition to the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, include The Salvation Army-Gulfport, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, South Mississippi Mental Health Association, Coastal Family Health Center, the Community Action Agency of South Mississippi, Back Bay Mission, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII and other stakeholders to increase awareness of the housing and supportive services needs of Gulfport's homeless and near-homeless populations.

### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The City of Gulfport continued during 2023 to work as an active member with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, local and regional agencies, other local units of government, faith-based organizations and others to expand the capacity of local emergency shelter facilities to meet current needs and expand access to transitional housing despite increasing housing costs. The City will continue to support efforts to encourage the VA to secure and expeditiously issue VASH vouchers to benefit homeless veterans.

Current available resources aren't adequate to meet the housing assistance and supportive services needs of local homeless populations on an on-going basis. Accessing increased funding from existing sources and securing additional support from a broader range of sources continues to be a challenge as the number of households living below the poverty level increases. Ongoing collaboration among community organizations and agencies maximizes the effective use of limited resources to meet many of the needs of homeless and near-homeless individuals and families, but the number of local emergency shelter beds and transitional housing units is not adequate to meet needs, especially during extreme weather events, which are increasing in frequency and severity during winter and summer months. Accessing housing assistance for veterans and families with children are the first priority; others are assisted on a case-by-case basis, led by the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the Gulf Coast Center for Non-Violence and the Salvation Army, with the participation of other qualified agencies and organizations.

Attention also is being given to identifying resources to expand the availability of day shelters, especially during extreme weather events and to provide the supportive services needed by homeless persons to secure employment.

**Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after 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); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs**

The City recognizes the need for long-term solutions to address the diverse affordable housing needs of those who have been discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care, including health care and mental health care facilities, the foster care system and other youth programs and facilities and correction programs and institutions. Local consideration is being given to more flexible zoning to increase density in some multi-family, single-family residential and mixed-use zones and to conditionally allow a greater variety of group homes to provide affordable housing options to lower income individuals who are likely to become homeless without assistance, such as those aging out of the foster care system, being discharged from physical and mental health care programs and facilities and the elderly.

In PY2023, the City continued to work with and encourage local housing services agencies and religious institutions to expand services to assist low-income individuals and families avoid homelessness, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who have been discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care, such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care, other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions. The City of Gulfport also continued during PY2023 to support public and private agencies' efforts to secure additional resources to help address the local needs for housing, health care, public services, employment, education and child care by endorsing applications for funding assistance.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again**

The City continued to support efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition during PY2023 to expand access of homeless persons, especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth, to existing affordable housing through rent, utility and security deposit assistance. The City also continued to support Open Doors' efforts to prevent repeat homelessness by improving on-going case management services that include life skills development programs and assistance linking

those who experience repeat homelessness with available services supporting pursuit of high school diplomas or the equivalent, and participation in workforce training and skills improvement programs.

### **CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)**

#### **Actions taken to address the needs of public housing**

The City of Gulfport works cooperatively with the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII (MRHAVIII) to support access to assisted housing and to expand the inventory of code-compliant affordable housing of various types throughout the City. MRHAVIII completed its Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) conversion to sustain affordable housing in the City of Gulfport so there no longer are "public housing" developments located in the City, at this time. The South Mississippi Housing Corporation, a nonprofit agency under the umbrella of MRHAVIII, manages four developments in the City, providing affordable housing to low-income residents through voucher assistance. The four developments are Baywood Place located at 1900 Switzer Road with 72 units for seniors; Regency Way at 1400 28th Street with 120 units for families and seniors; Sanderson Village at 1000 34th Street with 80 multi-family units, and North Park Estates redevelopment.

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

The City continued to collaborate with the MRHAVIII to encourage those living in assisted housing to become more involved with management and participate in MRHAVIII's homeownership programs and activities. The City referred residents to homeowner education programs and encouraged those in the housing industry to expand the inventory of affordable housing to accommodate a wider variety of household sizes throughout Gulfport.

#### **Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs**

Not applicable to the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII.

### **CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)**

**Actions taken 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. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)**

The City of Gulfport's zoning ordinance allows a mixture of single- and multi-family residential units on varying lot sizes throughout the City. Land use regulations support sustainability measures and natural resource preservation. Mixed use zoning is permitted in the downtown and other zoning districts. The City has adopted the current version of the International Building Code, which requires compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act provisions. There are no specific growth limitations or other public policies in place that would affect return on residential investment.

**Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City continues to work identifying and addressing obstacles that prevent the needs of the underserved in the community from being met. In PY2023, the City collaborated with other local units of government, area nonprofits and service organizations to share information regarding unmet needs in Gulfport as part of its overall effort to encourage increased public and private support to address those needs. This included encouraging local membership organizations, such as the Gulfport Main Street and Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, religious institutions, neighborhood groups and other interested stakeholders to collaborate and develop solutions to meet the needs of the underserved more comprehensively and consistently.

**Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City continued during PY2023 to share information with residents, developers and others about lead-based paint hazards, providing informational brochures available at City Hall and in the Community Development Office. The City supported the on-going educational outreach efforts of the Mississippi State Department of Health to administer the Healthy Homes Program, which re-enforces awareness of the serious health hazard LBP poses, particularly to pregnant women and children under the age of six.

All MRHAVIII's housing units have been assessed and, where required, LBP hazards have been abated.

**Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**



The City works with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Harrison County Development Commission, the State Port at Gulfport, the Gulf Coast Business Council, Mississippi Development Authority and others to identify growth opportunities that will improve residents' quality of life by enhancing their living environments and expanding the tax base.

The City continued to encourage residents of all ages and aptitudes to participate in workforce training and skills development/redevelopment programs to improve employability and expand opportunities to break the cycle of poverty. The City also continued in PY2023 to promote programs available at little or no cost through MGCCC, the local public school districts, Gulf Coast Business Services, Community Action Agency of South Mississippi and various other nonprofit agencies, including Moore Community House's Women in Construction Program, to complete a certification or degree program that enhance efforts to find and keep a job that pays a living wage.

**Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City of Gulfport's institutional structure is considered comprehensive for a city its size and it is enhanced by the City's leadership role across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which encourages collaboration and cooperation as opposed to competition. By working actively as a partner with a wide variety of public and private entities, including the South Mississippi Mental Health Association, Climb CDC, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, local healthcare agencies, public transportation organizations, educational institutions and others, the City of Gulfport continues to strengthen and diversify its institutional structure to comprehensively address residents' unmet needs.

Through the Harrison County HOME Consortium, the City collaborated with the County to develop the HOME-ARP Plan to access additional federal funds that will help meet the increasing need for improved access to affordable housing throughout the City and County. These funds will be invested in addressing local housing instability, alleviating housing cost burdens and providing comprehensive supportive services to qualified residents.

**Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

Maintaining ongoing communication with Habitat for Humanity of South Mississippi, MRHAVIII, Renaissance, South Mississippi Housing and other public and private housing agencies, the City continues to support development and redevelopment of affordable housing, for purchase and/or rent, that is not located in flood prone areas and is adapted to support special needs populations.

The City continued its on-going efforts to encourage collaboration among public and private housing and social service agencies in the planning and delivery of services to near-homeless households and elderly residents to allow them to remain in their homes. With the assistance of

appropriate agencies, the City will continue to encourage coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies to maximize limited resources, eliminate duplication of efforts and better meet the needs of underserved residents.

**Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)**

In PY2023, the City of Gulfport continued to share information with the public, as recommended in its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, to improve community awareness of citizens' rights under the Fair Housing Act. The City also encouraged citizens' to contact the Mississippi Center for Justice for assistance submitting complaints to HUD when they believed their housing rights had been violated. With information and public outreach resources available through the USM Center for Disabilities Studies, the Mississippi Center for Justice, and Mississippi Legal Services, the City continues to provide brochures, posters and other material to Gulfport residents about protected classes under the Fair Housing Act and refers those with fair housing concerns to no cost/low-cost services available through the Mississippi Center for Justice and Mississippi Legal Services.

The City's 2019-20 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice identified the following impediments in the City: lack of fair housing education and outreach; areas of low/mod income concentration; lack of affordable housing units available to homebuyers; lack of affordable rental units; limited accessibility to affordable housing; the increasing cost of residential property insurance premiums; lack of permitted zoning for group homes; and inadequate public transportation services.

**CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230**

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

To support compliance with HUD program requirements, the City has HUD-approved written standard operating procedures that provide an organizational framework for Community Development Office staff about day-to-day administration of the CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs. The SOPs were intended to guide staff through the on-going self-monitoring process and to support effective monitoring by staff of subrecipients. During PY2023, the City had no CDBG or HOME subrecipients to monitor and the City was not monitored by HUD during this

period. Primarily through the City's Director of Finance and Accounting, the City benefited from on-going communication and guidance from the HUD Field Office in Jackson during PY2023.

**Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)**

**Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.**

The City made every effort, despite unfilled positions in the Community Development Office, to encourage broad public input into development of the PY2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). On February 23, 2024, a Combined Notice of Public Hearing, Draft Availability and 15-Day Comment Period was published in the *Sun Herald* newspaper and posted on the City's website, in City Hall, Community Development and in the two Gulfport-based branches of the Harrison County Public Library System, in full compliance with HUD regulations and Gulfport's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). The Combined Notice included information about how to submit written comments by email, through U.S.P.S. mail and delivery to the Community Development Office. Information also was made available about how to contact the City if accommodation was needed to access or participate in the hearing.

A public hearing regarding the PY2023 CAPER was held on Monday, March 11, 2024. \_\_\_\_\_ oral comments were offered and \_\_\_\_\_ written comments were submitted at the hearing and will be considered by the City. On March 12, 2024, a Public Review Draft of the 2023 CAPER was made available on the City's website and hard copies were placed at City Hall, Community Development and delivered to the two Gulfport-based branches of the Harrison County Public Library System. The 15-day comment period regarding CAPER development began on March 12 and ended at 4 p.m. on March 26, 2024. A total of \_\_\_\_\_ were submitted to the City during the 15-day comment period. (Information to complete this paragraph will be inserted following the close of the written comment period.)

To document compliance with HUD regulations and its CPP, the City included a copy of the Combined Notice proof of publication; a copy of the public hearing agenda, sign-in sheet and minutes; a copy of the notice posted on its website, in City Hall, Community Development and the two Gulfport-based branches of the Harrison County Public Library System; designation of a 15-day comment period; and a copy of each written comment submitted by the deadline in a Citizen Participation Attachment to the final CAPER document.

**CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)**

**Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.**

The City has not identified CDBG or HOME program changes resulting from its experiences. Going forward, the City is requesting the HUD Field Office in Jackson address emailed and mailed correspondence, which is not the subject of day-to-day CDBG or HOME Program administration, to the Mayor's Office or at least copy the Mayor's Office, rather than corresponding exclusively with staff. This is requested to improve the City's ability to comply with HUD deadlines and other applicable CDBG and HOME Program requirements, as well as to provide improved City staff oversight and accountability.

**Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?** No

### **CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)**

#### **Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations**

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

In PY2023, the City did not participate in any HOME-funded programs subject to HUD's inspection requirements.

#### **Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)**

The City did not have any HOME-assisted housing units to market during PY2023.

#### **Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics**

Based on IDIS-generated reports, the City did not generate or expend program income in PY2023.

#### **Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)**

The City did not expend any of its PY2023 HOME allocation, or any prior years' HOME allocations that may be available to be carried forward and reallocated, to foster or maintain affordable housing.

### CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0	0			
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0			
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0	0			

Table 5 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers	0	0			
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.	0	0			
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).	0	0			
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.	0	0			
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).	0	0			
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns	0	0			
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.	0	0			
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.	0	0			
Provided/connected residents to assistance seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.	0	0			
Held one or more job fairs.	0	0			
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.	0	0			
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.	0	0			
Assisted residents with finding child care.	0	0			
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.	0	0			

Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.	0	0		
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.	0	0		
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Sec 3 business concerns.	0	0		
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.	0	0		
Promoting the use of a business registry to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.	0	0		
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.	0	0		
Other.	0	0		

**Narrative**

The City of Gulfport did not have any active CDBG or HOME funded projects subject to Section 3 compliance in PY2023.

**The final 2023 CAPER will include a Public Participation Attachment with documentation of public outreach and public participation.**