



Beginning on Friday, January 12, 2024, the City of Gulfport will accept written comments regarding this **Public Review Draft** of its **2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)** for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Entitlement Programs. Written comments for the City's consideration may be submitted through one of the following to the Gulfport Community Development Department:

Delivery: the Hardy Building, 1410 24th Avenue
Email: communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov
Mail: Gulfport Community Development
P.O. Box 1780
Gulfport, MS 39502

All written comments **received** by 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 26, 2024 will be considered by the City for incorporation into the final document.

Please note: this is a draft document prepared and provided in compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) citizen participation requirements and all information has not been received by the City at this time. Information and data will continue to be inserted upon receipt until the end of the citizen comment period on January 26, 2024. The document will be submitted to HUD on or before January 30, 2024 for review and approval; the City will make the final document available for public review after that time.

CITY OF GULFPORT PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT PY2021 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND 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 is a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program Entitlement City and, as such, receives an annual allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for each program. The three broad goals of these HUD programs are to: provide decent housing; provide a suitable living environment; and expand economic development. Projects supported with CDBG funding must meet one of HUD's three national objectives to: principally benefit low- to moderate-income

persons; prevent or eliminate slums or blight; or meet community needs having a particular urgency. The City of Gulfport generally invests its CDBG and HOME resources to principally benefit low- to moderate-income persons rather than the other CDBG national objectives to address urgent needs and prevent or eliminate blight.

Goals and objectives to be achieved through investment of these entitlement funds are identified by the City in its HUD-required Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) that applies to the designated five-year period 2017-2021. HUD also requires a One-Year Annual Action Plan be developed by the City, with citizen input and participation, which identifies projects to be funded in whole or in part with allocated funds to address eligible housing and non-housing priority needs in the community on an annual basis. Both the Action Plan and ConPlan are designed by HUD to consolidate the planning and application requirements of four formula grant programs, including the CDBG and HOME programs.

Accordingly, the City of Gulfport's 2017-2021 ConPlan identifies goals and objectives that its Annual Action Plans for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 were developed to achieve through implementation of eligible projects. Both the Consolidated Plan and each Action Plan include: 1) projections of the number and type of beneficiaries expected to be served by each project; 2) the amount of funds by source (CDBG, HOME and/or other) budgeted for each project; and 3) a reasonable timeframe for project completion. This information provides a basis for measuring progress made implementing projects as part of HUD's required annual evaluation and supports comparison of projected to actual outcomes.

The City of Gulfport's Program Year runs January 1 through December 31. Following completion of each Program Year, HUD requires the City evaluate its performance in terms of complying with applicable regulations and policies; expending federal funds within project budget limits on a timely basis; and implementing projects that support achieving the goals and objectives identified in its ConPlan.

Information required to be included in a 5-Year ConPlan and associated Annual Action Plans is organized into a structure similar to that of the CAPER. Each of these three types of documents must be submitted to HUD through its Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) software, which comprehensively organizes the information as specified by HUD. A wide variety of reports can then be generated to identify things such as compliance with annual budget expenditures by project; compliance with annual expenditure caps for certain activities; cumulative expenditures that benefit low/mod persons; and obligations and disbursements by activity. This supports a relatively quick evaluation of the City's performance implementing projects during the given year.

PY2021 projects were identified during the development process for the 2021 Action Plan to support achievement of goals and objectives identified in the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan.

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	Administrative and Operating Costs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%
CHDO set-aside funds - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	4	0	0.00%	--	--	
CHDO set-aside funds - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	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	10	0	0.00%	--	--	
Homebuyer Assistance - Gulfport-- HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	30	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%
Homebuyer Assistance - Harrison County - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	15	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Homeowner Rehabilitation - Gulfport - HOME	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	7	0	0.00%	--	--	
Public Parks and Facilities - Gulfport	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5000	0	0.00%	--	--	
Public Safety Specialized Equipment - Gulfport	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	12285	0	0.00%	--	--	

Public Services - Gulfport - CDBG	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	3000	0	0.00%	--	--	
Public Services - Gulfport - CDBG	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		3000	0	0.00%
Streets, Drainage, Sewer Improvements - Gulfport	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	15000	0	0.00%	15000	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.

Based on information available as of January 10, 2024, which has not been adjusted, it does not appear that the City expended CDBG or HOME funds during Program Year 2021. Following review by appropriate City financial and accounting staff, this information will be updated in the final document submitted to HUD for approval.

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)

	CDBG	HOME
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
Total	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0

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

Narrative

No families or individuals were assisted by PY2021 projects and activities as no CDBG or HOME project funds appear to have been expended. This will be updated following review by City finance and accounting finance staff.

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	\$736,607	See narrative below
HOME	public - federal	\$487,232	See narrative below

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

In PY2021, the City of Gulfport was allocated CDBG funds of \$736,607 and \$487,232 in HOME funds. According to IDIS-generated PR-01 Activity Summary by Selected Grant Report, the City did not draw down any PY2021 funds, leaving an unexpended CDBG balance of \$736,607.00 Available to Commit/Available to Draw at the end of the program year. As in PY2020, information in the PY-01 report is not supported by information identified in the PR-26 Summary of Expenditures Report, which identifies \$93,715.00 was expended in PY2021 for the PY2018 Katie Booth Center Roof Replacement Project, leaving an unexpended balance of \$642,892.00.

Until City finance and accounting staff have reviewed the information entered into IDIS and made adjustments as appropriate, the City cannot conclusively provide end of year unexpended balance information or have confidence in identifying which, if any, projects were funded or the resulting number of households or individuals who benefitted from a project.

It appears from PR-01, that the Amounts Available to Draw from PY2018 forward to PY2022 do not include prior years' carryover not disbursed in IDIS. The City finance and accounting staff will make adjustments to accurately identify expenditures by category and by Program Year, which will allow the PR-01 and PR-26 reports to identify the same amount for the unexpended balance of CDBG and HOME funds by program year.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
City -Wide Homebuyer Assistance - Eligible Low/Mod Income Household - LMH	3		Homebuyer Assistance Program -HOME Program
City-Wide Homeowner Housing Repairs/Rehab - Eligible Low/Mod Homeowner - LMH			Home repairs/rehab - CDBG/HOME eligible City-Wide to low/mod income homeowners
City-Wide Public Service Programs -	5		Non-Profit Agencies provides services to low-income citizens of Gulfport
Consortium Jurisdiction - City Wide and Unincorporated Harrison County	1		Low Income Housing-New Construction, TBRA, Rental, Homeownership Housing
County - eligible Low/Mod Homebuyers in Un-Incorporated Harrison County	1		HOME Homebuyer Assistance
Public and Recreational Facilities Improvements			Public Facilities
Public Safety and Welfare			Public Facilities and Improvements
Streets, Sidewalks, and Lighting Improvements			Street Improvements
Ward 1 - Low Mod Designated Area	5		Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/ Street Improvements/ Public Safety
Ward 2 - Low-income Census Tract Area			Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/Drainage, Street Improvements/ Public Safety
Ward 3 - Low/Mod Designated Areas	5		Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/Drainage, Street Improvements/ Public Safety
Ward 4 - Low Income Census Tract			Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/ Street Improvements/ Public Safety

Ward 5 - Low Income Census Tract Area			Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/Drainage, Street Improvements/ Public Safety
Ward 6 - Low Income Census Tract Area			Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/Drainage, Street Improvements/ Public Safety
Ward 7 - Low Income Census Tract Area			Public Facilities and Improvements, Water/Sewer/Drainage, Street Improvements/ Public Safety
Water and/or Sewer Drainage Improvements	80		Other

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Gulfport geographically distributes or assigns use of its CDBG funds to targeted areas to meet the high priority needs of its LMI residents. As it plans, develops and funds 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. CDBG funds budgeted to support public service activities frequently are available on a citywide basis, such as funding for Open Doors Homeless Coalition and The Salvation Army-Gulfport to prevent and address homelessness in Gulfport and the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence to assist those who have experienced domestic violence.

HOME funds generally are budgeted to projects available to income-eligible households on a citywide basis. Harrison County invests its share of the Harrison County HOME Consortium funds to households in the county’s unincorporated areas. The City is scheduled to meet with Harrison County in January 2024 to verify no HOME Consortium funds were expended during PY2021. Once able to generate accurate IDIS reports, the City will identify the geographic distribution and location of investment of its 2021 CDBG allocations to complete table 4, above.

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 CDBG Entitlement Program does not require matching funds, but the City of Gulfport generally designs public improvements projects, such as the Quarters District Streets Improvements Project, to incorporate City-owned easements as in-kind match.

The HOME Entitlement Program requires a 12.5% match of non-federal funds for every dollar of HOME funds expended. The City of Gulfport generally meets its match requirements through a variety of ways. Through the Consortium’s Homebuyer Assistance Program, for every home sold under the appraised value, the seller/owner authorizes the difference to be “used” 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, and non-federal match also is generated from private donations, and grants from Home Depot, Lowes, other corporate donors.

In regard to match contributions for the federal fiscal year, match requirements for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 were waived due to Covid-19 and no HOME funds appear to have been expended during 2021, according to IDIS information and which will be verified through the January 2024 meeting with Harrison County’s Consortium staff. At such time as HOME funds are planned to be expended, the City will continue to meet and document HUD match requirements.

The City has publicly owned land available from unpaid taxes that is available for affordable housing development, but the majority of it is not suitable for residential development because of recurring flooding, limited to no access or the parcels are too small to comply with minimum lot size requirements.

HOME match information is not available to complete Tables 5 or 6 at this time and reports generated in IDIS do not identify program income being expended during PY2021 for TBRA or other forms of housing assistance. Until data entered into IDIS has been reviewed and adjusted by the City’s finance and accounting staff, the City is not confident about the accuracy of IDIS information to complete Table 7. Likewise, for Tables 8, 9 and 10, 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 PY2021. This will be verified during the City’s meeting with the Harrison County Consortium in its January 2024 meeting.

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

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

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 Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

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	

Table 7 – Program Income

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

	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male
Contracts			
Number	0		
Dollar Amount	0		
Sub-Contracts			
Number			
Dollar Amount			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

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						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0					
Dollar Amount	0					

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition		
Parcels Acquired	0	
Businesses Displaced	0	
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced	0	
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced	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					
Cost	0					

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

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	5	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	5	0

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	5	0
Total	5	0

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

Filling open staff positions by Harrison County and the City, issues preventing the Consortium from meeting one-year goals are anticipated to be resolved.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Staff capacity and administrative requirements of the CDBG and HOME Programs will be considered by the City when identifying projects to be included in future Annual Action Plans. The City will consider implementing eligible projects in reasonable phases to minimize the impact of delays on compliance with timeliness of 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
Total	0	0

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

In the City of Gulfport's 2021 CDBG and HOME Action Plan, a portion of the City's and Harrison County's share of HOME Consortium funds was budgeted to provide homebuyer assistance to eligible low- to moderate-income households on a citywide basis and in unincorporated areas of Harrison County. The City budgeted \$237,526 with the goal of assisting four households by paying a portion of downpayments to improve housing affordability. Harrison County budgeted \$127,898 with the goal of assisting two households by paying a portion of downpayments.

The CHDO set aside in the amount of \$73,085, was budgeted in the 2021 Action Plan with the goal of adding one affordable housing unit for acquisition within the HOME Consortium jurisdiction to benefit one low-income household; no specific CHDO or project was identified in the Action Plan.

The City and Harrison County are scheduled to meet in January 2024 to identify affordable housing benefits provided through the Harrison County HOME Consortium during PY2021.

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

In PY2021, the City of Gulfport continued to work as an active partner with Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, the designated CoC for the six southernmost counties in Mississippi, and its numerous member agencies to address and prevent sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. The City assisted with the PIT Count on an annual basis, which provides timely information about the needs of the City's current homeless populations (sheltered and unsheltered) and improves the local community's collaborative effort to pool limited resources and meet those needs. The City also supported on-going services provided by The Salvation Army-Gulfport, Back Bay Mission, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, the United Way and other nonprofit agencies to sheltered and unsheltered persons.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

As an active member with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the City of Gulfport worked with local and regional agencies, other local units of government, religious institutions 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 the efforts of Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII to secure and issue VASH vouchers to benefit homeless veterans by encouraging the VA to expedite referrals.

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

During PY2021, the City continued to work with Open Doors and its member agencies to assist low-income individuals and families in their efforts to 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 to share information about assistance and resources available from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

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

As part of its overall effort to prevent and address homelessness, the City continued to support local and regional efforts to help 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.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII (MRHA8) and City of Gulfport work cooperatively to support access to assisted housing and to expand the inventory of code-complaint affordable housing of various types throughout the City. Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII has completed its RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) conversion to sustain affordable housing in the City of Gulfport so there are no "public housing" developments located in the City of Gulfport at this time. The South Mississippi Housing and Development Corporation, a nonprofit agency under the umbrella of MRHAS8, manages four developments in the City, providing 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, which began in 2020 and subsequently has been completed.

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

The City continued to collaborate with the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII to encourage those living in assisted housing to become more involved with management and participate in homeownership. The City referred residents to homeowner education programs and encouraged those in the housing industry to expand the inventory of affordable housing for a variety of household sizes throughout the City. The City also encouraged Harrison County HOME Consortium to continue offering a Downpayment Assistance Program funded through the City's HOME allocation.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Not applicable.

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)

In 2019, the City of Gulfport worked with the Mississippi HOME Corporation, the five other Mississippi cities designated as CDBG Entitlements, and public housing agencies throughout the State to complete the nation's first statewide Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment. The collaborative effort identified local impediments to fair housing that continue to serve as a barrier to housing for some citizens. On an on-going basis, the City will continue to educate Gulfport residents about their rights under the Fair Housing Act, which include information about how to submit a complaint to HUD when they feel their rights have been violated and how to contact the Mississippi Center for Justice and Mississippi Legal Services for assistance.

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

During PY2021, the City took a variety of actions to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, including encouraging supportive service agencies and faith-based organizations to pool their limited resources to maximize the use of funds for the benefit of the underserved in and supporting the efforts of nonprofit agencies to pursue federal and nonfederal grant funding to expand the community's emergency shelter capacity and increase the inventory of transitional housing.

In PY2021, the City also worked with the new director of Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII to expand the housing organization's participation in community activities and improve communication with public and private housing organizations to collaborate when possible to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. The City also worked with the Harrison County HOME Consortium to improve access to affordable housing through housing assistance programs for low- and very low-income residents.

The City's continued participation as an active member of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, encouraged participation by other local units of government to address the obstacles in the community to better meet the needs of sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations.

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

During PY2021, the City of Gulfport continued to educate residents about the dangers of lead-based paint to young children and pregnant women and continued to require compliance with EPA and HUD regulations for removal and/or containment of lead-based paint in housing built before 1979. The City also supported the Mississippi State Department of Health/Harrison County Health Department by providing lead-based paint hazard information brochures at City offices frequented by the public and continued to support expansion of the State's lead-based paint educational outreach program.

The City also confirmed that Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII continues to enforce its lead-based paint abatement program that requires inspection of housing units built prior to 1979 when they are made available for occupancy through its voucher programs. When LBP is found, the program requires it be abated or removed in compliance with applicable federal regulations and policies.

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

The City continued to encourage residents to participate in workforce training and skills development/redevelopment programs to improve their employability and expand opportunities to break the cycle of poverty. In P2021, the City also continued to promote programs available at little or no cost through MGCCC, the local school districts, Gulf Coast Business Services, the Gulf Coast Community Action Agency and various nonprofit agencies, such as Moore Community House's Women in Construction Program complete a certification program that will enhance their efforts to find and keep a job that offers 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 service-oriented public and private entities, including the United Way, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, local healthcare agencies, public transportation organizations, educational institutions and others, the City of Gulfport continues to diversify its institutional structure to better address unmet needs.

During PY2021, the City supported collaboration among local and regional agencies to maximize resources by eliminating duplication of efforts. The City continued to participate in the Open Doors Homeless Coalition's monthly program/lunch meeting, which provides opportunities to further develop the City's institutional structure to meet the full continuum of care necessary to address existing community needs.

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

During PY2021, the City encouraged Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII to further expand its role as a key partner in enhancing coordination between public and private housing and supportive service agencies, which also has improved communication between the regional organization and the City. The City continued to endorse federal and nonfederal grant applications developed by local nonprofit agencies to support expanding the capacity of emergency shelters and to improve the affordability of transitional and permanent housing units. The City also 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 residents so 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 2019, the City of Gulfport worked with the Mississippi HOME Corporation, the five other Mississippi cities designated as CDBG Entitlements, and public housing agencies throughout the State to complete the nation’s first statewide Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment. This collaborative effort identified local impediments to fair housing that continue to serve as a barrier to housing for some citizens. As recommended in its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, the City of Gulfport continued during PY2021 share information with the public to improve Gulfport residents’ awareness of their rights under the Fair Housing Act and how to submit a complaint to HUD when they feel their rights have been violated. Services available at no cost to income-eligible residents through the Mississippi Center for Justice and Mississippi Legal Services also was shared with residents seeking assistance to resolve tenant-landlord conflicts.

The Fair Housing Assessment identified the following impediments to fair housing in the City: lack of Fair Housing Education and Outreach, areas of low/mod income concentration; lack of affordable housing units available to home buyers; 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

The City of Gulfport has written standard operating procedures that were reviewed and approved by HUD, which provide structure to the monitoring process for the City’s CDBG subrecipients and the use of HOME funds by Harrison County as a participant in the HOME Consortium. The City also self-monitors throughout the program year to document compliance with CDBG/HOME requirements and other applicable federal regulations. The City complies with the state’s MBE/WBE business outreach during procurement processes for CDBG- and HOME-funded projects. The City had no subrecipients to monitor during PY2021. Long-term compliance with the CDBG and HOME Programs is supported by

on-going communication with the HUD Field Office in Jackson, which provides timely guidance to support staff efforts to comprehensively meet program requirements.

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.

During each program year, the City complies with applicable HUD regulations and the requirements of its Citizen Participation Plan to provide reasonable notice to residents and interested stakeholders of opportunities to participate in the Consolidated and Action Plan development process and to comment on annual performance reports during and following development. The City complies with HUD guidance about what is “reasonable” in terms of advance notification of public participation opportunities and regarding how notification will be made, such as through notices posted on the City’s website and published in the newspaper, for instance.

As required by HUD for the CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs, the City must provide a minimum of 14-days’ notice before a CDBG or HOME public hearing and, in addition to identifying the date, time and location of a hearing, information about the purpose of the hearing is included. A Combined Notice about a public hearing, availability of a public review draft and a comment period, if applicable, must identify when and where public review drafts will be made available and designated comment periods must be identified by a beginning and end date.

The City makes hard copies of draft documents available on its website and in several City buildings; in PY2023, the City expanded outreach by having notices posted in the two Gulfport-based branches of the public library and delivered hard copies of draft documents to the libraries for public review.

The City complies with HUD requirements for providing a 15-day comment period for CAPERS and a 30-day comment period for ConPlans and Action Plans. As time allows, the City goes beyond minimum HUD requirements by emailing and mailing information about public hearings and draft documents available for review to known public services agencies and other interested stakeholders. During the program year, the ConPlan, Action Plan and CAPER are available for public review in the Community Development Department of the City during regular hours.

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.

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

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

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

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

Following its Consortium meeting with Harrison County, the City will list all projects that should have been inspected on-site in PY2020, based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). It will identify which of these were inspected and provide a summary of any issues detected during the inspection. For those not inspected, the City/County will indicate the reason and how it will be remedied.

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

This will be provided following the City's January 2024 meeting with Harrison County, the City's partner in the Harrison County HOME Consortium.

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

This information is pending confirmation from Harrison County, the City's partner in the Harrison County HOME Consortium. The IDIS-generated reports for PY2021 do not identify any program income was expended by the City during PY2021 for HOME projects. Following review and

adjustments made by the City’s finance and accounting staff, this information will be described.

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)

Following the January 2024 meeting with Harrison County regarding Consortium expenditures and project activity, this information will be provided.

CR-58 – Section 3

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

Section 3 applies to federally funded construction projects valued at +\$200,000; the City will confirm in its meeting with Harrison County in January 2024 that the Consortium did not participate in any Section 3 HOME-funded Projects in PY2021.

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

Table 14 – 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					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					

Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
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.					
Assisted residents with finding childcare.					
Assisted residents to apply for or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					
Other.					

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

As of January 10, 2024, no information is available about whether Harrison County planned or initiated participation in a HOME project subject to Section 3 compliance in PY2021. This will be updated following the January 2024 meeting with Consortium staff.