



This is a **public review draft** of the City of Gulfport 2023 Action Plan for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnerships Entitlement Programs. **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved revision and resubmittal of this document by a March 22, 2024 extended deadline. The revised 2023 Action Plan is being developed in compliance with HUD regulations, policies and procedures and the City's Citizen Participation Plan.**

To comply with the resubmittal deadline and HUD requirements for advance notification, public hearings were scheduled on January 8 and 10, 2024. However, the January 8 hearing was cancelled in the interest of public safety due to severe weather. In response to confusion about hearing dates, caused by a typographical error in the newspaper notice, and to provide citizens with two opportunities for citizens to share oral and written comments at public hearings, HUD approved another extension to allow the City to conduct a February 7, 2024 public hearing, in full compliance with advance notice requirements and other applicable regulations and policies.

Availability of a public review draft of the revised 2023 Action Plan and a designated 30-day written comment period allows citizens and interested stakeholders opportunity to review and comment on the proposed use of 2023 CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships resources, provide additional input about community needs and comment on the draft 2023 Action Plan resubmittal. **The designated written comment period runs from February 8 to 4:00 p.m., March 8, 2024. To be considered by the City, written comments must be received by the deadline.**

Written comments may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

Gulfport Community Development
Physical location: Hardy Building, 1410 24th Street
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1780
Gulfport, MS 39502
Email address: communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov

Please Note: Preparation of the revised 2023 Action Plan is ongoing. The final document will be completed following receipt of additional updated information from various agencies and organizations; consultations with HUD-designated potential stakeholders; and review of written comments submitted by the 4 p.m. March 8, 2024 deadline to allow public input to be considered by the City and incorporated into the document, as applicable, prior to resubmittal to HUD by the deadline.

**Public Review Draft of the
City of Gulfport 2023 Action Plan
for the Community Development Block Grant and
HOME Investment Partnerships Entitlement Programs**

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

1. Introduction

Pursuant to the requirements of 24 CFR Part 91, the City of Gulfport, Mississippi developed its revised 2023 Annual Action Plan, a component of its Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the period 2022-2026, in compliance with the consolidated planning and application requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for four of its programs. Gulfport is an entitlement city for two of the four HUD programs subject to these requirements, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Programs.

In compliance with HUD's national objectives for these two programs, the City invests most of its CDBG and HOME resources to principally benefit very-low-, low- and moderate-income residents by funding projects that support at least one of the program's three broad goals:

- to provide decent housing;
- to provide a suitable living environment; and
- to expand economic opportunities.

The City of Gulfport's 2023 Action Plan identifies the CDBG and HOME resources anticipated to be available in the 2023 program year and how these resources will be invested to address high priority community needs and achieve the City's housing and non-housing community goals identified in its 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan, particularly as they relate to very low-, low- and moderate-income residents.

In PY2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated \$723,144.00 in CDBG funds and \$549,635.00 in HOME Investment Partnerships funds to the City of Gulfport. The City's Program Year (PY) runs from January 1 to December 31.

As Lead Agency for the Harrison County HOME Consortium, the City was allocated \$1,764,175 in HOME-American Rescue Plan Act (HOME-ARP) funding from HUD in 2021; the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was incorporated into Gulfport's PY2021 Annual Action Plan for CDBG, HOME through a substantial amendment, according to the Executive Summary of the City's 2021 Action Plan.

In compliance with HUD regulations and the City's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), the revised 2023 Action Plan was developed during December 2023 – March 2024 with the participation of citizens from a broad range of income categories, elected officials, public and private housing and supportive service

providers, regional and local nonprofit organizations, potential stakeholders identified by HUD for consultation and many other interested citizens.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Objectives identified in Gulfport's 2023 Action Plan mirror those identified during development of the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan and 2022 Action Plan, which focus on investing CDBG resources to meet basic needs of residents in low- to moderate-income areas through provision of basic services, which include improved infrastructure (water, sewer, drainage, streets, sidewalks and street lighting improvements) and improvements to City parks and recreational areas. Outcomes, or benefits, will be measured by the number of households directly served by improved living environments.

The priority objective for use of the City's HOME funds is to improve affordability of housing for qualified households and individuals on a citywide basis through HUD-eligible housing assistance programs. The housing assistance programs also will alleviate some of the housing cost burdens experienced by many households in the City. Outcomes will be measured by the number of households and individuals who directly benefit from the housing assistance.

To support the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan and 2022 Action Plan objective of maximizing the effective and efficient use of limited public resources, the City has initiated the process of identifying CDBG and HOME projects earlier in the program year and will consider:

- analyzing proposed projects/activities to limit funding to those that will support goals identified in the Consolidated Plan and are not anticipated to:
 - require an extended environmental assessment;
 - be problematic in terms of the supply/availability of needed materials and/or labor;
 - prevent the City from complying with HUD's annual timeliness of expenditures test;
- reducing the number of projects funded annually, in whole or in part, with CDBG or HOME resources to support staff's ability to document regulatory compliance from project start up to close out (such as documenting eligibility, identifying project service areas, completing federal environmental reviews and developing and monitoring contract schedules to ensure funds are expended in a timely manner as defined by HUD);
- identifying projects designed and suitable for phased implementation over multiple years, in compliance with applicable regulations and policies, to improve project coordination, increase efficient and effective use of resources and expedite delivery of benefits to residents; and
- reviewing the City's past performance implementing and completing CDBG and HOME projects to avoid funding similar ones that required excessive staff time or were highly problematic.

3. Evaluation of past performance

In addition to not completing/submitting a 2023 Action Plan that met HUD requirements, the City had not completed/submitted a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD since 2019; the 2020, 2021 and 2022 CAPERs were developed during December 2023 – January 2024 and have been submitted to HUD for review. As a result of little to no CDBG or HOME Program activity during Program Year 2023 (January 1 to December 31, 2023), the City is in noncompliance with HUD's timely expenditures formula. Concurrent with development and resubmittal of the 2023 Action Plan,

the City is in the process of developing a workout plan, due to HUD by February 23, 2024, to guide its efforts to return to compliance with timely expenditures regulations by November 2024, as required.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Development of the 2023 Action Plan resubmittal document was initiated in December 2023. To broaden public outreach and encourage public input, the City published notices in the local newspaper in compliance with HUD's minimum 14-day advance notice policy regarding the January 10 and February 7, 2024 public hearings, availability of a draft for public review and designation of a 30-day comment period that began February 8 and ends at 4:00 p.m., March 8, 2024. Public notices also have been posted on the City's website with hard copies posted in City Hall, Community Development and, for the first time in recent years, in the two Gulfport-based branches of the Harrison County Public Library System.

To further broaden public outreach and encourage public input, public hearings were scheduled on different days and at different times to accommodate greater participation; flyers about Action Plan development were emailed and mailed to known public and private service agencies. More information about City efforts to expand public outreach and encourage participation in development of the 2023 Action Plan is provided in templates PR-12 and PR-15.

The consultation process involved contacting potential stakeholders in HUD-identified categories to invite input and encourage participation in the Action Plan development process. Agency and organization representatives were contacted by mail or email in December-January and invited to consult with the City on a day and time convenient to that person. To date, the City has consulted with the Gulfport Public School District Superintendent and a Harrison County Library System representative regarding local efforts to narrow the digital divide in Gulfport.

5. Summary of public comments

The Citizen Outreach and Participation Attachment to the resubmitted 2023 Action Plan will document development of the 2023 Action Plan in compliance with HUD regulations and the City's Citizen Participation Plan. This will include minutes summarizing oral comments received during the public hearings; copies of the agenda packets and sign-in sheets; proof of publication of the Combined Notices of hearings, draft availability and the designated comment period; notices posted on the City's website and other locations identified in the CPP; and verification of outreach to public service agencies, those identified by HUD for consultations and other HUD-identified stakeholders, in addition to citizens and other interested parties.

Throughout the development process for the 2023 Action Plan resubmittal, citizens, nonprofit agency representatives and other stakeholders expressed support for using CDBG and HOME resources to meet the Consolidated Plan goal of providing suitable living environments for citizens by improving infrastructure, including streets, drainage, water and lighting; enhancing public safety; offering housing assistance programs; upgrading City parks/recreational amenities; and providing priority public services.

All written comments received at the public hearings or during the designated 30-day comment period will be considered by the City; a copy of each will be included in the Comments Attachment.

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

All comments submitted to the City were accepted and considered.

7. Summary

The Mayor reserves the right to designate qualified subrecipients to assist in the City's on-going efforts to address high priority, unmet community needs through specific, HUD-eligible public service activities, subject to the approval of the City Council for the City of Gulfport and in compliance with HUD's annual budget limits on public service activities.

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

Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	Todd Harman	Community Development Office
HOME Administrator	Todd Harman	Community Development Office

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Discussion (Optional)

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Todd Harman, Director
Department of Finance and Accounting
(228) 868-5705
Tharman@gulfport-ms.gov

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

1. Introduction

The City has good working relationships with local and regional nonprofit agencies, housing and supportive services organizations, community leaders and others working to support efforts to meet citizens' housing and community development needs. On an on-going basis, the City works collaboratively with Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Gulfport and Harrison County School Districts, the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Mississippi Center for Justice, Back Bay Mission, Gulf Coast Housing Initiative, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Climb Community Development Corporation, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, local healthcare agencies, the Veterans Administration, other local units of government and many others.

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

The City of Gulfport reaches out through emailed and mailed letters to invite and encourage the participation of public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies into development of HUD-required CDBG and HOME documents. For development of Consolidated Plans, the City relies on one-on-one consultations with these agencies to help update community priorities and discuss unmet needs to be addressed during the five-year period covered by each Consolidated Plan. On-going coordination helps maintain good working relationships and encourages discussion of improvements that can be made to maximize the use of limited resources.

Participating as an active member in the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care (CoC), also provides the City with opportunities to meet new agency representatives and it enhances opportunities to collaborate in activities such as the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count. Participating in the monthly program meeting Open Doors hosts, City officials and staff have opportunities to meet and talk with local public and assisted housing providers, private and public healthcare, mental healthcare and supportive service agency representatives, which enhances coordination between the City and those agencies when collaboration of efforts or resources is warranted.

The City will continue to work in coordination with the many local and regional public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health care, mental health and service agencies that provide housing and supportive services to Gulfport residents, especially the low-income, disadvantaged and special needs citizens.

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

As the designated Continuum of Care (COC) for Harrison County, in which the City of Gulfport is located, the Open Doors Homeless Coalition serves a six-county area in South Mississippi. While there is a constant need in Harrison County and the City of Gulfport to provide emergency shelter and transitional housing assistance and supportive services, the number of homeless and near-homeless people is not experienced at an equally high level. This becomes especially apparent when reports and plans are developed that use averages for the 6-county area served by the CoC, which at times seem to indicate the needs of the homeless in Gulfport are not considerable.

Open Doors works with local units of government and its many member agencies to present local homeless data in context to prevent area-wide data from diluting and misrepresenting the extent of the homeless problems in more urban areas where expanding the capacity of local emergency shelters and increasing the inventory of transitional housing is warranted.

Coordination with the CoC and its member agencies is essential to Gulfport and the other local units of government along the Mississippi Gulf Coast working to achieve the shared goal of addressing the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families; families with children; veterans; unaccompanied youth; and persons at risk of homelessness.

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

The City of Gulfport does not receive ESG funds, but the regional Continuum of Care, the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, receives and administers these funds to benefit homeless families and individuals within the six-county area served. The City does not participate in developing performance standards for use of Open Doors' ESG funds; neither does it participate in evaluating outcomes of projects and activities assisted with ESG funds, unless the ESG-funded project directly benefits the City or its residents. The City also does not develop funding, policies or procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS, but it offers input to support the CoC's efforts to administer its ESG award to best meet the needs of residents.

As collaborating entities with overlapping community goals, the City of Gulfport supports Open Doors' efforts to assess and link homeless families and individuals with local housing and supportive services agencies that provide the specific resources they need. The City has provided CDBG subgrants to Open Doors in various years to support the CoC's ongoing activities, including the annual Point In Time Count and HMIS administration, so it may continue coordinating and linking available resources to benefit those who are homeless and to prevent those at risk from becoming homeless.

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

	Agency/Group Organization Type	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Briefly describe how Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?
Open Doors Homeless Coalition	Regional Continuum of Care	Homeless needs	Open Doors Homeless Coalition & the City usually consult through emails & telephone conversations. Exchanging information/pooling resources supports program & policy decision making & implementation of annual PIT counts. As the designated CoC, Open Doors assesses homeless persons to identify specific needs & then works to link them with agencies that have resources available to meet their specific needs. Open Doors is improving awareness of the need for public-private partnerships to address local housing needs.
Harrison County	Local unit of government	Homeless needs in all categories; affordable housing; reducing poverty	Through the Harrison County HOME Consortium, the County & the City work collaboratively to provide affordable housing assistance programs to benefit very low and low-income residents within the Consortiums jurisdiction. The City & County generally communicate through emails & by telephone; meetings are scheduled as requested or needed.
Mississippi Center for Justice	Fair Housing education & enforcement	All categories of housing	Consultation between MCJ & the City is on-going; MCJ responds to the City & its residents regarding Fair Housing Act issues, concerns & filing of complaints.
MS Regional Housing Authority VIII	Public and assisted housing	Housing and housing services – all categories	MRHAVIII provides updates about its assisted housing programs & inventory of available affordable housing. It functions as a housing information resource by sharing information regarding opportunities to expand the local affordable housing inventory and to access assisted housing programs and services. <u>Update activities about South Mississippi Housing Development to be inserted upon receipt</u>

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

The City is still in the process of conducting consultations; this table will be updated prior to HUD submittal.

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

The City of Gulfport invited all known agency types to participate in developing the 2023 Action Plan resubmittal document by sharing input at one or both public hearings and submitting comments during the 30-day written comment period. Representatives of agencies and organizations identified by HUD as potential stakeholders to be consulted with were invited by the City to schedule one-on-one consultations with the City on the day and time most convenient to them. As the City becomes aware of new agency types, it requests contact information and adds the agency to its CDBG/HOME mail or email outreach list, according to the agency’s contact preference.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

This table will be completed following receipt of requested information.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Open Doors Homeless Coalition CoC	As the designated Continuum of Care, Open Doors serves as lead agency for preventing and addressing homelessness throughout the 6-county region it serves. The goals of the CoC and City overlap, both identifying the goal of ending and preventing homelessness in all categories. Open Doors provides the organizational structure to support a collaborative effort among housing, supportive services providers and local units of government to meet the needs of homeless and near-homeless people while managing HMIS data, eliminating duplication of efforts and maximizing efficient use of resources.
MEMA District 9, Hazard Mitigation Plan	Harrison County EMA	Harrison County/City of Gulfport Hazard Mitigation Plan complies with FEMA flood management and disaster regulations and coordinates with MEMA in planning and implementing damage prevention & resilience programs and activities. The goals of minimizing harm to residents and damage to property overlap, as well as the goal to improve public safety in general.
City of Gulfport Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance	City of Gulfport	The City’s Strategic Plan (5-Year Consolidated Plan) and its ordinances applying to land use and community development overlap in terms of maintaining and improving public safety through code enforcement and licensing; allowing a legal range of housing and business types; providing and enhancing public space; and supporting compliance with federal requirements for fair housing, equal employment opportunity, ADA retrofits and other applicable laws.
MRHAVIII		<u>Information will be inserted following receipt of requested update</u>

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

In compliance with HUD regulations and the Gulfport Citizen participation Plan, the City reached out to invite public participation in development of the 2023 Action Plan resubmittal and expanded its outreach effort by making information and the draft document available at the two Gulfport-based libraries of the Harrison County Public Library System.

In addition to posted and published notices, emails and flyers were sent to those on the Community Development Office’s lists and to the agencies and organizations to makeup Gulfport’s institutional

structure as well as to citizens across all income categories; faith-based organizations; regional agencies, including Gulf Regional Planning Commission, South Mississippi Planning and Development District and the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII; and to the Gulfport and Harrison County Public School Districts, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and University of Southern Mississippi – Gulf Park Campus.

Representatives of each HUD-identified category of agencies/businesses/potential stakeholders were invited and encouraged to participate in the Action Plan development process and share input regarding unmet community needs during one-on-one consultation meetings scheduled at the day and time most convenient to them. Consultations with local broadband service providers; those working to narrow the digital divide; agencies that manage public land and water resources; agency representatives responsible for preparing and implementing hazard mitigation plans, community resilience programs or work to eliminate or reduce flood damage to people and property were among those invited to consult with the City. Other representatives included agencies that represent those in protected classes under the Fair Housing Act and those who work to enforce the Act.

Documentation of the City's efforts to invite consultation with representatives of HUD-identified categories and the participation of a broad range of potential stakeholders in the community is included in the Outreach and Citizen Participation Attachment to the final document.

To be completed, following receipt of requested information.

AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Among other things, the Gulfport Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) identifies the City's required procedures for notifying the public about opportunities to participate in development of each One-Year Action Plan, the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the City of Gulfport's CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs. The CPP defines minimum advance notice requirements for public hearings and written comment periods to allow residents adequate time to plan and prepare to participate. It also defines how residents with disabilities or who are non-English speaking may request reasonable accommodation from the City so they may attend and participate.

The CPP prescribes what information the City is required to make available at each public hearing to comply with HUD regulations and policies. The CPP also provides information about the number of public hearings required by the type of HUD document being developed and the terms of a written comment period for Action Plans/Consolidated Plans (30 days) or CAPERs (15 days).

As part of its overall efforts to broaden citizen participation into development of HUD documents, the City scheduled the two public hearings on different days of the week and at different times to provide an opportunity for those who don't work a traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule to participate and share their input with the City. Several of the City's largest employers operate on 24-hour cycles, which can make participating in community meetings difficult for employees.

For first time in recent years, the City reached out to the two Gulfport-based Public Library Branches of the Harrison County Library System, which agreed to post Public Hearing, Draft Availability and 30-Day Comment Period Notices regarding development of the Gulfport 2023 CDBG and HOME Action Plan resubmittal. The libraries also agreed to make hard copies of the public review draft of the 2023 Action Plan resubmittal available during the 30-day comment period, which supported the City’s efforts to broaden citizen participation by allowing the draft to be accessible to the public during the library’s operating hours that include some evenings and Saturdays.

The City will address how the changes impacted goal setting following the close of the citizen participation process. The minutes of the two public hearings, sign-in sheets, copies of the agenda packets, proofs of publication of notices and screenshots of the City’s website to document posting of notices and the draft document will be included in the Outreach and Citizen Participation Attachment; a copy of each written comment submitted by the deadline will be included in the Comments Attachment of the final document.

Citizen Participation Outreach – to be completed following completion of consultations

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted & reasons
1	Website Notices	Broad	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	Posted Notices	Broad	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
3	Mailed & emailed notices	Broad	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
4	Mailed & Emailed Consultation Invitations	Broad	To be completed after cons. deadline	To be completed after cons. deadline	All comments received by the City will be accepted and considered.

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted & reasons
5	Public Hearings	Broad	To be completed following the second hearing on 2/7/24 ____ signed in at the 1/10/24 hearing and ____ signed in at the second hearing.	The minutes of each hearing will summarize oral comments received and will be attached to the final document. A copy of each written comment received by the deadline will be attached in the Comments Attachment.	All comments received by the City will be accepted and considered.
6	30-Day Written Comment Period Notices published in newspaper; posted on website; in City Hall & CommDev; in two libraries; & promoted at public hearings	Broad	A 30-day comment period was designated from Feb. 8 – 4 p.m., March 8, 2024. ____ written comments were rec'd at Jan. 10 hearing and two were submitted at the Feb. 7 hearing.	To be completed after the deadline.	All comments received by the City will be accepted and considered.

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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

Introduction

HUD allocated the City of Gulfport CDBG Entitlement funds of \$723,144 and HOME Investment Partnerships Entitlement funds of \$549,635 in Program Year 2023. The City does not anticipate that any program income will be generated during the year.

The City of Gulfport has requested guidance from the HUD Field Office in Jackson about the correct way to carry forward prior years' CDBG and HOME unexpended and available balances so they may be budgeted to support the Quarters District Streetlight Improvements Project in PY2022 and PY2023.

The City is ready to move forward with this project that will benefit 2,045 total people, 1,350 (66.1%) who are low- to moderate income. Implementation of streets, water, sewer, drainage, signage, landscaping and lighting improvements will significantly improve the living environment for households in this primarily residential area.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 2 (PY2023)				Expected Amount Available Remainder ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation \$	Program Income \$	Prior Year Resources \$	Total \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin & Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	723,144	0	0	723,144	2,169,432	CDBG allocations are declining annually; if they remain about the same as in PY23, expected CDBG funds to be received for 3 remaining years of ConPlan total \$2,169,432.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab MF rental new construction MF rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	549,635	0	0	549,635	1,648,905	HOME allocations are remaining about the same annually; if they remain about the same as in PY23, expected HOME funds to be received for 3 remaining years of ConPlan total \$1,648,905.

Table - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

The CDBG Entitlement Program does not require a match.

The HOME Program requires a 12.5% match of non-federal funds for each dollar of HOME funds expended. Historically, the Community Development Office has met the match requirement. For the Harrison Count HOME Consortium Homebuyer Assistance Program, for every home that is sold under the appraised value, the seller/owner authorizes the difference to be utilized as match. Volunteer hours

to provide labor for CHDO activities, especially rehabilitation, may be counted as in-kind match. Other forms of eligible federal match include private donations of cash and materials and the small grants typically awarded by Home Depot, Lowes, and others in the community.

Match requirements for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 were waived due to Covid19.

To be completed.

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

The City has publicly owned land available for use for a public purpose or resale due to unpaid property taxes. However, it is not suitable for residential development because most of the parcels don't meet minimum lot sizes for residential use, the property is located in recurring flood areas or there is no access to the property.

Discussion

The City has requested clarification from HUD regarding whether an \$1,764,175 HOME-American Rescue Plan Act allocation received by the City, as Lead Agency of the Harrison County HOME Consortium, should be identified in the AP-15 Anticipated or Expected Resources template or in another section of the 2023 CDBG and HOME Action Plan because the executive summary of Gulfport's 2021 CDBG and HOME Action Plan identifies that, through a substantial amendment in 2021, the allocation and American Rescue Plan were to be incorporated into the 2021 CDBG and HOME Action Plan. However, the ARP allocation is not identified in the AP-15 Anticipated or Expected Resources in the City's 2020-2026 Consolidated Plan or in the AP-15 Anticipated or Expected Resources template of the 2021 or 2022 Action Plan. Likewise, projects/programs to be supported with the \$1,764,175 HOME-ARP allocation are not identified in the AP-35 or AP-38 Projects templates of the ConPlan or 2021 or 2022 Action Plans.

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

Based on 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan goals and objectives, the City of Gulfport is budgeted its PY2023 CDBG and HOME Entitlement allocations to support a variety of housing assistance programs, the Quarters District Street Improvements Project, Phase 1 and, through the Administration category, a portion of staff salaries and other eligible administrative costs to administer and implement the CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs in compliance with HUD regulations and policies.

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Harrison Co. Consortium Homebuyer Asst Gulfport	2023	2023	Affordable Housing	citywide	Housing assistance	\$50,000	Number of Households that Benefit: 1
2	Emergency/ Minor Housing Repairs	2023	2023	Affordable Housing	citywide	Housing assistance	\$212,227	Number of Households that Benefit: 5
6	Streets, Water, Drainage, Sewer Improvements	2022	2024	Non-Housing Comm Develop	Ward 1	Public improvement/ suitable living environment	\$578,516	Number persons benefiting _____ total, ____ (%) LM
7	Harrison Co. Consortium Homebuyer Asst Harrison County	2023	2023	Affordable Housing	Unincorporated areas of Harrison Co.	Housing assistance	\$50,000	Number of Households that Benefit: 1
8	CHDO Set Aside	2023	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide & Unincorporated Harrison Co.	Housing assistance	\$82,445	Number of Housing Units or HH that Benefit:1
9	Administration	2023	2023	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$144,628/ CDBG & \$54,963/ HOME	Not applicable
11	Residential Rental Assistance	2023	2023	Affordable Housing	citywide	Housing assistance	\$100,000	Number Households that Benefit: 12 HH

Table – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions – this table will be completed

1	Goal Name	HOME: Gulfport Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Goal Description	To improve housing affordability, provide direct downpayment assistance to qualified homebuyers for purchase of affordable housing within the City; applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure compliance with applicable HOME regulations and policies;
2	Goal Name	HOME: Emergency Repairs/Minor Housing Rehab
	Goal Description	To improve housing affordability, provide emergency repairs &/or minor rehab to qualified, low-income homeowners citywide

6	Goal Name	CDBG: Streets, Drainage, Water, Sewer, Sidewalk, Lighting Improvements
	Goal Description	CDBG-eligible activities that include but are not limited to streets, water, sewer, drainage, sidewalks, curbing, lighting, traffic signage.
7	Goal Name	HOME: Harrison County Homebuyer Assistance Program
	Goal Description	To improve housing affordability, provide direct downpayment assistance to qualified homebuyers for purchase of affordable housing within unincorporated areas of Harrison County; applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure compliance with applicable HOME regulations and policies.
8	Goal Name	HOME: CHDO set-aside
	Goal Description	Required set aside for use by a designated Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) to provide affordable housing to assist low-income households.
9	Goal Name	CDBG & HOME: Administration
	Goal Description	Eligible CDBG and HOME Program administration costs, which may include a portion of staff salaries.
11	Goal Name	HOME: Gulfport Rental Assistance Program
	Goal Description	To expand qualified residents' access to affordable rental housing on a citywide basis ; with terms of assistance limited by HUD regulations.

AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)

Introduction

#	Project Name	Funding Source
1	Quarters District Street Improvements Project, Phase One	CDBG
2	City of Gulfport Homebuyer Assistance Program	HOME Consortium
3	Harrison County Homebuyer Assistance Program	HOME Consortium
4	Community Housing Development Organization Set-aside	HOME
5	Homeowner Emergency Repairs/Minor Rehabilitation	HOME
5	Residential Rental Assistance	HOME
7	Administration	CDBG
8	Administration	HOME

Table – Project Information

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

All seven wards of the City of Gulfport have areas with identified concentrations of low- to moderate-income households. Wards 1 and 3 have the largest concentrations of low- to moderate-income households as well as minority concentrated areas. Historically, the majority of the City’s HUD resources have been expended in these two wards.

In its HUD-approved 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan and 2022 Action Plan, the City identified its priority for use of its PY2023 HUD resources is the Quarters District Street Improvements Project, a primarily residential area that is 66.1% low- to moderate-income but has not benefited from the investment of HUD resources for the last twenty five years.

The City’s housing assistance programs are available on a citywide basis to qualified households.

AP-38 Project Summary - the table below will be complete pending HUD information

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Quarters District Street Improvements Project, Phase One
	Target Area	Ward 1
	Goals Supported	Suitable Living Environment
	Needs Addressed	Improved Living Environment for Low- to Moderate-Income Residents
	Funding	CDBG \$578,516
	Description	The project includes a HUD-compliant environmental review; surveys, design and other engineering services. Street improvements activities may include but aren’t limited to street paving/repaving, curbing, sidewalks, drainage, streetlights, safety lighting, signage and landscaping. Work will be performed within existing City easements and rights-of-way. Use of CDBG funds will be limited to the project service area identified for the Quarters District Street Improvements Project, which is a primarily residential area located within the larger Quarters Commercial and Business District.
	Target Date	Phase One 2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A total of 2,045 people live within the project area and are expected to benefit, of whom 1,350 (66.1%) qualify as low- to moderate-income (LMI)
	Location Description	19th Street (between 30th Ave and 33rd Ave) 20th Street (between 30th Ave and 33rd Ave) 21st Street (between 30th Ave and 33rd Ave) 31st Avenue (between 19th St and 21st St) 32nd Avenue (between 19th St and 21st St)
Planned Activities	The CDBG-funded component of the overall project includes but is not limited to a HUD-compliant environmental review; surveys; design and engineering services. Street improvements activities may include but aren’t limited to improving streets (paving/ repaving), curbing, sidewalks, drainage, streetlights, safety lighting, signage and landscaping	
2	Project Name	City of Gulfport Homebuyer Assistance
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing

	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME \$50,000
	Description	The City's share of HOME Consortium funds will be invested to improve affordability of housing, supporting the purchase of a house by eligible households. The houses to be acquired will be occupied by the buyer and subject to resale/recapture provisions/conditions in addition to other HOME requirements.
	Target Date	December 31, 2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City estimates one qualified household will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	To be determined
	Planned Activities	Homebuyer assistance for income qualified households to support purchase of affordable housing in the City of Gulfport
3	Project Name	Harrison County Homebuyer Assistance
	Target Area	Unincorporated areas of Harrison County
	Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME \$50,000
	Description	Harrison County's share of HOME Consortium funds will be invested to improve affordability of housing in unincorporated areas of the County, supporting the purchase of a house by eligible households. The houses to be acquired will be owner-occupied and subject to resale/recapture provisions in addition to other HOME requirements.
	Target Date	December 31, 2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City/County estimates one qualified household will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	To be determined
	Planned Activities	Homebuyer assistance provided to support income qualified households to support purchase of affordable housing in unincorporated areas of Harrison County
4	Project Name	Home Entitlement Program Administration
	Target Area	Consortium Jurisdiction - citywide & unincorporated areas of Harrison County
	Goals Supported	Not applicable
	Needs Addressed	Not applicable
	Funding	HOME \$54,963
	Description	A portion of eligible administration costs incurred for HOME Entitlement Program planning, implementation and evaluation will be supported with CDBG funds. This may include but is not limited to a percentage of City staff salaries, publication costs, professional services contract fees, fair housing education outreach and supplies.
	Target Date	December 31, 2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable
	Location Description	Gulfport Community Development 1410 24 th Avenue Gulfport, MS
	Planned Activities	A portion of eligible costs incurred to administer the HOME Entitlement Program and Consortium will be paid with HOME funds; expenditures may include but are not limited to a percentage of City staff salaries, publication costs, professional services contract fees, fair housing education outreach and supplies.
5	Project Name	2023 CHDO Set-aside
	Target Area	Consortium Jurisdiction – citywide & unincorporated Harrison County
	Goals Supported	Support eligible activities of a nonprofit affordable housing developer /provider
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME \$82,445
	Description	The HUD-minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the City’s 2023 HOME allocation is set aside to support affordable housing activities of a qualified, nonprofit Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) to benefit one or two qualified, low-income households. Eligible activities include but aren’t limited to acquisition and rehabilitation and new residential construction. Activities during 2023 will broaden the nonprofit’s experience expanding the local inventory of affordable housing units while it works to meet the housing needs of one to two low-income households in the Harrison County HOME Consortium area.
	Target Date	December 31, 2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City/County estimates one to two eligible low-income household will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Harrison County Consortium Jurisdiction: unincorporated areas in Harrison County and citywide in Gulfport.
	Planned Activities	The CHDO activities may include new construction and/or housing acquisition and rehabilitation for resale to qualified low-income households, to be determined in consultation with the Harrison County Consortium.
6	Project Name	CDBG Entitlement Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Not applicable
	Needs Addressed	Not applicable
	Funding	CDBG \$144,628
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to reimburse the City for a portion of eligible costs incurred to administer, implement and evaluate the CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs. This may include but is not limited to a percentage of staff salaries; publication costs; fair housing and/or lead-based paint educational outreach; environmental review; professional services contract fees; and supplies.
	Target Date	December 31, 2024

Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable
Location Description	Gulfport Community Development 1410 24 th Avenue Gulfport, MS
Planned Activities	Activities include administering, implementing and evaluating the City's CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs to provide residents with expected benefits and improve compliance with HUD regulations and policies. Eligible costs may include but are not limited to a portion of staff salaries; publication costs; fair housing and lead-based paint educational outreach; professional services contract fees; and supplies.
Project Name	Homeowner Emergency Repairs/Minor Rehabilitation Program
Target Area	Citywide
Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
Funding	CDBG \$212,227
Description	CDBG funds will be used to assist homeowners with emergency repairs and/or minor rehabilitation provided in compliance with HUD regulations and policies; assistance will be available on a citywide basis and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Target Date	December 31, 2024
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Five households are estimated to benefit from this program in PY2023.
Location Description	To be determined
Planned Activities	Activities include administering, implementing and evaluating the City's CDBG and HOME Entitlement Programs to provide residents with expected benefits and improve compliance with HUD regulations and policies. Eligible costs may include but are not limited to a portion of staff salaries; publication costs; fair housing and lead-based paint educational outreach; professional services contract fees; and supplies.
Project Name	Residential Rental Assistance
Target Area	Citywide
Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
Funding	HOME \$100,000
Description	To expand qualified residents' access to affordable housing on a citywide basis; terms of assistance will comply with HUD regulations and policies
Target Date	December 31, 2024

Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City estimates 12 low-income households will benefit in PY2023.
Location Description	To be determined
Planned Activities	To expand access to affordable housing on a citywide basis, rental assistance will be provided to qualified residents; terms will comply with HUD requirements.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)

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

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	% of Funds
Citywide Housing Assistance Programs	30
Harrison County Homebuyers Assistance (unincorporated areas of County)	10
Ward 1 – Low/Mod Income Area	60
Ward 2 – Low Income Census Tract Area	0
Ward 3 - Low income Census Tract Area	0
Ward 4 - Low Income Census Tract	0
Ward 5 - Low Income Census Tract Area	0
Ward 6 - Low Income Census Tract Area	0
Ward 7 - Low Income Census Tract Area	0
Consortium Jurisdiction (citywide & unincorporated areas of Harrison County)	0
PY2023 – no public service activities proposed	0

Table 2 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The geographic distribution of funds by target area identified in Table 5 is from the HUD-approved Gulfport 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan and 2022 Action Plan.

The City is divided into seven wards, all of which have concentrated areas of low- to moderate-income households, with Wards 1 and 3 having the largest concentrations of low- to moderate-income and minority households. The majority of the City’s CDBG resources have been invested in Wards 1 and 3 to improve the living condition of residents in the low- to moderate-income areas that are primarily residential in nature.

Gulfport is the Lead Agency for the Harrison County HOME Consortium; housing assistance available through the Consortium is available on a citywide basis and in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Eligibility for affordable housing assistance from the Consortium is based on each applying household's combined income and other HUD conditions.

Discussion

As identified in its 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan and 2022 Action Plan, the geographic distribution table identifies the percentage of CDBG funds to be invested in projects located in eleven (11) areas of the City during PY2023. While housing assistance programs are available on a citywide basis, the majority of funds will be spent in Ward 1 where the Quarters District Street Improvements Project is located. A primarily residential area, the Quarters District is identified as a 66.1% Low/Mod Area (LMA).

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.420, 91.220(g)

Introduction

During development of the 2023 Action Plan resubmittal to HUD, the City initiated the Community Development Office restaffing process to support successful planning and implementation of its new housing assistance programs. The two new programs will be available on a citywide basis to qualified households in addition to the Consortium's Homebuyer Assistance Program that provides direct downpayment assistance to qualified households and housing activities completed by the CHDO. The new Residential Rental Assistance and Homeowner Emergency Repairs/Minor Rehabilitation Programs will comply with HUD regulations and policies, help alleviate housing cost burdens on Gulfport's low-income residents while enhancing their living environments.

The City of Gulfport's one-year goals for the number of homeless, non-homeless and special needs households to be supported during PY2023 are modest compared to the last several years, but expectations are more realistic in Program Year 2023. During the City's restaffing process and while working to update affordable housing goals with its Consortium partner, Harrison County (which is in a transitional mode with a new Board), the City anticipates it will benefit one non-homeless household during PY2023. Likewise, the one-year goals for the number of households to be supported with rental assistance, production of new units, rehabilitation of existing units and acquisition of existing units is modest, with one existing housing unit anticipated to be acquired by the CHDO to rehabilitate for resale.

The designated Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) will receive a set aside of 15% from the Consortium's PY2023 HOME allocation, which totals \$82,445.00 in PY2023, to support planning and implementation of HUD-eligible affordable housing activities to benefit low-income households with buying a house within the Consortium's jurisdiction. As part of the process of identifying the PY2023 nonprofit organization to serve as the CHDO, the Consortium partners will revisit the PY2023 one-year goals with the CHDO's input. Participating in identifying expected outcomes as the result of its work assisting in evaluating its success will be a valuable part of the CHDO's experience.

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

Table 3 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	1
Total	1

Table 4 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

In PY2022, the City identified the one-year goal of supporting 2,000 non-homeless households through a public service activity and acquiring six existing housing units for affordable housing. It did not support any non-homeless households through the public service activity as planned. During PY2021, the City’s one-year goal was to support five non-homeless households and acquire five existing housing units. It did not benefit any non-homeless households or acquire any existing housing.

While the City’s goals for PY2023 are modest, they are realistic. The City is budgeting HUD resources to establish and implement two additional affordable housing assistance programs and is in the process of restaffing. Combined, these two activities will achieve the affordable housing goals to benefit Gulfport’s low- to moderate-income households.

AP-60 Public Housing - 91.420, 91.220(h)

Introduction

This template will be completed pending receipt of additional information from MRHA VIII

Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII completed its RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) conversion several years ago to replace public housing with assisted housing as part of its overall effort to sustain access to affordable housing in the City of Gulfport. The South Mississippi Housing (SMH), the nonprofit agency that operates under the Regional Housing Authority’s organizational umbrella, manages four developments in the City to ensure access of low-income households to code-compliant, affordable housing through project-based vouchers for low-income residents and _____ (identify other sources of assistance).

SMH managed 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 located in North Gulfport at _____. Phase I of the North Park Estates Project was completed in 2021; Phase II began in _____ project with expected completion in _____(year). The two-phased redevelopment includes 40? multi or single-family units for _____ (describe households).

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

In Program Year 2023, the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII plans _____.

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

MHRA VIII has an active Family Self Sufficiency Program to encourage residents of assisted and public housing and voucher programs to purchase affordable housing through its housing choice voucher program. The City of Gulfport and MHRA VIII have collaborated and will continue to collaborate to providing homebuyer assistance to low-income participants of the family self-sufficiency program.

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

Not applicable to MRHA VIII.

Discussion

optional

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities - 91.420, 91.220(i)

Introduction

The City of Gulfport works on an on-going basis with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the designated Continuum of Care (CoC) for the six-county area of South Mississippi. Representatives of the City participate in Open Doors’ monthly program meetings, which provides an opportunity for networking with other member agencies working to reduce and end local homelessness. The City actively participates in each annual Point in Time Count organized by Open Doors, which increases public awareness about the on-going needs of sheltered and unsheltered local families and individuals who are homeless.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

One of the City of Gulfport's 2023 goals is to continue working with agencies that include the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Gulf Coast Center for Non-Violence, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority

VIII, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, The Salvation Army-Gulfport, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Pine Belt Mental Health, Back Bay Mission, United Way of South Mississippi, Community Action Agency of South Mississippi, and other local units of government to maintain awareness about the unmet needs of local homeless populations to increase the amount of annual private donations received and document needs to strengthen grant applications for federal, state and private funding.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

During PY2023, the City of Gulfport will continue working to achieve the goal of addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of families and individuals who are homeless and facing homelessness in the City by expanding access to housing assistance programs and continuing to support a collaboration among local and regional agencies/organizations to provide needed emergency and transitional housing assistance and related supportive services identified as needed through Open Doors' assessments and HMIS data. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a web-based database that collects and stores data on homeless families and individuals who are assessed by Open Doors and whose information is entered into the homeless service system to improve efficient and effective delivery of housing assistance and supportive services to sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. HMIS data also provides insights about local homelessness and helps allocate resources for highest impact and outcomes for homeless individuals and families.

This template will be completed upon receipt of 2023 PIT Count information specific to the City of Gulfport and prior to submittal of the final document to HUD. GCCN has submitted updated data and it is in the process of being inserted.

The City will continue to work with local and regional housing assistance agencies to fill gaps in services, eliminate duplication of services, and improve the process for assisting the homeless, especially untreated persons suffering from mental health disorders, families with children, veterans, chronically homeless individuals and families, and those aging out of the foster care system.

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 will continue to support efforts of the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII and Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care to encourage the Mississippi Gulf Coast-based Veterans Administration to issue all its VASH vouchers as quickly as possible for qualified homeless veterans with families or individual homeless veterans. State agencies are immediately contacted to take custody of

unaccompanied youth who appear to be homeless.

The City will continue to support efforts of local, regional and state agencies and organizations to help chronically homeless families and individuals break the cycle of homelessness and will continue to work with agencies and organizations to provide housing and supportive services to homeless and near-homeless individuals and families. The City also will support efforts to assist chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. The City also will continue to support efforts to shorten the length of time individuals and families experience homelessness; to facilitate access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units; and prevent individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

During Program Year 2023, the City will continue to support the work of Open Doors and other local and regional housing assistance agencies to help extremely low- and low-income families and individuals avoid becoming homeless by providing letters of support for agency grant applications and other efforts to expand available resources. The City will continue to support local and regional agency and organization efforts to assist extremely low-income individuals who are being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care, including from healthcare facilities; mental health facilities; the foster care system; other youth facilities; corrections programs; correction institutions; and those who are receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

Discussion

The City of Gulfport will continue to support the public and private agencies that address housing, health, public services, employment, education and youth needs by endorsing their applications for funding assistance and providing technical assistance as feasible while in the process of restaffing its Community Development Office.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing -91.420, 91.220(j)

Introduction

Through the leadership of the Mississippi HOME Corporation and in collaboration with the other five CDBG Entitlement Program cities and public housing authorities across the state, the City of Gulfport

participated in development of the nation's first statewide Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) in 2019-2020. The five-year period covered by that document ends in PY2023 and guidance from HUD is pending regarding how its Entitlement Program cities will be required to document compliance with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing assurances.

The City of Gulfport's current AI identifies the following impediments continue to be a barrier to fair housing in Gulfport: lack of fair housing education and outreach; areas of low/mod income concentration; lack of affordable homebuyer units; lack of affordable rental units; accessibility, the cost of property insurance premiums; lack of zoning to permit group homes; lack of access to public transportation.

The City of Gulfport is addressing the above as follows: fair housing education pamphlets are provided to applicants seeking housing assistance from the City's CDBG- or HOME-funded programs; new lenders and realtors working with residents to access City housing assistance resources receive a fair housing education pamphlet; and fair housing education pamphlets are made available to the public in various offices frequented by the public. The City offers its housing assistance programs on a citywide basis so all qualified residents may apply and be treated fairly.

The City's Homebuyer Assistance Program improves the ability of low-income households to acquire a house of their choice in a neighborhood of their choice through direct downpayment assistance. The City also has updated its zoning so that Group Homes are now considered on a case-by-case basis. Once restaffing the Community Development Office has been accomplished, the City will reinstate its policy to host an annual fair housing education workshop in partnership with the Mississippi Center for Justice, USM-Gulf Park's Center for Disability Studies and other agencies/organizations interested in supporting local fair housing outreach efforts.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The City of Gulfport has reviewed its taxation and fee-based usage policies, zoning and building ordinances and codes to identify and revise or remove language that may create barriers to accessing housing anywhere within its municipal limits. The City zoning ordinance allows for various densities on various lot sizes of single-family housing and multi-family housing throughout the City. Mixed use zoning is allowed in various areas and lower-income areas are found in every ward of the City rather than being concentrated in one geographic area.

Current zoning supports a mixture of single- and multi-family residential units on varying lot sizes throughout the City as well as considers development of group homes on a case-by-case basis. Other land use regulations support sustainability measures and provide for density bonuses when combined with natural resource preservation and/or other public benefits. The City has adopted the latest version of the International Build Code, requiring compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act Provisions.

Discussion

The City of Gulfport has adopted the most current version of the International Building Code, which requires compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)

Introduction

This template will be completed upon receipt of updated information requested from various agencies/organizations.

Actions to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

During Program Year 2023, the City will continue supporting efforts to improve residents' access to affordable housing throughout the City. It also will continue to support efforts to improve coordination between public and private housing, health and social service agencies to address unmet needs of its lower income residents. As gaps in the institutional structure are identified, the City will work collaboratively with participating agencies and organizations to strengthen the structure, so a full continuum of care is available.

As part of its actions to address obstacles that prevent the needs of the underserved from being met, the City will encourage residents to:

- Complete their high school degree or GED equivalent;
- Take advantage of no cost or low cost programs to prepare a resume; improve interview skills; become computer literate;
- Practice taking qualifying exams for certain jobs as well as certification and degree programs, which are available at no cost through each of the two Gulfport-based Public Library Branches;
- Enroll their children in Head Start and/or literacy programs available through the United Way of South Mississippi and other organizations; and
- Participate in public housing management programs including resident councils.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will support local and regional agencies take the following actions to remove obstacles to meeting underserved needs in the community:

- To support housing and support service agencies in their efforts to obtain funding to continue and expand existing facilities and services.
- To encourage active solicitation of every known funding source and to support applications for

funding from federal, state, and local funding sources including HUD programs.

- To facilitate ongoing cooperation and coordination between agencies including the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Back Bay Mission, Salvation Army-Gulfport and others.
- To increase transitional housing and supportive services particularly for women with children.
- To increase affordable housing opportunities for owners and renters through the Harrison County HOME Program Consortium, and other programs.
- To promote fair housing and eliminate barriers to fair housing and housing discrimination through education and enforcement by the Mississippi Center for Justice.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

As in past years, the City of Gulfport will offer its Housing Assistance Program through the Harrison County HOME Consortium to improve the affordability of buying a house for qualified residents on a citywide basis. In PY2023, the City is planning and will implement new housing assistance programs to expand resources available to residents throughout the City to help alleviate housing cost burdens, support efforts to improve the existing housing inventory and improve the living conditions of its low- to moderate-income households.

The City also will continue to encourage other housing assistance agencies and organizations to work to expand the capacity of local emergency shelters and the availability of transitional housing units.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Gulfport will continue to support the work of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII and others to improve awareness about the hazards of lead-based paint (LBP) poisoning, especially for pregnant women and children ages 6 and under. Gulfport's building code requires lead-based paint testing prior to rehabilitation of residential units built prior to 1979 and, if LBP positive, property owners are required to abate and dispose of LBP chips and dust to contain them, in compliance with EPA and other federal standards.

The MSDH has provided an update of its most recent random LBP testing, conducted in _____, which will be inserted in this template.

The Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII is continuing its program for abatement of lead-based paint in units participating in its voucher program (formerly Section 8). MRHA VIII will continue to require each unit be inspected and, if found to have LBP peeling, it will be contained in compliance with EPA and other federal regulations and repainted before being rented.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to support the work of its numerous faith-based organizations, supportive service and housing agencies and community organizations to expand availability of resources as needs of the homeless and low-income are increasing along with the price of food, housing and transportation. Those able to work will continue to be encouraged to participate in existing no-cost and low-cost

workforce development and job skills training programs to expand their employment opportunities.

Education continues to be a powerful tool for reducing poverty and the City will continue to collaborate with and support the work of the Gulfport and Harrison County School Districts to encourage each student to graduate from high school and to encourage parents to enroll children in kindergarten readiness programs to improve the opportunity for success in school.

The City also will continue to support the two Gulfport-based Public Library Branches and assist in efforts to improve residents' awareness of resources available at no cost to them, including on-line programs that may be accessed from home with (free) library membership.

Gulfport will continue to be pro-active in terms of encouraging economic development and redevelopment in the community to expand the diversity of employment opportunities while increasing tax collections.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Gulfport will continue to collaborate with local and regional agencies and organizations to recruit other agencies and private organizations to fill the gaps as they are identified in the institutional structure and will support grant application efforts of local agencies and organizations to expand resources available to meet needs.

The City will support the on-going efforts of the Gulf Coast Center for Non-Violence, The Salvation Army-Gulfport, the South Mississippi Mental Health Association, Climb CDC, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, Back Bay Mission, the United Way of South Mississippi and many others to meet the full continuum of care.

More information will be provided.

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

To encourage public housing residents to become more involved with management and participate in homeownership, the City of Gulfport will continue to support efforts of the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII (MRHAVIII) to assist qualified citizens access affordable housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and work to increase active participation in resident initiative programs and residential management programs. The City will encourage MRHAVIII to continued assisting residents as they explore local education and job training opportunities.

The City will support MRHAVIII's efforts to pursue additional funding through the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, Youth Sports Program, the Public Housing Comprehensive Grant Program and other programs available.

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

service agencies

The City of Gulfport plans to continue enhancing coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies by leading by example. It will continue to participate in the Open Doors’ monthly program meetings, as time allows, because the meetings provide learning experiences with networking opportunities for all who attend.

To further enhance coordination, the City will continue to encourage local agencies such as the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Salvation Army-Gulfport, Climb CDC, Back Bay Mission, Southern Mississippi Mental Health Association and many others to collaborate in developing grant applications and fund raising campaigns.

More information will be provided.

Discussion

Optional

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction

In PY2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated \$723,144 in CDBG funds and \$549,635 in HOME Investment Partnerships funds to the City of Gulfport.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

Quarters District Street Improvements Project	\$578,516.
CDBG Administration	\$144,628
Homeowner Emergency Repairs and Minor Rehabilitation	\$212,227
Residential Rental Assistance	\$100,000
Gulfport Homebuyer Assistance	\$50,000
Harrison County Homebuyer Assistance	\$50,000
CHDO Set Aside	\$82,445
HOME Administration	\$54,963

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

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

projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	95.00%

For purposes of determining the City’s minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds used to benefit persons of low- and moderate-income, the City specifies the three consecutive years of 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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

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

- HOME - individual private funds, donations and loans for homebuyer assistance
- FHA – homebuyer assistance and loans to low income
- Veterans Administration - VASH Vouchers to veterans for rental housing and VA loans to purchase housing
- Housing Choice Vouchers – transferring rental vouchers to homeowner purchase vouchers to assist low income
- Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII - provides rental housing for low income
- South Mississippi Housing Development (nonprofit of MRHAVIII) – builds/redevelops and manages rental housing for low income
- Habitat for Humanity – homeowner housing rehabilitation/reconstruction
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits – construction of low-income rental housing
- Renaissance Corporation - provides loans and grants to low-income homebuyers

2. **A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:**
See Attached HOME Consortium Resale and Recapture Policy per revised New HOME Final Rule Effective 8/23/2013, as written guidelines exceed the allowed 4,000 character limit.
3. **A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:**
See Attached HOME Consortium Resale and Recapture Policy per revised New HOME Final Rule Effective 8/23/2013, as written guidelines exceed the allowed 4,000 character limit.
4. **Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:**
The Consortium programs or funding allocations do not allow for refinancing of existing debt secured by multifamily housing rehabilitated with HOME funds.
5. **If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).**
Not applicable
6. **If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).** Not applicable
7. **If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR .105(a).**
Not applicable

Attachments to the final document will include:

Executed Federal Forms, HUD Certifications and Assurances

Outreach and Citizen Participation Documentation

Written Comments

Project Location & Low/Mod Areas Maps