

2019 Annual Action Plan

Hamilton County, Ohio

May 24, 2019



Hamilton County 2019 Annual Action Plan

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Attachments

- Attachment A: 2019 Annual Action Plan by Grant, Community and Programs & Projects
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- Attachment C: 2015-2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and Action Plan Update
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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2019 Action Plan is based on flat CDBG, HOME and ESG funds.

Hamilton County presents the 2019 Annual Action Plan which outlines the housing and community development needs and objectives for the period of March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020. Programs in the plan are funded through these three grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); the 2019 Action Plan is based the three grant programs as listed below:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) at \$3,330,705
- HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) at \$1,339,817
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) at \$ 279,229

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

All of the HUD grant programs address one or more of the following goals:

- Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners
- Provide Affordable Housing for Renters
- Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness
- Spur Economic Development
- Eliminate Slum and Blight
- Further Fair Housing
- Improve Public Facilities
- Improve Public Infrastructure
- Improve Quality of Life

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The 2019 CDBG allocation is \$3,330,705 and program income is estimated at \$10,000 for a total allocation of \$3,340,705. Over 70% of the CDBG projects will benefit low to moderate income persons and areas, including 15% for public services. Overall, no more than 30% of the grant will be used for slum blight; no projects will result in relocation.

CDBG Program Changes Implemented and Continued

In 2019, funds will be awarded to nonprofit agencies through a competitive process as we did in 2018. The Community Development Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended awards for nonprofit agency programs. Due to the timing of the 2018 funds, contracts began on 7/1/18. This competitive process was recently completed for 2019 and the results are included herein.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

The 2019 HOME grant award is \$1,339,817; we do not project program income. The majority of funds (about \$1 million) will be directed towards rental and homeownership housing development projects,

including acquisition, new construction and/or rehab. . An RFP (Request for Proposals) will be published to solicit potential projects and programs for HOME funding. 15% of the funds will be set aside for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) projects as required by HUD. The County plans to provide operating support for new CHDO's. The remaining 10% of the grant will be used for administrative costs, including salaries and benefits, training and travel, and miscellaneous office expenses.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The ESG allocation for 2019 is \$279,229 with no program income. All of these funds will be provided to Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH) for administration and rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention programs. STEH serves as the Continuum of Care agency for the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County as required by HUD. City funds are allocated to shelters, homeless prevention programs and administration.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Tables in the following sections outline progress made on 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Public Hearing and Review

The draft 2019 Annual Action Plan was written with the assumption that grant amounts will be flat with 2018 grant amounts and similar funding allocations. Hamilton County will hold public hearings on December 12 and December 19, 2018 to consider proposed plan and projects and programs to be funded during the 2019 program year. Each community held the required two public meetings prior to making requests for funding for the 2019 Action Plan. All these hearing fulfills the requirements of Hamilton County's Citizen Participation Plan. A draft 2019 Action Plan will be available, both online and in our offices, for public review and comment between December 3, 2018 and January 9, 2019. No feedback was received at this time.

Since the RFP for public services was not be issued until February or March, decisions were just recently made for this portion of funding. Additional public hearings were held on May 16 and May 21 to provide feedback on the allocation of \$775K for nonprofit services only.

Approvals

We anticipated receiving our grant amounts from HUD within 60 days of passage of federal budget. The Board of County Commissioners approved the Action Plan on January 9, 2019 with the provision that changes in grant amounts will be applied proportionally to each program category. A revised Action Plan was approved on May 23, 2019 to include nonprofit services allocations.

5. Summary of public comments

The Board of County Commissioners held the first of two public hearings for the 2019 Action Plan on December 12, 2018. No comments were received at this public hearing. The second public hearing was held on December 19, 2018 and no comments were received at this meeting either. On May 16, 2018, there were 13 speakers and on May 21, 2018, there were 6 speakers who spoke about nonprofit services; each speaker spoke in support of one of the agencies who applied for funds.

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

After the two May hearings, the Board of County Commissioners asked that County staff explore ways to support one of the nonprofits providing services to people experiencing homelessness. Staff met with the agency leadership and will develop a technical assistance workplan and will provide up to \$20K in support from admin funds.

7. Summary

As mentioned above, due to the delay in FY18 funds, CDBG nonprofit services contracts began on 7/1/18. Due to this delay, FY19 allocations were delayed until May. All programs, projects and services are ready to begin upon receipt of all HUD approvals.

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	HAMILTON COUNTY	Planning and Development
HOME Administrator	HAMILTON COUNTY	Planning and Development
ESG Administrator	HAMILTON COUNTY	Planning and Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Comments and questions concerning Hamilton County's Consolidated Plan can be directed to the contact information listed below.

Joy M. Pierson
Community Development Administrator
138 East Court Street, Room 1002
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-946-8234
Joy.Pierson@hamilton-co.org

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

1. Introduction

To assess the needs that exist within Hamilton County and to complete the Consolidated Plan and thus our Action Plan, the Community Development Department consulted with a wide array of organizations including housing, homeless, social services, fair housing, elderly and disability agencies, as well as the local housing authority. Outreach was made to gather data, determine needs and identify service gaps. The County continues to maintain and develop relationships with these organizations to aid in implementing portions of our Consolidated Plan and to coordinate services. In addition, the County will solicit applications to allocate 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for county-wide nonprofit services. The County will utilize the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) to review and recommend services for funding. This committee was appointed by the Board of Commissioners and has representatives of participating jurisdictions as well as housing and community development professionals working in the County.

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

Hamilton County actively works to enhance coordination between housing providers and service agencies. The list below provides a description of the activities that are currently being undertaken:

- Hamilton County works with The Housing Network of Hamilton County, an organization that was established to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. The Housing Network works in conjunction with the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS) to plan new types and locations of housing that meet the ongoing and future needs of people served by HCDDS. HCDDS provides referrals of people who wish to reside in Housing Network homes.
- The local Continuum of Care collaborative applicant, Strategies to End Homelessness (STETH), coordinates the efforts of organizations which provide services to the homeless and other special populations.
- People Working Cooperatively coordinates with various organizations that serve the disabled population to receive referrals for clients that need mobility improvements made to their homes.

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

The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Homeless Clearinghouse (CoC Board) and Strategies to End Homelessness (CoC Collaborative Applicant) have consistently utilized the Consolidated Plan as the primary documentation of the strategies, planning, and services being used to address homelessness,

particularly chronic homelessness, in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The Homeless Section of the Consolidated Plan has been developed for both the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio as part of the local HUD Continuum of Care for the Homeless (CoC) program of the combined jurisdictions. Pursuant to HUDs guidance and the communities' method of conducting planning and facilitating processes for homeless, the jurisdictions have standardized and identical elements within their Consolidated Plans, increasing coordination and reducing duplication of efforts. The Homeless Clearinghouse (CoC Board) oversees CoC planning & gaps analysis, coordinates project outcomes review, priority setting, funding allocation, & monitors elements of the Consolidated Plan. The Homeless Clearinghouse annually reviews program performance in relation to HUD outcome priorities and uses outcomes data to propose changes to the local CoC program prioritization process, and presents these outcome performance measures to CoC membership. Such performance-based prioritization is accompanied by community input to select projects to be included in the annual CoC application. The Homeless Clearinghouse also oversees allocation & planning processes for ESG funds and the monitoring of ESG-funded program performance.

The local homeless services system is working to reduce homelessness by doing the following: 1) Offering comprehensive Homelessness Prevention/Shelter Diversion services, 2) Improving the services that are available to people who are currently homeless, 3) Developing and offering housing resources so that households can exit and not return to 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

ESG funds are used to support operations at the emergency shelters located in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, as well as to fund a homelessness prevention program that STEH coordinates.

STEH first facilitates of the proportion of ESG funds that will be used for prevention and shelter. STEH then facilitates a community allocation process to distribute the shelter funds, and contracts with the individual service providers. Performance measures related to housing and income are included in the allocation process for shelter funding. STEH uses data collected in the VESTA® HMIS system to determine a starting point allocation for each eligible provider. The starting point allocation divides the funding between shelters based on their number of bed nights and their outcomes related specifically to income and positive housing results. Each annual allocation uses prior calendar year data. In 2013, funds dedicated to the shelters were distributed amongst eight agencies (10 total programs) and spent on operational expenses including: rent, maintenance and repair, food, furnishings, supplies and other necessities of the shelter.

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

The County utilizes the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) to review and recommend services for funding. The committee is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and has representatives of participating jurisdictions as well as housing and community development professionals working in the County. This will occur throughout the year for all funding decisions throughout the program year.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; better planning and metrics for 2019 programs
2	Agency/Group/Organization	HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MADE EQUAL
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Fair housing issues
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; better planning and metrics for 2019 programs
3	Agency/Group/Organization	St. Vincent de Paul
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services – Elderly Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Nonprofit Services/ County wide programs – CDBG
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; new 2019 program

4	Agency/Group/Organization	PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services – Housing Services-Elderly Persons Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Low Income homeowner needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; better planning and metrics for 2019 programs
5	Agency/Group/Organization	FREESTORE FOODBANK
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Employment Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; new 2019 program
6	Agency/Group/Organization	HCDC (formerly Hamilton County Development Company)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; better planning and metrics for 2019 programs
7	Agency/Group/Organization	The Housing Network of Hamilton County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person, phone and meetings; better planning and metrics for 2019 programs
8	Agency/Group/Organization	ANDERSON TOWNSHIP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
9	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF CHEVIOT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
10	Agency/Group/Organization	VILLAGE OF CLEVES, OHIO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
11	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF DEER PARK
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
12	Agency/Group/Organization	DELHI TOWNSHIP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
13	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF FOREST PARK, OHIO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
14	Agency/Group/Organization	VILLAGE OF GOLF MANOR
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation

15	Agency/Group/Organization	VILLAGE OF GREENHILLS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
16	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF HARRISON
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
17	Agency/Group/Organization	HARRISON TOWNSHIP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
18	Agency/Group/Organization	VILLAGE OF LINCOLN HEIGHTS
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
19	Agency/Group/Organization	MIAMI TOWNSHIP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
20	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF MT. HEALTHY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
21	Agency/Group/Organization	City of North College Hill
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
22	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
23	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF SHARONVILLE, OHIO
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation

24	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF SPRINGDALE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
25	Agency/Group/Organization	SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
26	Agency/Group/Organization	WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
27	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF WYOMING
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
28	Agency/Group/Organization	Village of Newtown
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other of government - Local

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	CDBG Community Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
29	Agency/Group/Organization	WEST COLLEGE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
30	Agency/Group/Organization	Village of Addyston
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
31	Agency/Group/Organization	Amberley Village
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
32	Agency/Group/Organization	Village of Arlington Heights
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
33	Agency/Group/Organization	Colerain Township
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation.
34	Agency/Group/Organization	Green Township
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
35	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Loveland
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
36	Agency/Group/Organization	Village of St. Bernard
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation

37	Agency/Group/Organization	Village of Silverton
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Community needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation
38	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Action Agency
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Famililies Services-Persons with Disabilities Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Nonprofit Services – CDBG – County Wide Services
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	RFP process
39	Agency/Group/Organization	Lydia’s House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service- Housing Service- Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Nonprofit Services – CDBG – County Wide Services
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	RFP process
40	Agency/Group/Organization	Working in Neighborhoods
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Nonprofit Services – CDBG – County Wide Services
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	RFP process
41	Agency/Group/Organization	Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Service- Housing (Mortgage Assistance, Foreclosure Prevention)
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Nonprofit Services – CDBG – County Wide Services
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	RFP process
42	Agency/Group/Organization	Village of Madeira
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other of government – Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	CDBG Community Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Email, in person or phone consultation

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

None

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Strategies to End Homelessness	Housing and homelessness goals are identical

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

Hamilton County took a variety of approaches in seeking to broaden citizen participation (see Citizen Participation Plan in Appendix A). As detailed below, participating jurisdictions were required to conduct at least two public hearings regarding community priorities and selection of projects. Newspaper ads publicizing these hearings were posted as required

Two County-wide public hearings will be conducted to seek comment on both proposed projects and the draft Action Plan.

Finally, the Plan will be made available for public comment for a 30-day period after the second public hearing is completed.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Notice	County Wide	n/a			
2	Public Hearing	County wide	No responses received	No comments received	n/a	
3	Public Hearing	County wide	No responses received	No comments received	n/a	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The 2019 CDBG, HOME and ESG grant amounts are anticipated to remain flat. Resources for 2020 are estimated at flat funding levels as well.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	3,330,705	10,000	0	3,31,705	3,300,000	
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership	1,339,817	0	0	1,339,817	1,330,817	

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	279,229	0	0	279,229	280,000	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

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

CDBG

CDBG projects leverage funds from a variety of sources. Communities undertaking large capital improvement projects often receive State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) funds and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program funds (LTIP). The funds are awarded by the State of Ohio on a competitive basis. The County requires each local government to pay for engineering and design of construction projects, which provides some additional financial leverage, but also shows that they are invested in the projects. Often, participating communities will contribute capital improvement or general funds to a project to fill a gap.

Some communities generate local funds through Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF is an economic development mechanism available to local governments in Ohio to finance public infrastructure improvements and, in certain circumstances, residential rehabilitation. A TIF works by locking in the taxable worth of real property at the value it holds at the time the authorizing legislation was approved. Payments derived from the increased assessed value of any improvement to real property beyond that amount are directed towards a separate fund to finance the construction of public infrastructure defined within the TIF legislation.

HOME

Matching funds for HOME Program activities will be provided by volunteer labor and in-kind contributions on Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati homes. A number of programs that get awarded HOME funds also receive Low Housing income Tax Credits along with private investments.

ESG

Match requirements for the ESG Program are met through donations from the business community and private foundations, as well as other funding sources to the Continuum of Care lead agency, Strategies to End Homelessness.

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

N/A

Discussion

Many of the CDBG projects proposed for the 2019 Action Plan are for public infrastructure improvements and public facility improvements. These are owned by each separate city, village or township.

Several local governments will use CDBG funds to demolish blighted buildings. The Community and Economic Development Assistance Program may include slum/blight removal.

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Priority Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Eliminate Slum and Blight	2019	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide		CDBG: \$115,000	Buildings Demolished: 3
2	Further Fair Housing	2019	2020	Affordable Housing Homeless	County Wide	Reducing Homelessness Increasing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$75,000	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4,000 Households Assisted
3	Improve Public Facilities	2019	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	Participating Jurisdictions	Improving Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$278,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Persons Assisted Other: 2 Other
4	Improve Public Infrastructure	2019	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	Participating Jurisdictions	Improving Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$755,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 102,200 Persons Assisted
5	Improve Quality of Life	2019	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide		CDBG: \$103,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 67,900 Persons Assisted

6	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	2019	2020	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Increasing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$300,000 HOME: \$400,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 37 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 150 Household Housing Unit
7	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	2019	2020	Affordable Housing	County Wide	Increasing Affordable Housing	HOME: \$900,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit
8	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	2019	2020	Homeless	County Wide	Reducing Homelessness Increasing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$10,000 ESG: \$200,000	Rapid Rehousing: 50 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 5,000 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 55 Persons Assisted
9	Spur Economic Development	2019	2020	Non-Housing Community Development	County Wide		CDBG: \$419,500	Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

#	Name	Goal Descriptions
1	Goal Name	Eliminate Slum and Blight
	Goal Description	Eliminate slum and blight throughout the County through the Community and Economic Development Assistance Program as well as through jurisdiction specific projects as requested annually.
2	Goal Name	Further Fair Housing
	Goal Description	Further fair housing through the Fair Housing Program with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)
3	Goal Name	Improve Public Facilities
	Goal Description	Improve public facilities throughout the County as requested by participating jurisdictions. Frequently, funds are used for parks and senior centers,
4	Goal Name	Improve Public Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Improve Public Infrastructure throughout the County as requested by participating jurisdictions. This could include streetscape improvements, street paving, fire hydrant replacement, etc.
5	Goal Name	Improve Quality of Life
	Goal Description	Improve Quality of Life through public services throughout the County with funding for West College Hill Neighborhood Services, Charitable Pharmacy, Access to Fresh Produce, and Norwood Youth Dental Program
6	Goal Name	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners
	Goal Description	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners throughout the County through Foreclosure Prevention, WIN Counseling and Downpayment Assistance Programs, the Housing Repair Services, and RFP for HOME Housing Development/Homebuyer Assistance Programs; also includes city/village/township specific Home Repair Programs in some participating jurisdictions
7	Goal Name	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters

	Goal Description	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters through RFP for HOME funds Housing Development/Homebuyer Assistance Program. Related programs and outcomes as well as Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing are also listed under Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness. They are not included here to avoid duplication in the outcomes totals.
8	Goal Name	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness
	Goal Description	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness through STEH as well as Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing, and Emergency Shelter Grant Administration programs. Related programs and outcomes for Housing Development/Homebuyer Assistance Program are also listed under Provide Affordable Housing for Renters. They are not included here to avoid duplication in the outcomes totals.
9	Goal Name	Spur Economic Development
	Goal Description	Spur Economic Development through the County's Planning + Development Department and HCDC, the County's contractual agency for all economic development related activities, and their programs. A pool of \$420,000 is being allocated for 2019. Communities will apply for funds competitively and a committee will select projects to be funded. Programs may include corridor development studies, small business loans, planning services, etc. Funding is also provided annually for economic development programs, such as facade improvement programs, selected each year after participating jurisdictions request funds.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Hamilton County will be funding projects requested by and located in participating communities. These projects include street improvements, park improvements, senior center improvements, ADA improvements, operating funds for social service providers and demolition projects. Other funds will provide operational support to social service agencies that provide a variety of services to low income clientele.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Acquisition and Demolition of Blighted Properties
2	Fair Housing Services
3	Public Facility Improvements
4	Public Infrastructure Improvements
5	Public Services
6	Homeowner Repairs and Improvements
7	Housing Development – CHDO Projects
8	Other Housing Development Projects & Programs
9	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Programs
10	Services to Homeless Families
11	Economic Development Programs
12	Administration

Table 7 – Project Information

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

All allocation decisions are influenced by the needs of the County; feedback from residents and leaders and the Community Development Advisory Committee; and approval of the Board of County Commissioners. About 40% of CDBG funds are used for projects, programs and services requested by specific cities, villages and townships; and 40% is allocated to county wide programs and services; the remaining 20% of funds are used for training, planning grants and administrative personnel. HOME funds are allocated to Administration (10%), CHDO development projects (15%), and housing development programs through our RFP process (75%).

ESG funds are allocated to prevention and rapid rehousing and the City of Cincinnati’s ESG funds are allocated to shelters. Additional funding is always needed to address the community and economic development needs, including affordable housing. A recent study released by LISC and CBI showed a shortage of 40,000 affordable housing units for those making 30% of the AMI and less.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

Community projects requested by local governments include senior center improvements, street reconstruction, playground equipment and improvements to parks. We continue to budget 90% of HOME funds to affordable housing projects, including homeownership and rental housing.

No.	Project	Goals Supported	Geographic Areas	Needs Addressed	Funding
1	Acquisition and Demolition of Blighted Properties	Eliminate Slum and Blight	County Wide	Remove Slum and Blight	CDBG: \$115,000
	Description	Provides funds to participating communities to demolish blighted and/or condemned residential and commercial structures.			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4 properties			
	Location Description	To be determined			
	Planned Activities	Provides funds to participating communities to demolish blighted and/or condemned residential structures			
2	Fair Housing Services	Further Fair Housing Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	County Wide	Increasing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$75,000
	Description	Fair Housing Services will be provided by the region's fair housing nonprofit - Housing Opportunities Made Equal. This could include landlord/tenant counseling; training for landlords, real estate agents and local governments; county-wide marketing and advertising; quarterly meetings with other local governments; and legal action as needed.			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	4,000 households will benefit directly from services			

	Location Description	TBD			
	Planned Activities	Counseling, education, outreach and possible legal action			
3	Public Facility Improvements	Improve Public Facilities	Participating Jurisdictions - Local Target area	Improving Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG : \$278,000
	Description				
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that 40,000 people will benefit			
	Location Description	County Wide			
	Planned Activities	Renovations or improvements to parks, community gardens and senior centers are planned.			
4	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Improve Public Infrastructure	Participating Jurisdictions - Local Target area	Improving Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$755,000
	Description	Make improvements to infrastructure as requested by jurisdictions and approved by County Commissioners.			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that people will benefit.			
	Location Description	Arlington Heights, Colerain Township, Deer Park, Elmwood Place, Lockland, North Bend, Norwood and Silverton			
	Planned Activities	Improvements to streets, sidewalks, streetscapes, parking lots, etc.			

5	Public Services	Improve Quality of Life	Countywide + Participating Jurisdictions	Public Services	CDBG: \$578,000
	Description	Provide various services to improve quality of life of residents in participating jurisdictions.			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	We estimate that 5,000 households and 10,000 people will be served			
	Location Description	County wide			
	Planned Activities	\$475K allocated for county-wide services including eviction prevention, foreclosure prevention, housing + supportive services, charitable pharmacy, access to fresh food and financial counseling. Emergency Medical Services in Mt. Healthy and activities for senior citizens at West College Hill Neighborhood Services will be provided.			
6	Homeowner Repairs and Improvements	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	County Wide - Local Target area	Increasing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$340,000
	Description	This includes CDBG housing repair services and home repair grant/loan programs in Forest Park, Greenhills and Springdale			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	306 families will be assisted			
	Location Description	TBD			
	Planned Activities	See description above.			
7	Housing Development – CHDO Projects	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	TBD	Increasing Affordable Housing	HOME: \$250,000

	Description	Provide at least 15% of HOME grant funds for housing development project(s) completed by a certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) currently Housing Network of Hamilton County			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	20 low income families will benefit			
	Location Description	TBD			
	Planned Activities	TBD			
8	Other Housing Development Projects and/or Programs	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	Countywide	Increasing Affordable Housing	HOME: \$900,000
	Description	These funds will be used with non-CHDO developers. Other housing development projects may include new construction or acquisition & rehabilitation for rental and/or homeowner housing units. Other housing development programs may include down payment assistance for homeowners.			
	Target Date for Completion	06/30/22			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	100 families will be assisted.			
	Location Description	TBD			
	Planned Activities	TBD			

9	Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	County Wide - Local Target area	Reducing Homelessness	ESG: \$260,000
	Description	Provide homelessness prevention, shelter diversion and rapid rehousing services to residents in need.			
	Target Date for Completion	6/30/22			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	50 families will be assisted			
	Location Description	TBD			
	Planned Activities	See description			
10	Services to Homeless Families	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	County Wide	Reducing Homelessness	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	Assistance for winter shelter			
	Target Date for Completion	4/1/20			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	100 families will be served			
	Location Description	Shelterhouse			
	Planned Activities	See description			
11	Economic Development Programs	Spur Economic Development	County Wide - Local Target area Participating Jurisdictions - Local Target area	Spur Economic Development	CDBG: \$419,500

Description	Funds a small portion of services provided by HCDC to the County and participating jurisdictions. Funds the CEDAP pool as well as community requests.
Target Date for Completion	06/30/2019
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	TBD
Location Description	TBD
Planned Activities	Planning services, environmental review, corridor studies, administration and funding of other economic development programs. Artworks mural in Silverton.

12	Administration	Improve Quality of Life Further Fair Housing Improve Public Facilities Improve Public Infrastructure Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners Provide Affordable Housing for Renters Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness Spur Economic Development	County Wide - Local Target area Participating Jurisdictions - Local Target area	Reducing Homelessness Improving Public Facilities and Infrastructure Increasing Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$595,000 HOME: \$134,000 ESG: \$21,000
	Description	Administration of all HUD entitlement grants			
	Target Date for Completion	06/30/2020			
	Estimate the number and type of families that will	All families assisted are included in other programs.			

benefit from the proposed activities	
Location Description	County wide
Planned Activities	Administration includes the following CDBG programs: Planning Admin, Community Development Admin, Economic Development Admin, Fair Housing Services, and Strategies to End Homelessness Admin. It also includes HOME Admin and ESG Admin.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

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

The Hamilton County Consolidated Plan includes 38 of the 47 eligible jurisdictions - 27 cities and villages and 11 unincorporated townships. Geographically and numerically, the vast majority of Hamilton County communities participate in the CDBG program. Eight out of 47 county jurisdictions are not participating in programs.

Hamilton County covers a large geographic area; topography varies with steep hillsides, rolling farmland, and creeks and streams. The City of Cincinnati is by far the largest jurisdiction, with a population of 300,000, and encompassing 80 square miles in the south-central portion of Hamilton County. Other cities, villages, and townships in the county are inner ring suburbs, outer ring suburbs as well as rural and undeveloped areas. Hamilton County has many smaller jurisdictions – some with less than 1,000 residents. We assist these communities with all aspects of the CDBG program as needed, and these communities have great pride and are historically independent. We are successfully changing this reality together with the Planning Partnership and Regional Planning Commission.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
County Wide	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

In 2019, approximately 40% of our CBDG funds are distributed to each of the participating jurisdictions and the remaining 40% is allocated to county-wide programs and projects, including the Community and Economic Development Assistance program of \$419,500. Since each participating community is most familiar with their needs, they determine where and how funds should be allocated within their respective jurisdiction. Every 3 years, communities make funding requests; during this timeframe, if they want to change the use of funds, each community completes one additional public hearing to ensure open and adequate communication. About \$770,000 will be allocated in a competitive process through an RFP for Nonprofit Countywide Services.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

This year, the County plans to invest \$1.3 million. Some local governments will also administer home improvement repair grant funding to their low and moderate income homeowners. HOME funds are currently being used for housing development projects. We work with CHDO and non-CHDO developers through competitive processes for awarding funding. Projects may include acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-family housing; acquisition and rehab of single family homes; new construction of single family homes; and/or new construction of multi-family housing. We anticipate meeting the needs identified in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan which includes these populations: seniors, veterans, and people experience homelessness, persons returning to the community from incarceration, persons with substance misuse disorders, and persons with disabilities. The numbers below account for new housing units only.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	100
Non-Homeless	200
Special-Needs	50
Total	350

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	100
The Production of New Units	140
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	100
Total	350

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority was established in 1933 under the provisions of the Ohio Housing Authority Law and is an asset to Hamilton County. For more than 85 years the agency has provided quality, affordable rental housing opportunities for individuals and families throughout the county. The agency operates or administers three separate programs. Asset Management consists of 5,400 units owned and managed by CMHA. The Housing Choice Voucher can administer Housing Assistance Payments for nearly 11,693 households. The agency also operates 379 units of other affordable rental housing. CMHA has created a Gold Performance Standard to ensure that the resources CMHA provides are meeting the needs of the residents of Hamilton County.

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

- Implementation of two RAD Portfolio awards
- Submit additional funding applications for Non-RAD affordable housing preservation and new construction
- Match RAD conversion developments to procured National/Regional developer partners
- Redevelopment of the English Woods Site
- Affordable Housing development in Hamilton County
- LIHTC applications for New Developments in Hamilton County
- UFAS Upgrades to various units throughout the Portfolio
- Capital Improvements to existing portfolio
- Establish Partnerships with other developers to address underserved population

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

CMHA also has an Asset Management Services department that provides assistance for public housing residents seeking employment. CMHA partners with area companies to provide new employment opportunities for residents through initiative developed by the Asset Management Services department staff. CMHA continues to work with local area employers who are seeking to fill vacant positions by host hiring events geared toward the skill set for residents of the Asset Management program and participants of the Housing Choice Voucher program. This opportunity provides the residents and participants to move toward economic self-sufficiency. CMHA continues to partner with the Sherwin-Williams Company in hosting three “Homework Painting Classes” for Asset Management residents, HCV participants, and Section 8 individual who are interested in learning how to paint. This class provides hands on training and upon completion each graduate receives a certificate of completion and a certification in Lead Based Painting. In addition, each graduate receives over \$400 in painting supplies so they can pursue employment with a subcontractor or go into business for themselves. In December 2018, CMHA initiated a Housekeeping Class beginning with the high-rises and then will be rotating monthly at the various housing properties. This class will provide information about housekeeping and useful tips on who to clean using less costly cleaning supplies.

CMHA continues to provide linkages to our residents for area services providers, apprenticeships, and educational institutions that can assist in reducing barriers that may prevent them from achieving economic self-sufficiency. Some of the events include BBQs, Get to Know Your Library, Health Screenings, Budgeting Classes, Resume Writing, Hiring Events, and Book Giveaways.

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

CMHA is not designated as troubled.

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

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

The Homeless Clearinghouse oversees CoC planning and gaps analysis, coordinates project outcomes review, priority setting, funding allocation, and monitors elements of the Consolidated Plan. The Homeless Clearinghouse also annually reviews program performance in relation to HUD system performance measures and uses such outcomes data to propose changes to the local CoC program prioritization process and presents these outcome performance measures to CoC membership. Such performance-based prioritization is accompanied by community input to select projects to be included in the annual CoC application. The Homeless Clearinghouse also oversees allocation and planning processes for ESG funds and the monitoring of ESG-funded program performance.

Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH) is one of five designated Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Continuums of Care in the country. As a UFA, STEH is able to:

- Apply for CoC funding for all projects within the geographic area and enter into grant agreement with HUD for those projects
- Enter into legally binding contract with sub-recipients
- Monitor agencies for fiscal and programmatic compliance
- Work with the CoC Board to make decisions that affect funding and allocations to sub-recipients

Our Continuum of Care, Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH), leads the coordinated community effort to end homelessness in Greater Cincinnati including Coordinated Entry for housing. All people experiencing homelessness on the streets and in shelter are assessed to determine which type of housing is most appropriate. Client referrals to Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing, and Transitional Housing are made based on the assessment thus matching a client with the program where he/she will find the most success. This system enables the community to see where the housing gaps are to better serve the homeless population. Coordinated entry will help in meeting our goal of ending homelessness in Cincinnati.

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

The Homeless Outreach Group is a group of street outreach providers who meet monthly to discuss best practices and progress in engaging people living unsheltered in services. Representatives from all street outreach programs, other programs that serve people living in unsheltered locations, the Cincinnati Police, and the Hamilton County Sheriff's departments attend.

Currently there are four agencies, providing outreach services to those who are living on the street:

- Lighthouse Youth Services targets youth ages 18-24 living in unsheltered locations
- Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health's PATH Team targets people living in unsheltered locations suffering from mental illness
- Block-by-Block works specifically with people living in areas not meant for human habitation in downtown Cincinnati
- Cincinnati Veterans Administration operates a street outreach team dedicated to veterans living outside.

Housing and supportive services are marketed to people experiencing homelessness through these street outreach programs, the centralized intake service (CAP) which works to connect people experiencing homelessness to appropriate services, and eleven different shelter diversion and emergency shelter programs. The Homeless Outreach Workgroup members collaborate at monthly meetings ensuring that each person living on the streets is being engaged by outreach services and is then connected to appropriate resources and programs.

Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH) currently operates the Coordinated Entry system which has 3 parts: The Central Access Point (CAP), the Coordinated Entry into homeless housing projects, and Coordinated Exit into ongoing permanent housing situations. CAP is the intake and assessment point for the Shelter Diversion Program as well as for emergency shelters. The Coordinated Entry System prioritizes housing referrals and uses the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) as the assessment tool to determine prioritization. The VI-SPDAT is administered to all clients identified on the street and in emergency shelter, and assists in, determining which housing type would best suit the household's housing needs. STEH employs two fulltime employees who manage the prioritization list and ensure that appropriate housing placements are being made. STEH and the Homeless Clearinghouse are using the prioritization list as a method of evaluating the homeless housing resources in the community and making sure that the housing stock that is available for the homeless population is in fact what is needed. The Coordinated Entry workgroup oversees this system which is community driven and follows best practices.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of persons experiencing homelessness

The Homeless to Homes Plan, which was adopted by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in 2009, addresses the inadequacies of services for homeless single individuals. The plan recognizes that shelters must have a comprehensive system of care in order to serve as a springboard to housing.

As a result of the Homeless to Homes Plan, the Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative was formed to reconfigure the existing shelter capacity in order to most effectively serve the unique needs of the homeless population. The Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative built five new state of the art facilities, which offer daytime programming, increased case management, mental and medical health services and healthier living conditions.

As of 2015, all five new facilities were officially open. Members of the Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative include:

- Lighthouse's newest Sheakley Center for Youth, which opened in 2018, has 35 shelter beds for homeless men and women aged 18-24.
- Talbert House has been operating the Parkway Center since July 2012. The facility on Central Parkway is a 65-bed facility for single homeless men over the age of 18 who are in need of services related to their substance abuse issues.
- City Gospel Mission opened a new 74-bed, facility in Queensgate in April 2015 and serves homeless men over the age of 18 seeking a faith-based, service-enriched program.
- Shelterhouse (formerly Drop Inn Center) opened the area's first homeless shelter for women, the Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women, in June 2015. The shelter has 60 beds for women 18 and older.
- Shelterhouse also opened the David & Rebecca Barron Center for Men in September 2015, which holds 150 beds for single men.

The Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative continues to meet regularly to review outcomes and share best practices. The Collaborative also works closely with a Funding Advisory Committee and Strategies to End Homelessness to bring operating funding to the shelters.

As part of the Solutions for Family Homelessness plan, the Family Housing Partnership (made up of Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Salvation Army and YWCA Greater Cincinnati) is reevaluating current case management models to determine how to best serve homeless families. The group is piloting a “cross system aftercare” model which allows for a seamless connection to individualized case management when a family begins to fall back towards homelessness. moves from homelessness into housing. This allows families to remain stabilized and avoid entering the homelessness system again.

Helping persons experiencing homelessness (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

In 2016, STEH became involved with Discharge Planning activities coordinated with State of Ohio departments. The following outlines protocol for each discharge plan area:

Foster Care

Each public children services agency (PCSA) shall provide services and support to former foster care recipients that complement the young adult’s own efforts and shall be available until the young adult’s 21st birthday. Independent living services available to young adults aged 18 to 21 include: daily living skills, assistance with education or training, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, preventative health activities, financial, housing, employment, education and self-esteem counseling, drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment. An agency may use up to 30% of its federal allocation for room and board for the emancipated youth up to age 21, which includes assistance with rent, deposit, utilities, or utility deposits.

Ohio requires that if a child is 16 years or older and is likely to remain in care the agency must have a written independent living plan to achieve self-sufficiency developed within 30 days of the completion of an assessment. The plan should be based upon the assessment and include input from the youth, the case manager, the caregiver, and significant others. The independent living plan should be reviewed at least every 90 days until the agency’s custody is terminated. A review of the state protocol at the local level (Cincinnati/Hamilton County) through the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Service (HCJFS) indicates that assessments are completed on all foster teens at age 16 or as they come into custody, using the Daniel Memorial Assessing and Contracting with Youth tool which provides for the assessments and the follow-up planning. The HCJFS After Care Worker is responsible for devising an individual plan for each emancipated youth, including housing plans. HCJFS is the PCSA responsible for the implementation of the policy at the local level.

Health Care

The Ohio General Assembly enacted laws governing the transfer and discharge of residents in nursing homes (NHs) and residential care facilities (RCFs) [Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 3721.16], adult care facilities (ACFs) [ORC section 3722.14], and community alternative homes (CAH)[ORC section 3724.10]. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) promulgated Chapter 3701-16 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) that further expounds on the transfer and discharge rights of NH and RCF residents and OAC rules 3701-20-24 (ACF) and 3701-16, 23 (CAH). ODH ensures that these provider types follow the appropriate regulations regarding transfer, discharge, or both, by reviewing documentation that the facility has initiated discharge planning and that alternatives have been explored and exhausted prior to discharge.

ODH as the State Survey Agency for Medicare, surveys hospitals for compliance with Medicare certification regulations related to resident discharge rights 42 CFR 482.13 and discharge planning, 42 CFR 482.43 which establish hearing rights for premature discharge and requirements for planning for patients' needs after discharge.

Locally, the hospitals have joined together to fund the Center for Respite Care, which is for homeless individuals who need medical support. The Admission to Respite requires: a) the hospital social worker to provide referral information to Respite; b) Respite staff evaluates patient data to determine if respite care is appropriate; c) hospital staff provides relevant medical background documentation; d) hospital discharges to Respite with a 30 day supply of all prescribed medications and transports the patient to Respite. Respite works with the patient to secure income and housing.

Mental Health Care

It is the policy of Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) that homeless shelters are not appropriate living arrangements for persons with mental illness. Patients being discharged from ODMH Behavioral Health Organizations/Hospitals (BHO) are not to be discharged to a shelter or to the street. Community Support Network (CSN) programs are required to have appropriate emergency housing plans in place in the event their clients undergo unexpected residential change. These entities, in conjunction with the responsible or contracting Board or agency, must exhaust all reasonable efforts to locate suitable housing options for patients being discharged. Patients in ODMH BHOs shall not be discharged to homeless shelters and clients in an ODMH CSN program shall not be relocated from community housing options to homeless shelters unless the responsible board or contract agency has been involved in the decision-making process and it is the expressed wish of the affected person and other placement options have been offered to the affected person and refused. When a discharge or relocation to a homeless shelter occurs under these guidelines, the reasons shall be documented in the person's chart and reviewed via the BHOs quality improvement process. Persons may not be discharged or relocated to homeless shelters for the convenience of staff, as a punitive measure, or for expediency. ODMH BHO policies shall be consistent with this directive.

Locally, a system of "quick access" beds, within apartments has been developed to support the above policy and protocol. The Quick Access beds are shown on the Housing Inventory as a method of tracking persons and ensuring discharge to shelters does not occur.

The Hamilton County Office of Re-Entry assists clients who are returning to the community after incarceration. Services include job training, job placement, housing placement, assistance getting drivers licenses and state identification cards, as well as referrals to case managers. The Department of

Job and Family Services provides cash assistance, food stamps, referrals to social services, access to job training and access to job placement for clients in the County.

Homeless Prevention

Strategies to End Homelessness collaborates with five partner agencies for the homeless prevention program, known as Shelter Diversion. When households contact Central Access Point (CAP) for shelter, they are also screened for Shelter Diversion. If the household meets the eligibility criteria (imminent risk of entering a shelter, household income below 30% AMI, no other housing options or financial resources to prevent homelessness) they are referred to a case manager at one of the partner agencies. The case manager, along with a housing specialist, will assist the household in obtaining housing while the case manager works with the household to develop a case plan. The case plan addresses housing, income and other resources needed to stabilize the household. While working on their case plan, the household is eligible to receive financial assistance for utility and rental deposits, rental and utility arrears, along with current rental and utility payments for a maximum of six months. City and County ESG funds along with United Way funds provide the direct financial assistance to support the program.

All of the Shelter Diversion agencies utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system. When CAP screens callers, all of the client's information is entered into our HMIS, then an electronic referral is completed to the appropriate program. The Shelter Diversion case managers also use HMIS to submit financial requests.

Veteran Programs

CAP also screens Veterans for various housing programs funded through the VA, including Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) grant operated by Talbert House, and the Grant Per Diem (GPD) programs, operated by Joseph House, Talbert House, Volunteers of America, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries and Shelterhouse. Both of these programs serve Veterans experiencing homelessness and who are at risk of becoming homeless. Case management, clinical services, employment supports, benefits management and short- term financial assistance may be provided for the household to increase stability and/or prevent homelessness.

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

The local homeless services system is working to reduce homelessness by simultaneously pursuing three strategies: 1) Homelessness Prevention/Shelter Diversion, 2) Improving services available to people who are homeless so that they can exit homelessness quickly, 3) Developing and offering housing resources so that households can access housing and exit homelessness.

Homelessness Prevention/Shelter Diversion:

Prior to 2009, homelessness prevention resources were largely absent in the community due to a lack of availability of funding for such activities. However, under the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA), stimulus funding was made available for homelessness prevention. While such stimulus funding expired in 2012, more focused shelter diversion activities have continued:

- Shelter Diversion diverts households at imminent risk of entering shelter back into housing and services. The Shelter Diversion program is being run in partnership between the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, five Emergency Assistance agencies, and Strategies to End Homelessness. Risk factors considered for inclusion in this program include immediacy of need for shelter placement, a prior history of homelessness, a household having already lost their own housing and now relying on others for a place to stay (doubled-up), having no other financial or familial support, and a household income below 30% AMI.
- Talbert House have been awarded Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) funding to implement programming which prevents homelessness for veterans and their families.

Improved Services:

The recommendations and improvements for emergency shelter services that are being implemented as a part of the Homeless to Homes initiative (described above) will significantly raise the level of daytime and case management services being offered to single individuals within the shelter system.

The Solutions for Family Homelessness Plan also outlines the service needs to end family homelessness in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Ending family homelessness is a top priority in the community and in alignment with the goals of the federal government. The Cross-System Aftercare pilot as described above began in April of 2018 and the family shelter system is in the process of training all staff across the system on a nationally recognized curriculum on Trauma Informed Care, called Risking Connections.

Housing:

- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a nationally recognized best practice for quickly ending episodes of homelessness in a cost efficient and effective way. RRH has become a high priority in our community.
- Coordination of Housing Resources: the following are all high-priority initiatives geared toward making better, more strategic use of housing resources-
 - Coordinated Entry: Coordinated Entry for housing programs started in January 1, 2016 with case managers administering VI-SPDAT assessments and the first housing referral was made on February 1, 2016. The CoC workgroups, have defined eligibility processes for all housing types (Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing, Transitional Housing) and prioritization for housing follows all guidance provided by HUD. Ending chronic, family, youth, veteran and singles homelessness are all priorities that are in alignment with HUD policies. The Coordinated Entry System continues to evolve to ensure that the system is in alignment with HUD requirements, following national best practice models, and relevant to the needs of our local community.
 - Housing Prioritization: as a result of the HEARTH Act and its subsequent proposed regulations, the local CoC workgroups and Homeless Clearinghouse have implemented policies for prioritizing households that are most in need of transitional housing, Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). The CoC workgroups developed and implemented these policies and procedures in 2013. Strategies to End Homelessness staff monitor each agency to ensure full compliance with these policies in regular monitoring visits. They also ensure that policies are updated annually, as needed and approved by the Homeless Clearinghouse. Targeting PSH to the Chronically Homeless: all PSH Programs prioritize available housing for chronically homeless individuals and families. In the FY2017 CoC Competitive application, Strategies to End

Homelessness was awarded funding for 4 new PSH projects and a total of 65 units of housing. The CoC continues to prioritize permanent housing and grow the housing opportunities in the community. Although we have not yet received a final funding announcement from the FY2018 CoC Competitive application, our community has applied for a total of 5 new RRH projects and 2 new PSH projects.

- Housing First: All RRH and 95% of PSH projects within the Continuum operate under the Housing First principles which mean that there are low barriers to entry and termination from the program is used only after significant intervention has been provided for client success. Case management is centered on the client and specific to the client's needs. 100% of the housing projects are not housing first because HUD encourages communities to have a diverse housing portfolio and recognizes a need for some sober housing beds.

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

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 largest barriers are the lack of funding, and the local autonomy of 49 local governments for zoning and policies, etc.

A summary of the 2014 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing results are outlined below:

1. Lack of public transportation in opportunity areas
2. Zoning and building code barriers
3. Affordable housing is concentrated in racially segregated areas.
4. Barriers to mobility of families with vouchers
5. Barriers for immigrant populations
6. Barriers to African American Homeownership
7. Barriers to housing choice for people with disabilities

In the coming year, the County will complete the 2019 AI and work on the following actions:

1. Lack of transportation options in opportunity areas was identified as an impediment to housing choice, the County will meet with SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority) to learn more about the Go Forward Plan. We will continue to work with the Better Bus Coalition advocates to improve access to employment centers throughout the County. The County will research and analyze the plan to determine what actions can be taken to increase public transportation in additional communities.
2. The County will continue to invest HOME funds in affordable housing outside of the City of Cincinnati which will help to deconcentrate affordable housing in racially segregated areas.
3. Improve public education about the downpayment assistance program with HOME funds.
4. The County uses HOME funds to develop new affordable housing specifically targeted for persons with disabilities.

See Attachment C, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and updated 2015-2019 Action Plan

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)-

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The largest obstacle the County is facing is a lack of funding for affordable housing and housing to meet the needs of special populations, including seniors, veterans, residents with disabilities, housing for people dealing with addiction, and housing for persons returning to the community from incarceration. We currently only have one certified CHDO, the Housing Network of Hamilton County. In 2019, we will provide operating support to one or two new CHDO's to increase capacity in the County. We will use a competitive process to award these funds.

We will also continue request projects through our RFP process that address these special needs populations and will score these projects with extra points in the evaluation process. We anticipate funding 3 to 4 projects in 2019 with HOME funds.

The Community Development Division is also working with a variety of entities to discuss how to leverage our HUD funds to meet the affordable housing needs including:

- We continue to work with the Hamilton County Office of Reentry to share housing options for persons returning to the community from prisons and jails. We are active participants in the Affordable Housing Advocates ReEntry Housing Subcommittee which has convened meetings monthly for stakeholders to discuss and develop options for these residents.
- We will meet with specific nonprofits to encourage them to apply for funds in the RFP, including current providers of supportive services and recovery and addiction services. We will also continue to provide rental assistance through the Off the Streets Program at Cincinnati Union Bethel to help these residents transition to permanent housing and open transitional and treatment beds in these agencies.
- Lastly, we will continue to convene the task force to address the need for emergency, transitional and permanent housing for persons who are required to register as sex offenders.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

In addition to these efforts above, and our RFP funding process, County staff is actively working with Affordable Housing Advocates to create a city/county housing trust fund. The County administration is supportive of these efforts. We anticipate working through all of the related issues in the next 12 months.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Any HUD funded project follows federal and state lead-based paint regulations. The Hamilton County Public Health Department has a contract with the Ohio Department of Health for the Healthy Homes program. They provide education and risk assessments for individual families when requested. Hamilton County Public Health also offers free paint chip testing.

HCPH conducts investigations of reports of lead poisoning in children who are under 6 years of age. Certified Lead Risk Assessors inspect homes for potential lead risks from exposure to lead-based paint, dust, soil, or water.

Hamilton County Public Health loans HEPA vacuum cleaners at no charge (\$100 refundable deposit required) to assist property owners with lead cleanup and removal.

Free lead testing is available for children age 6 years and under who are seen at our immunization clinics at Hamilton County Public Health.

HCPH also provide in-depth home inspections and correction orders to remove risks.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Hamilton County has an indigent care levy, a child services levy and a levy for persons with disabilities. All three funding sources are monitored by advisory boards that scrutinize expenditures to ensure compliance with the state and county laws. Funding is primarily provided to outside nonprofit organizations, such as the Talbert House, homeless services providers and hospitals to provide access to healthcare, housing, substance abuse assistance, etc. It was increased by \$1.3 million in 2017 and will continue at this level. In 2019, the County will use CDBG, HOME and ESG funds to provide services to poverty level families including: expanded access to fresh produce throughout the County; homeless prevention and rapid rehousing programs; free homeowner repairs; modifications to housing for those with disabilities; improvements to senior centers; operating support for one nonprofit seniors' services provider; youth dental services, enhanced EMS services in one City; and ADA modifications for three public facilities.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Hamilton County is currently working to strengthen our relationship with HCDC, Inc. which promotes job creation through a business incubator, small business lending, and economic development services. We will improve the CEDAP program for impactful development projects.

We will continue to build partnerships with participating and non-participating jurisdictions and educate them on the best possible uses of HUD funds. We implemented shared services in building permits, zoning and code enforcement in four communities last year and will continue these efforts.

Hamilton County Community Development is a division of the Planning + Development Department. We will continue to work closely with our Community Planning Division, and meet regularly to share updates on the 38 communities participating in the CDBG program. We will also solicit applications for mini-planning grants with a total of \$100,000.

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

Hamilton County will continue to work toward enhancing coordination between housing providers and service agencies. The list below provides a description of the activities that are currently being undertaken and will continue in the future:

- Hamilton County works with the Housing Network of Hamilton County to provide quality, affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities to support them as valued members of our community.
- Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati, and CMHA will continue to work together on fair housing issues, specifically the draft of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.
- The local Continuum of Care collaborative applicant, Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH), coordinates the efforts of organizations which provide services to the homeless and other special populations.
- Hamilton County coordinates with various organizations that serve the disabled population to receive referrals for clients that need mobility improvements made to their homes.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

Hamilton County's program specific requirements for CDBG, HOME and ESG are listed below. The County typically exceeds the required 70% of use of CDBG funds for low and moderate income benefit. Slum and blight removal usually averages no more than 10 - 15% of the annual grant amount. It is not anticipated that any CDBG funds will be used for urgent need.

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.	70%

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

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:
None. All activities are as listed in Section 92.205.

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:

The County utilizes the prorated reduction method of recapturing HOME funds for all assistance to homebuyers as required in 24 CFR § 92.254(a)(5). Depending on the length of the period of affordability, a percentage of the assistance is forgiven each year until there is no balance remaining. As an example, assistance provided requiring a 5-year period of affordability would be forgiven at a rate of 20% per year. If a home is sold prior to the end of the original homebuyers' affordability period, the County recaptures the appropriate portion of HOME funds from the homebuyer and reports it as program income.

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:

Hamilton County will use the HOME Program guidelines as a minimum in determining the period of affordability for NSP funds. Funding provided per rental or homeownership unit <\$15,000 will have a 5-year period of affordability, funding provided between \$15,000-\$40,000 per unit will have a 10-year period of affordability, and funding >\$40,000 per unit will have a 15-year period of affordability.

New construction rental projects will have a 20-year period of affordability, regardless of amount of subsidy, as required by the HOME regulations.

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:

Hamilton County will not use HOME funds for this purpose.

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

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)
In order for Strategies to End Homelessness (our CoC lead agency) to receive Emergency Solutions Grant funds, the County requires that any agencies receiving ESG funds be monitored and in compliance with the Emergency Shelter Program regulations. Staff at Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH) must monitor all agencies annually for compliance.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.
Cincinnati and Hamilton County utilize a Central Access Point (CAP). CAP currently screens and schedules intakes for the four family shelters, a shelter for 18 to 24 year old individuals, a single men's shelter, and a transitional housing program for single men with substance abuse issues. CAP also refers to a Shelter Diversion program, a case management program, to help individuals avoid entering shelter. Everyone who calls CAP is screened in the same manner to determine which program is best suited the caller's needs. The caller is finally referred to the appropriate program and contacts the agency directly to complete their intake.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).
Annually, Strategies to End Homelessness prepares an Emergency Solutions Grant application for funding. The application is sent via email to the prior year's providers and posted on the STEH website for any other applicants interested in applying. Agencies with interest in applying must be active in the community's HMIS, VESTA and have the prior year data available before the allocation process begins. The Emergency Solutions Grant allocation process is an inclusive process of the ESG provider network. Providers gather annually to review the needs within the community and to allocate funds.

As defined in the CoC's Governance Charter, membership is determined by fully participating in the most recent Large Group Scoring Process. The Large Group Scoring Process took place in July 2014 by the Homeless Clearinghouse. All nonprofits participating in the 2014 CoC Competition to submit

some basic program information to be made available to all Large Group scoring attendees in advance of the Large Group Scoring event. This information was submitted by each of the programs up for renewal, categorized by program type, and was shared in advance of the Large Group Scoring Event. The programs addressed one of the following four needs:

- Permanent Supportive Housing Programs
- Rapid Re-Housing Programs
- Services Only Programs
- Transitional Housing Programs

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

STEH meets the homeless participation requirement outlined in 24 CFR 576.405(a). All sub-recipients are in compliance and have at least one board member representing the homeless or formerly homeless.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Performance measures are included in the allocation process for Emergency Solutions Grant funding. STEH uses data collected in VESTA to determine a starting point allocation for each eligible provider. The starting point allocation divides the funding based on outcomes related specifically to increased income and positive housing results. A full year's data is used from the prior operating year.

2019 Final Annual Action Plan by Grant, Community and Programs & Projects			
Grant	Community	Project/Program	Amount
CDBG	Addyston	Addyston New Park or Playground	\$25,000
CDBG	Arlington Heights	Arlington Ave Reconstruction	\$25,000
CDBG	Colerain Township	Sidewalk Maintenance Fund	\$75,000
CDBG	Colerain Township	Acquisition and Demolition	\$50,000
CDBG	Deer Park	Blue Ash Rd Streetscape	\$85,000
CDBG	Delhi Township	Fire Turn Out Gear	\$13,000
CDBG	Delhi Township	Playground ADA Improvements	\$35,000
CDBG	Elmwood Place	Street Reconstruction	\$95,000
CDBG	Forest Park	Municipal Building ADA Retrofit	\$20,000
CDBG	Forest Park	Home Improvement Program	\$10,000
CDBG	Golf Manor	Code Enforcement	\$15,000
CDBG	Greenhills	Home Improvement Program	\$15,000
CDBG	Lincoln Heights	Code Enforcement	\$30,000
CDBG	Lincoln Heights	Acquisition and Demolition	\$20,000
CDBG	Lockland	Stewart Ave Reconstruction	\$90,000
CDBG	Miami Township	Miami Twp Community Garden	\$10,000
CDBG	Mt. Healthy	EMS Staffing	\$35,000
CDBG	Newtown	Short Park Improvements	\$20,000
CDBG	North Bend	Taylor Ave Reconstruction	\$15,000
CDBG	North College Hill	Simpson Park Playground	\$80,000
CDBG	Norwood	Marsh Playground ADA	\$20,000
CDBG	Norwood	Street Reconstruction	\$300,000
CDBG	Silverton	Lillian Ave Reconstruction	\$70,000
CDBG	Springdale	Home Improvement Program	\$15,000
CDBG	Springfield Township	West College Hill Neighborhood Services	\$55,000
CDBG	Whitewater Township	Playground Equipment	\$48,000
CDBG	Wyoming	Van Roberts Pl Community Garden	\$40,000
Total Community Specific Projects & Programs			\$1,311,000
Grant	Agency	Project/Program	Amount
CDBG	HCDC	Economic Development Services	\$50,000
CDBG	To Be Determined	Community and Economic Development Assistance Program	\$419,500
CDBG	H.O.M.E.	Fair Housing Services	\$75,000
CDBG	To Be Determined	Mini-Grants for Planning	\$100,000
CDBG	FreeStore/FoodBank	Access to Fresh Food	\$100,000
CDBG	St Vincent de Paul	Charitable Pharmacy	\$100,000
CDBG	Working In Neighborhoods	Financial + Homeowner Counseling	\$10,000
CDBG	Legal Aid/CAA	Eviction Prevention & Assistance	\$150,000
CDBG	Lydia's House	Housing + Supportive Services	\$50,000
CDBG	Legal Aid	Foreclosure Prevention	\$60,000
CDBG	To Be Determined	Emergency Housing Repairs	\$300,000
Total Community Wide Programs			\$1,424,705

2019 Final Annual Action Plan by Grant, Community and Programs & Projects			
CDBG	Planning + Development	Planning + Administration	\$595,000
Total CDBG			\$3,330,705
Grant	Agency	Project/Program	Actual
HOME	Planning + Development	Administration	\$133,982
HOME	To Be Determined	Housing Development Projects & Programs	\$954,863
HOME	Housing Network of Hamilton County	Housing Development Projects w/Community Housing Development Organization - (CHDO) 15%	\$200,973
HOME	To Be Determined	CHDO Operating Support	\$50,000
Total HOME Projects & Programs			\$1,339,817
Grant	Agency	Project/Program	Amount
ESG	Strategies to End Homelessness	Rapid Rehousing Program + Homeless Prevention	\$258,287
ESG	Strategies to End Homelessness	Administration	<u>\$20,942</u>
Total ESG Projects & Programs			\$279,229

Appendix B: 2019 Annual Action Plan by Goals, Programs and Projects

Grant	Goal	Program	Community/Agency	Project/Program	2019 Budget	Outcome	# of Units
CDBG	ALL Goals	Administration	Planning + Development	Planning + Administration	\$595,000	N/A	N/A
CDBG	ALL Goals	Administration	Local Governments	Mini-Planning Grants	133,982	N/A	N/A
HOME	ALL Goals	Administration	Planning + Development	Planning + Administration	130,741	N/A	N/A
CDBG	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Acquisition/Demolition	Colerain Township	Acquisition and Demolition of Blighted Properties	\$50,000	Buildings	4
CDBG	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Acquisition/Demolition	Lincoln Heights	Acquisition and Demolition	\$20,000	Buildings	2
CDBG	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Code Enforcement	Golf Manor	Code Enforcement	\$15,000	Buildings	300
CDBG	Eliminate Slum and Blight	Code Enforcement	Lincoln Heights	Code Enforcement	\$30,000	Buildings	200
CDBG	Further Fair Housing	Fair Housing	Housing Opportunities Made Equal	Fair Housing Services	\$75,000	Households	4000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Colerain Township	Revolving Sidewalk Maintenance Fund	\$75,000	People	13000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Delhi Township	Playground Surface ADA	\$35,000	People	10000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Addyston	New Park and Playground	\$25,000	People	1000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Miami Township	Community Garden	\$10,000	People	10000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Forest Park	Municipal Building ADA Entrance	\$20,000	People	19000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	North College Hill	Simpson Park Playground	80,000	People	5000
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Norwood	Marsh Playground ADA	\$20,000	People	8500
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Whitewater Township	Playground Equipment	48,000	People	2700
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Wyoming	Van Roberts Place Community Garden	40,000	People	300
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Elmwood Place	Street Reconstruction	\$95,000	People	2000
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Deer Park	Blue Ash Road Streetscape Improvements	\$85,000	People	16000
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Lockland	Stewart Ave Reconstruction	\$90,000	People	3400
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Arlington Heights	Arlington Ave Reconstruction	\$25,000	People	700
CDBG	Improve Public Facilities	Public Facility Improvements	Newtown	Short Park Improvements	\$20,000	People	3000
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	North Bend	Taylor Ave Reconstruction	\$15,000	People	800
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Norwood	Street Reconstruction	\$300,000	People	19000
CDBG	Improve Public Infrastructure	Public Infrastructure Improvements	Silverton	Lillian Ave Reconstruction	\$70,000	People	4700

Grant	Goal	Program	Community/Agency	Project/Program	2019 Budget	Outcome	# of Units
CDBG	Improve Quality of Life	Public Services	Delhi Township	Fire Turn Out Gear	\$13,000	People	30000
CDBG	Improve Quality of Life	Public Services	Mt. Healthy	EMS Staffing	\$35,000	People	10000
CDBG	Improve Quality of Life	Public Services	FreeStore/FoodBank	Access to Fresh Food	\$100,000	People	10
CDBG	Improve Quality of Life	Public Services	St Vincent de Paul	Charitable Pharmacy	\$100,000	People	
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Public Services	Working In Neighborhoods	Financial + Homeowner Counseling	\$15,000	People	
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	Public Services	Legal Aid/CAA	Eviction Prevention & Assistance	\$150,000	People	150
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	Public Services	Lydia's House	Housing + Supportive Services	\$50,000	People	70
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Public Services	Legal Aid	Foreclosure Prevention	\$60,000	Homeowner Units	30
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Public Services	To Be Determined	Housing Repair Services Program	\$300,000	Homeowner Units	300
CDBG	Improve Quality of Life	Public Services	Springfield Township	West College Hill Neighborhood Services	\$55,000	People	500
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Homeowner Repairs and Improvements	Forest Park	Home Improvement Program	\$10,000	Homeowner Units	10
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Homeowner Repairs and Improvements	Greenhills	Home Improvement Program	\$15,000	Homeowner Units	15
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Homeowner Repairs and Improvements	Springdale	Home Improvement Program	\$15,000	Homeowner Units	15
CDBG	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Homeowner Repairs and Improvements	To Be Determined	Housing Repair Services Program	\$410,000	Housing Units	410
HOME	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Homeownership	To Be Determined	Downpayment Assitance Program	\$200,000	Housing Units	35
HOME	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	Housing Development	To Be Determined	RFP for Affordable Housing	\$650,000	Housing Units	20
HOME	Provide Affordable Housing for Renters + Homeowners	CHDO Operating Support	To Be Determined	RFP for CHDO Support	\$105,000	Housing Units	10
HOME	Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Housing Development	To Be Determined	RFP for Affordable Housing	\$250,000	Housing Units	5
ESG	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	Administration	Strategies to End Homelessness	Administration of All STEH Programs	\$20,942	N/A	N/A
ESG	Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	Homelessness Prevention	Strategies to End Homelessness	Rapid Rehousing Program	\$258,287	Households	240
CDBG	Spur Economic Development	Economic Development	HCDC	Economic Development Services	\$50,000	Businesses	2
CDBG	Spur Economic Development	Economic Development	HCDC and Planning + Development	Community and Economic Development Assistance Program	\$420,000	Businesses	10

2015-2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and Action Plans

This section lists impediments to fair housing choice in Cincinnati and Hamilton County and makes recommendations on steps that can be taken to address the impediments. The conclusions in this section are based on data and information from previous sections and on the focus groups and interviews described in the Methodology section.

2019 General Update/Action Plan:

The County partnered with the City of Cincinnati to contract with Community Building Institute (CBI) to conduct the next 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments. The final product is complete and should be distributed and made public in Summer 2019.

1. Lack of public transportation in opportunity areas

Every focus group said that the major impediment to housing choice was lack of public transportation in opportunity areas. As one participant said, "It really comes down to transportation and affordable housing."

The bus system is operated by the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority. SORTA, an independent political subdivision of the State of Ohio operates Metro fixed-route bus service and Access paratransit service for people with disabilities. SORTA is governed by a 13-member board of trustees, 7 appointed by the City of Cincinnati and 6 appointed by Hamilton County. Hamilton County appoints 3 of its own trustees plus 1 each representing Butler, Clermont and Warren counties. Public funding for the system comes primarily from an earnings tax paid by those who live or work in the City. In conversation about the Analysis of Impediments, SORTA management said they would like to expand the system. They have developed a Go Forward Plan with extensive community input that shows where they would expand when funding is available. These plans would expand service into areas where housing choice is currently limited because of lack of public transportation.

Recommendation 1.0: Support implementation of the SORTA Go Forward Plan. Encourage county jurisdictions to work with SORTA on increasing public transportation service in their communities.

2015 Action Plan: City and County staff will meet with SORTA to learn more about the Go Forward Plan. They also will review and analyze the plan to determine what actions could be taken to increase public transportation service in additional communities.

UPDATE: Staffing changes at both the City and County prevented this from happening. There were a few new bus routes added to Metro's schedule including one in Sharonville to the Veterans Administration building, one in Green Township near the new Mercy West Hospital, and one in Springdale to employment centers near our beltway, I-275.

2016 Action Plan: County staff will ensure that this will occur in 2016 for routes outside of the City.

UPDATE: County staff worked with SORTA and Sinclair Community College to extend the route currently stopping at Kings Island to go one more exit on I-71 to reach the Sinclair campus at Kings Mill Road, Exit 25. As part of the expansion, Sinclair hosts a park and ride lot for area commuters.

County staff also met with Pete Metz, who was hired by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce to address regional transportation issues, including helping the region's workers get to jobs using Greater Cincinnati's limited public transportation resources. We discussed the possibility of working with Uber to establish dedicated routes to address the need for smaller routes going across town or where buses are not going. We also researched the State of Ohio laws that require local governments to approve bus stops in their jurisdiction.

2017 Action Plan: County staff will continue to work with SORTA, the Chamber and local governments to explore changes to state law, educating the communities and looking for key areas to expand service. 2017

2018 Action Plan: While continuing to work with SORTA and other public transportation providers, County staff will engage the Better Bus Coalition, a grassroots nonprofit organization whose goal is to expand bus service in the City and in the County. Multiple jurisdictions in the County have passed resolutions stating that they do not want Metro to cancel any more services in their jurisdictions, including Woodlawn, Silverton and Springdale. We are connecting the Better Bus Coalition with the leaders in all County communities to continue to engage with them.

2. Zoning and building code barriers

Zoning codes are an impediment to housing choice when they make it difficult to locate group homes or affordable housing. Some jurisdictions in the County limit multi-family housing and have minimum square footage requirements for single-family homes. Others have not been updated since the 1960s, and according to the County Planning Director, could be in violation of the fair housing laws. Many of the communities are financially strapped and currently experience little development, so the communities don't see the need for planning/zoning updates.

2.1 Zoning codes restrict the siting of group homes.

In the last several years there have been several controversies about the siting of group homes. As part of the settlement of a 2013 fair housing case in Federal Court brought by the owner of a group home for adults with dementia, the City of Montgomery agreed to review and rewrite its zoning code in accordance with fair housing law.

Most recently Cincinnati opposed sober living houses in the Price Hill neighborhood. While in that case there were issues of whether the homes were overcrowded and unsafe, the community and political outcry against the homes spoke of not wanting "those people" in the neighborhood. People with former addictions are considered people with disabilities and are protected from discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. The perspective of the focus group on people with disabilities was that "there is a huge need for these facilities, and the City makes them difficult."

The Cincinnati zoning code defines a “family” as not more than four people unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption, and limits where group homes of more than four residents can locate. It makes distinctions among different types of group homes (e.g. assisted living, developmental disability dwelling, fraternity/sorority, patient family home, shared housing for the elderly, homeless shelter, and transitional housing). The neighborhoods and blocks where the homes are permitted depend on how it is classified. These restrictions can be impediments to fair housing choice.

The City is currently rewriting its zoning code. It received a Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant from HUD to help support the development of a new Land Development Code. Advocates have recommended that in rewriting the code, the City removes all zoning classifications that are based on who will be living in residential housing. It would continue to have an occupancy standard based on square footage to prevent overcrowding, but it would apply equally regardless of whether the residents have disabilities or how they are related.

Recommendation 2.1: In adopting Cincinnati’s new Land Development Code, consider removing all zoning classifications based on who lives in residential property.

2015 Action Plan: The City is reviewing suggestions made for the new Land Development Code, including this suggestion. City staff will work with the FHAC to address this issue.

2016 Action Plan: County staff will work with HOME to determine the specific jurisdictions where this problem exists and develop a plan of action to remedy this situation.

2016 UPDATE: We did not identify this problem in any of the communities outside of the City of Cincinnati.

2.2 Within the county jurisdictions, zoning limits the possibilities for affordable housing.

Focus group participants noted that some of the mostly-white communities have zoning that designates only single-family housing and especially large-lot, single-family housing, often with minimum house sizes. Participants felt these zoning restrictions reflected community attitudes of not wanting affordable housing. One developer reported that a jurisdiction insisted on a high percentage of one-bedroom units as a condition to granting permits because they do not want children. He said, “We know the market, and this is not what people want today.” It is beyond the scope of this Analysis to review the zoning in each of the 49 jurisdictions in Hamilton County. Such a review would be the starting point in addressing this impediment.

Recommendation 2.2: Review zoning codes in Hamilton County and make recommendations to the jurisdictions on changes needed to comply with the Fair Housing Act and to affirmatively further fair housing. Include a review of the jurisdictions’ reasonable accommodation procedures.

2015 Action Plan: The County plans to offer a seminar for local communities on fair housing requirements as related to zoning codes. County staff also will offer to review local communities’ zoning codes for compliance with fair housing laws.

2017 UPDATE: Community Development Administrator Joy Pierson was one of three people on a housing panel at the First Suburbs Consortia membership meeting in January 2017. This included conversations about the changes in the market and a new demand for smaller homes, walkable communities, and less “McMansions” throughout the county. Speakers from Blue Ash and Montgomery talked about successful CRA programs in two neighborhoods with smaller homes.

2.3 Zoning and building codes can make accessibility modifications expensive and burdensome.

Focus group participants said that the City requires people making reasonable accommodations requests to go through a zoning variance process that requires a \$300 fee, public notice and a public hearing. This is particularly burdensome when a person needs the modification, such as a ramp, to be able to leave the hospital or rehab center and return to their home. An accommodation may be needed if the ramp would violate zoning setback or side yard rules. As part of the rewrite of the City’s zoning code, advocates have recommended that the City establish an administrative reasonable accommodation procedure that is separate from the formal zoning variance process to expedite reasonable accommodation requests and make them less burdensome.

Recommendation 2.3: Cincinnati establishes an administrative reasonable accommodation procedure that is separate from the formal zoning variance process to expedite reasonable accommodation requests and make them less burdensome.

2015 Action Plan: The City will implement administrative changes to lessen this burden.

2.4 Local government staff members appear to lack understanding of fair housing laws.

Based on comments from focus group participants, those who enforce zoning and building requirements seem unaware of laws regarding reasonable accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities and discrimination against families with children. While some fair housing training for local government employees has been offered, it would be useful to provide training targeted specifically at zoning and building enforcement staff.

Recommendation 2.4: Provide fair housing training for local zoning and building staff.

2015 Action Plan: We will schedule training for city and county staff who enforce zoning and building modifications.

2016 UPDATE: Training was held for county staff in the Planning + Development department.

3. Affordable housing is concentrated in racially segregated areas.

There is a lack of support for new affordable housing because of NIMBY (“not in my backyard”) attitudes in many communities. Developers in the focus group talked about the difficulty of developing affordable housing when facing community opposition and the tendency to avoid the problem by building market

rate housing. They noted that even high-end multi-family developments can face opposition in some Hamilton County jurisdictions.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credits awarded by the state tend to be concentrated in racially segregated areas. The tax credits are used primarily to support the rehabilitation and preservation of current affordable housing, rather than building new housing. The local inventory of HUD-assisted multi-family housing is large and many properties are old and in need of expensive rehabilitation to continue to be viable.

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority currently is reviewing its asset management inventory and is considering the sale of some of the scattered site housing it bought in the last 25 years. These units were acquired to give public housing residents the opportunity to live outside of the large public housing projects in racially identifiable areas of concentrated poverty. The assisted housing map and table in Section 3 of this report show the extent to which CMHA has been successful in offering choices to low-income, primarily African American, residents in most jurisdictions in the County. The disposition of all or part of this inventory without replacement housing in the same communities would be a step backwards in ensuring fair housing choice.

Recommendation 3.0: Encourage CMHA to maintain its scattered site inventory and assist it in obtaining funding to maintain and expand scattered site public and affordable housing.

Recommendation 3.0.1: Require all City-funded residential development to follow inclusionary housing policies as required by law as recommended in **Plan Cincinnati**.

Recommendation 3.1.2: Advocate fair housing standards throughout the region as recommended in **Plan Cincinnati**.

2015 Action Plan: The City will consider a policy that prioritizes mixed-income (and mixed use) housing development in applications for funding. County will advocate for affordable housing to be developed throughout the entire region, as opposed to a few select areas.

2016 Action Plan: The County will be using HOME funds to develop new affordable housing outside of the City of Cincinnati which will help to deconcentrate affordable housing in racially segregated areas.

UPDATE: County HOME funds were awarded to five projects in four communities: Springfield Township, Springdale, and Lockland. Only one of these projects is located in a racially segregated neighborhood, however, the neighborhood leadership and residents are excited about new single family homes being built in their area.

2017 Action Plan: The County received six applications for HOME funds to develop new affordable housing – two of the projects meet special needs and are in the City of Cincinnati – four projects are

located in racially diverse areas.

2017 UPDATE: County HOME funds were awarded to 4 projects to develop or rehabilitate affordable housing. 1 project is in Lockland, 2 projects are in West College Hill/Springfield Township, and 1 project is a special need project in the City in the West End neighborhood.

4. Barriers to mobility of families with vouchers

The Housing Choice Voucher program or “Section 8” is designed to give families who need rental assistance more choices in where they live. Currently about 10,000 households have Housing Choice Vouchers in Hamilton County, and 88% of them are African American. With the tenant-based voucher, they find housing on the private rental market and use the assistance to pay rent wherever they choose to live. The foreclosure crisis has opened up more single-family homes throughout the county for rental, which could be an opportunity for more families with vouchers to move to opportunity areas. Several barriers were identified for families to fully exercise this choice.

4.1 Many in the focus groups talked about people not wanting to move to certain communities because they have a reputation as being unwelcoming or even dangerous for African Americans.

Memories are long, and parents pass down warnings about white neighborhoods their children should avoid because, when they were young, it was dangerous for an African American youth to be seen there. Today the warnings often involve stories of police in certain communities stopping any African American driving through. It doesn't help when community leaders are quoted in the media insulting people with housing assistance as occurred in the last couple of years when the housing authority signed an agreement to place 32 units of public housing in a primarily white township and when a candidate for state representative called Section 8 a “cancer” on the community. Whether or not these perceptions and reputations reflect today's reality, they are the basis of a family deciding where to live.

Recommendation 4.1: Work with Cincinnati Community Councils and County jurisdictions to encourage welcoming initiatives and become more inclusive in leadership development and civic activities.

Recommendation 4.1.2: Ask City Community Councils to annually report the composition of their Boards compared to their community.

Recommendation 4.1.3: Fund and support fair housing testing and enforcement activities to mitigate discrimination in housing (**Plan Cincinnati** recommendation).

2015 Action Plan: The City will begin to draft an inclusion policy to be adopted by Community Councils. The inclusion policy may include reference to inclusion of persons of all races, ethnicities and income levels, and renter as well as homeowner households.

The City will continue to provide funding for Fair Housing activities including testing and enforcement activities.

The City and County will work collaboratively to host community forums in neighborhoods to foster exchange and open dialogue among residents.

County will increase funding to HCV (Housing Choice Voucher) Mobility Program, facilitated by HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal).

2016 Action Plan: The City and County will work collaboratively to host community forums in neighborhoods to foster exchange and open dialogue among residents.

UPDATE: HOME held several meetings that were open to the entire community to address inclusion, diversity, community building and the richness that exists in our integrated neighborhoods and communities.

2017 Action Plan: At the request of HOME, the County will not be funding the Mobility program any longer. Both the City and CMHA stopped funding the program in 2014. HUD did not award a grant for this project either in 2016. We cannot make an impact with a small budget. We are addressing other fair housing issues and may start a new program in 2018. County staff is participating in planning a one-day symposium to address reentry housing and housing rights of the LBGQT community.

2017 Update: Housing Opportunities Made Equal hosted an Emerging Issues in Fair Housing Summit that was an implicit bias training that focused on making neighborhoods inclusive to the LGBTQ community. 70 people attended the first day and 45 attended the second day. The County's Office of Reentry also works to provide recently released clients with emergency shelter and transitional and permanent housing referrals and the Director for the Office of Reentry was on the Emerging Issues in Fair Housing Summit planning committee along with the County's Community Development Administrator.

4.2 Landlords can decide not to accept Section 8, so it is a major barrier to choice if too few participate in the program.

Rental property owners in the focus group reported that accepting vouchers in Hamilton County is a "tremendous hassle." They referred generally to the "bureaucracy" and specifically to the time to get approvals. "I need to turn properties fast and lose money when it takes them weeks to inspect the property and do the paperwork." The rents that CMHA will pay are seen as lower than what owners can get as market rent. CMHA's policy allows 80% of market rent in some cases. There is frustration over units that fail inspections over small items even after an owner has invested in expensive rehab of the unit and the tenant loves it. Landlords also report frustration with turnover of CMHA staff. "I never know who to talk to."

For years the rental market in Hamilton County was relatively soft, so rental property owners were willing to accept Housing Choice Voucher tenants rather than take a loss on a unit sitting vacant for a number of months. In the last couple of years demand has increased in the rental market with fewer vacancies and increasing rents. Developers are announcing plans to build new apartment complexes to meet the demand and landlords are now showing apartments to groups of applicants on the same day

and selecting the one with the highest income and best credit. In such a market, landlords who once rented to families with vouchers are pulling out of the program because it is not worth the effort when they have market rate applicants. This significantly restricts choice for the families with vouchers in the more desirable neighborhoods.

Recommendation 4.2: Encourage CMHA to review the Housing Choice Voucher program to make the program more acceptable to rental property owners. Work with CMHA to track families with vouchers who live in low-poverty communities in Hamilton County.

County will encourage landlords currently participating in the County's TBA/TBRA Programs to research and become involved with CMHA's HCV program. Since the regulations are very similar to the County's program, transitioning to HCV would be simple.

2016 Action Plan: County is working with CMHA to transition over 90% of clients from TBRA/TBA programs to the HCV program during 2016.

UPDATE: County staff worked with Legal Aid to successfully keep 100% of our clients in their housing of choice; this included educating our landlords about fair housing and expediting their paperwork with CMHA.

4.3 Families with vouchers are not knowledgeable about opportunity communities.

In Hamilton County families with vouchers are pretty much on their own in finding suitable housing from a landlord who accepts the voucher. CMHA refers families to a national website, www.gosection8.com, and asks landlords to post vacancies on that website. It also periodically hosts a Super Saturday event at their offices where landlords with vacancies and families looking for housing can connect. HOME operates a small Mobility program, funded with City and County CDBG funding, that recruits landlords in low-poverty areas and refers tenants with vouchers. The program places about 60 families a year with current funding. With two part-time employees, it is not able to serve all the families looking for help in finding housing.

In interviews for the Analysis of Impediments, families with vouchers reported that their primary concern in looking for housing was the safety and security of their children. They say it is discouraging when so many landlords refuse to take the voucher and they have time constraints in finding a new place. It is hard to look at different places in unfamiliar neighborhoods when they have an hourly job, children, and no car. They often accept units that are not desirable and end up moving again at the end of the lease.

Methods other regions have used to remove barriers to the housing choice of families with vouchers include passing "source of income" protection making it illegal discrimination to refuse to rent to a family who otherwise qualifies because part of the rent payment is coming from a government program. Some areas provide a robust Mobility program to counsel families and familiarize them with low-poverty

neighborhoods. Notable examples are Baltimore and the Chicago area Mobility demonstration project that is a joint effort of eight housing authorities in that metropolitan area.

Recommendation 4.3.0: Support adding source of income protection to Ohio’s fair housing law.

Recommendation 4.3.1: Continue City and County support for the Mobility program to help more families find rental opportunities in the neighborhoods of their choice.

County will increase funding to HCV Mobility Program, facilitated by HOME.

2017 Update: The County no longer funds the Mobility Program. Instead, HOME has increased education and community awareness and also provides a tenant advocacy program.

5. Barriers for immigrant populations

Although the area’s Hispanic population is only a little over 3%, the maps in Section 3 show that most Hispanic families live in just a few County jurisdictions and City neighborhoods. Focus group participants stated that many of the Hispanic families live in deplorable conditions in housing not of their choice. The barriers noted were:

5.1 There is a lack of Spanish-speaking staff for public services and among landlords.

Hispanic immigrants reported moving to apartment complexes even though the conditions are poor because a property manager speaks Spanish. When HOME’s tenant advocate encourages tenants to report serious conditions problems to local government inspectors, a common response is, “I can’t; no one there speaks Spanish.” When tenants agree to let HOME make the complaints on their behalf, the HOME staff person must go onsite with the Health or Building inspector to interpret.

The City Health and Building departments do not have a Spanish-speaking employee who conducts inspections although they can “borrow” an employee from other duties when necessary. The situation in the County is more complex because many small jurisdictions have their own building inspectors. The County Health Department has one Spanish-speaking staff person.

Recommendation 5.1: Explore options to increase staff capacity to work with Spanish-speaking residents in departments that take complaints and enforce laws related to housing conditions. Provide language training for current employees. Work with existing nonprofit organizations such as Su Casa and Santa Maria Services who provide services to these residents.

2015 Action Plan: Add Spanish language options to City’s main customer service line.

City and County will explore online and software to translate documents, etc.

Include human resources preference for bilingual skills for key customer service positions.

County will research the possibility of adding Spanish language options to the current phone service.

2016 UPDATE: The County's new website includes automatic translations for many languages for all sections – See linked page here and select language currently set as "EN" for English - <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/>

5.2 Immigrants feel unwelcome in some communities and tend to avoid these areas.

Participants in the focus groups told of how responsive and surprised immigrants were when a community or agency made an effort to make them feel welcome by having material in their language, a liaison, or just acknowledging them and inviting them to community meetings. Participants in the Spanish-speaking focus group said the segregation patterns shown in the maps were not the result so much of people wanting to live together, but lack of information about other areas and fear of not being welcome.

Recommendation 5.2: Encourage and support community events that engage immigrant families as neighbors, potential business customers, and parents.

2015 Action Plan: Research the option to restart the Urban Homesteading Program including a focus to work with immigrant families.

County will encourage participating community to provide various pertinent government documents in languages targeted toward their respective immigrant populations.

2016 UPDATE: Given the current changes in federal immigration policy, the City and County have not implemented this task. The City Council did declare Cincinnati as a sanctuary city and no local law enforcement agencies are involved in assisting to detain persons who may be here without legal papers.

6. Barriers to African American Homeownership

The foreclosure crisis increased opportunities to buy outside of traditional African American neighborhoods because the properties have become more affordable. However, at the same time, credit standards have tightened making it more difficult to obtain a mortgage loan to purchase a home. HMDA data reported by lenders and reported in Section 3 shows African American homebuyers in Hamilton County face significantly higher mortgage rejection rates than whites, regardless of their incomes, and when they do get a mortgage, it is more likely to be a high-cost loan. While not denying that some individual discrimination may exist, lenders say the difference is primarily because African Americans have lower credit scores and less savings or family help available for a down payment.

Focus groups identified as barriers the lack of understanding of the lending process, fear of predatory lending, and a general distrust of banks. One focus group member said because the African American community was targeted for predatory loans, "the fear of predatory lending is still strong and very alive." It was felt that traditional housing counseling services reach only the most motivated who feel they are ready to buy a home. Participants suggested that more general financial education was needed starting at the school level. At a Fair Lending Forum in Cincinnati this year, there was a recommendation that rather than providing in-depth housing counseling, there was a need for "expert help," someone

knowledgeable who was available to answer questions and explain the mortgage process. That person would be objective without a financial interest in the transaction and could reassure the borrower about what was normal and flag predatory terms.

Another barrier identified at the Fair Lending Forum was the current housing market conditions in traditional minority communities. Affordable single-family homes that are attractive to community members ready to move up to homeownership often do not meet lender inspection standards or, if they have been rehabbed by nonprofit community development corporation, do not appraise at a sales level that covers the rehab costs. The number of foreclosed properties in poor shape for sale in the neighborhoods depresses house values to the point where the cost of rehab cannot be recovered.

Recommendation 6.0: Support more financial education, analyze existing services provided by local nonprofits in this area to answer questions, explain the mortgage process and conduct outreach on homeownership/lending.

2015 Action Plan: City and County will conduct an analysis of homebuyer education services provided by local nonprofits to determine whether these services should be enhanced or adapted to better meet the needs of potential homeowners.

Research options to implement a “*promotoras*” strategy in which community liaisons would provide information and advocacy to their neighbors.

2016 Action Plan: No action was taken on this issue in 2015. City and County staff have all turned over during 2015. County staff will ensure that research of existing homeowner education services occurs in 2016.

UPDATE: County worked with Habitat for Humanity to spread the word about homes available for sale to generate interest in a targeted manner with minorities and others who may not see homeownership as attainable.

2017 Update: Through the County’s RFP for Nonprofit Countywide Services process, a recommendation has been made to award funds to Working In Neighborhoods for their homeownership assistance programs and Legal Aid for their foreclosure prevention services.

7. Barriers to housing choice for people with disabilities

Lack of accessible housing and difficulty locating what exists are the primary barriers to housing choice for people with disabilities. Focus groups talked about the lack of accessible housing from their different perspectives. Disability group members said there is little accessible housing, and it is difficult find what is out there. Rental property owners said accessible housing is easy to rent because of the demand. Realtors noted that there is little on their Multiple Listing Service, and accessibility is not searchable on MLS. Some noted that it is very difficult for someone with a voucher to find an accessible unit. In subsidized housing, it is particularly difficult for families to find accessible housing. What little is available is mostly one-bedroom or in senior developments.

7.1 People don't have resources to make modifications.

The region has an old housing stock and people with disabilities often do not have the resources to make modifications in the older buildings. The City and County support a non-profit agency to provide accessibility modifications for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Based on the 2009 Analysis of Impediments recommendations, the County began a program to help fund modifications for low- and moderate-income tenants. Funding for this program was reduced to \$25,000 each year for the 2012-14 program years and it is not available to tenants who live within the City of Cincinnati.

Modifying old buildings can be very expensive. More accessible housing would be created naturally if more new affordable housing was being built in the region. New multifamily housing must meet the Fair Housing Act's basic accessibility requirements and would meet the needs of many of the area's residents with disabilities. However, very little new affordable housing is being constructed. Low Income Housing Tax Credits and available government grants go primarily to rehab and preserve current affordable housing developments.

Recommendation 7.1: Provide funding assistance for low- and moderate-income renters to make accessibility modifications in Cincinnati and the balance of Hamilton County.

2015 Annual Action Plan: Implement the Modifications for Mobility program with Housing Repair Services to provide City rental residents with options to make their homes accessible. County will increase funding for it Modifications for Mobility Program from \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually.

2015 UPDATE: County provided \$90,000 to the Housing Network of Hamilton County to acquire and rehabilitate a multi-family structure for use by low-income disabled persons. Increased funding for modifications was also continued.

2016 UPDATE: The County is managing the \$50K Renter Accessibility program in house and completed 7 projects including adding a first floor restroom to a home, adding motion sensors for a visually impaired person and adding light sensors to a hearing impaired person.

The County has funded three more rental housing projects for persons with disabilities, including another duplex with Housing Network, a four-unit apartment with Excel Development, Inc., and a four unit apartment with Housing Network. The first two projects are complete and the final project will be completed by summary 2017.

2019 Update: The County still has a Renter Accessibility Modification program to help individuals with disabilities.

2017 Annual Action Plan: Continue to fund Renter Accessibility Program at \$50K and continue to work with the Housing Network of Hamilton County, our CHDO, for \$150K of housing development for persons with disabilities.

2017 Update: The County continues to manage the \$50K Renter Accessibility Program and completed 6 projects in 2017. The County also recently approved 3 more applications for modifications to rental homes that are also being rehabilitated with HOME funds. This past year the County also worked with the Housing Network of Hamilton County to rehabilitate a 4-unit building in Silverton with 2 of the units modified to be handicapped accessible.

7.2 Housing for people with mental disabilities is often opposed by the neighbors because of fear of the residents.

Recent examples cited by focus group participants were the community opposition to the sober living group homes in Price Hill and to a proposed permanent supportive housing project in Avondale. In both cases, neighbors expressed fear for their children because of the mental disabilities of the residents of the housing. City elected officials have sympathized with the fears of the neighbors to the extent that one City Council member has publicly stated that people have a right to decide who will move into their neighborhood.

Recommendation 7.2: Provide support and assistance in working with the neighborhoods to groups providing housing for people with mental disabilities. Train elected officials in the City and County on fair housing, particularly the rights of people with disabilities.

2015 Annual Action Plan: Plan training for elected officials. Include elected officials in the City as well as all County jurisdictions. County will increase funding for its Excel Development Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program which provides rental subsidies to persons with mental disabilities. Funding will be increased from \$127,500 to \$140,000.

2016 Annual Action Plan: County will be using HOME funds to develop new affordable housing specifically targeted for persons with disabilities.

2016 UPDATE: Project completed with Excel Development included four-unit building in Silverton. The 2016 and 2017 RFP solicits housing for persons with disabilities and scores these projects to give priority for this need.

2018 Action Plan: Housing Network of Hamilton County has applied for \$300,000 to develop 12 units across 3 sites of affordable, accessible housing for individuals with disabilities.

2019 Update: Housing Network of Hamilton County was awarded \$300,000 to develop 12 units across 3 sites of affordable, accessible housing for individuals with disabilities.

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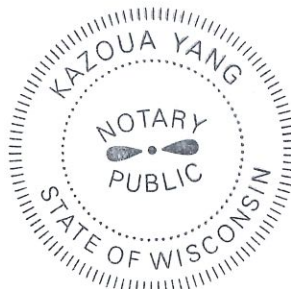
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of the The Enquirer, a newspaper printed in Cincinnati, Ohio and published in Cincinnati, in said County and State, and of general circulation in said county, and as to the Kentucky Enquirer published in Ft. Mitchell, Kenton County, Kentucky, who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in the said newspaper times, once in each issue as follows:

05/04/19

.....
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[Signature]
Notary Public

11/9/20
Commission expires



Public notice is given that Hamilton County, Ohio revised the 2019 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant. Public hearing will be held May 16 at 6:30 PM, Anderson Township Office, 7850 Five Mile Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45230. The Board of County Commissioners will vote on the Revised Plan May 16, 2019. The Revised Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/2IT0K95> or 138 E. Court St, Room 1002, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Send written comments to ioy.pierson@hamilton-co.org or the above address.
CIN, May 4, 19#3540711

CONFIRMATION

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<u>Product</u>	<u>Placement/Classification</u>	<u># Ins</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
CIN-EN Cincinnati Enquirer	CIN-Public/Legal Notices	1	12/10/2018	12/10/2018
CIN-EN Cincinnati.com	CINW-Publi/Legal Notices	1	12/10/2018	12/10/2018
CIN-EN Kentucky Enquirer	CIN-Public/Legal Notices	1	12/10/2018	12/10/2018

* ALL TRANSACTIONS CONSIDERED PAID IN FULL UPON CLEARANCE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Text of Ad: 12/06/2018

Public notice is given that Hamilton County, Ohio drafted the 2019 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. Public hearings will be held Dec 12 and Dec 19 at 11:30 AM, County Admin Building, 138 E. Court St, Rm 603; Cinti, OH 45202. 30 day comment period is Dec 4, 2018 to Jan 9, 2019. The Board of County Commissioners will vote on the Plan Jan 9, 2019. The Plan is available at www.hamilton-co.org or 138 E. Court St, Room 1002, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Send written comments to joy.pierson@hamilton-co.org or the above address.
CIN,Dec10,'18#3289149

All Comments

No comments at December 2018 public hearings

Public Hearing: May 16, 2019 opened at 7:05 PM closed at 7:45 PM

Denise Driehaus: We're going to move into the public hearing. This is a public hearing related to the CDBG dollars that the county has to allocate to different organizations and communities in Hamilton County. Joy, I assume Joy Pierson, is here. She is the one that helps us work through this process, I do want to lay out that we have a committee that looks at the projects that apply for these dollars and in front of us is a recommendation from the committee by way of the allocation of those dollars. The other caveat, I think there's some confusion about how these dollars can be spent, and I know you'll elaborate on that, but I do want to note that the city of Cincinnati also has CDBG dollars that they spend and so ours are particularly targeted to the community outside the city of Cincinnati because those communities will not benefit from the city CDBG dollars. I just, I've heard that question a couple times and I just want to make sure that we're clear as to what the purpose of the allocations are. So, with that, Joy if you could help frame the issue and then we will move into the public comments.

Joy Pierson: Thank you, I'm going to present the process and the overview and Mike Donahue, from the Community Development Advisory Committee, is going to present the recommendations. So, as you mentioned, this is part of our HUD funding. Our Action Plan is submitted once a year, we have to be ready to submit it in January, but we're not able to submit it until we find out grant so the commissioners reviewed the large majority of the action plan and the budget for three grants including the Community Development Block Grant, which is about 3.4 million dollars this year, and the HOME funding, which is for affordable housing at 1.3 million, and it's Emergency Solutions Grant, which is used for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing, and that's 280,000. Tonight, we are just speaking about 775,000 dollars of the 3.3 million, that's what the public hearing is about, and we have not yet submitted our action plan. We just recently received our grant amount and we'd like to submit that as soon as possible. It takes about 45 days for HUD to review it and we'd like to start the projects and the programs July 1st. So, as you mentioned, the Block Grant funds must be used outside of the city of Cincinnati. Hamilton County has about 800,000 people, 300,000 are in the city roughly, and 500,000 are out in the other 47 eligible local governments. The city of Cincinnati receives more than 11 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant and as you know we just received 3.3 so we're trying to stretch our dollars as much as possible to the communities that participate in the program, which right now are 41 local governments. A maximum of 15% of our total grant can be used for social services or public services, so that's about a half a million dollars. It's actually 499,000 dollars this year. The balance of that can be used on, the balance of the 775,000 we budgeted to be used on, housing related, what I call hammer and nail, housing repairs. The recommendations are broken down by 400,000, I think it's 475,000, for public services out of a maximum of 500,000 for the hammer and nail sort of thing. The process that we used, we had a call for applications including two legal notices that were published in the paper as well as outreach to over 48 organizations. We included, that's not including our local governments, that's the 41 local governments plus 48 organizations. We included all past applicants, we included the affordable housing advocates, as well as large nonprofits like Urban League, and NAACP, the Community Action Agency, etc. and we worked with Robert Bell and the Office of Economic Inclusion, and all of the chambers of commerce that are in the region and sent the information out. We had a question and answer meeting, that was optional, it was attended by 15 organizations or about 20 people and then we had a question and

answer document that was online. That was updated at least once a week usually once a day with any question from anybody so that everybody had the benefit of the question of other applicants in the answers that were given. The staff reviewed applications to ensure that the services were eligible, and we had one application that was not eligible, the Mercy Health submitted an application for security guards at their Hospital in Green Township and that was not something that we could track any benefit for low to moderate income people. Then we passed on the other 19 applications to the Community Development Advisory Committee, the committee is appointed by you and it consists of 11 members...

Driehaus: Can I interrupt? Because I know some of them are in the audience; could they be recognized? Thank you. Yes, I just want to thank you for your service. Stand if you were the committee:

Pierson: Geoff Mills, Georgine Getty with Our Daily Bread, and Michael Donahue.

We have four folks from participating jurisdictions, four from social service agencies, one developer, one funder, and one real estate professional so we have a wide variety of expertise that comes. So, the committee met before the RFP went out and made some suggestions to change the RFP, which we did, and I will say this is our second year of doing this process so every year we believe we can continue to do it better and we're open to tweaking things and making things better. So, they said they'd recommended the final RFP and it approved the final RFP and then they met twice, once to review the applications overall and ask questions for staff to follow up with applicants and then the second time they met and scored and made recommendations. So, with that I'll turn it over to Mike Donahue.

Mike Donahue: Joy did a great job presenting the process in a very brief time, so I won't go back, but I want to present this—the CDAC recommendations—and just make a couple of comments. When we began the process, we looked at a total ask of 2.9 million dollars and that was 375% percent more than there was available money so we had to begin relatively quickly a winnowing down process and the 11 of us met on a couple of occasions, like Joy said, and focused in large measure on who will have the best input, where the greatest impact is, where we get the biggest bang for the buck, that type of thing. So that's what we did over the course of those two meetings and as a result of that we're making recommendations for the following: Our first recommendation is for the Free Store Foodbank \$100,000, they're expanding access to fresh food program. \$100,000 our second one is St. Vincent DePaul, they are a charitable pharmacy. \$15,000 Working in Neighborhoods, which is a financial capability program \$150,000 Legal Aid and the CAA for the eviction prevention programs that they're doing. \$50,000 for Lydia's House for housing and supportive services. And finally, Legal Aid again their foreclosure prevention program, keeping people with a roof over their heads. That's a total of 775,000 dollars and that's what the recommendation was that we've made to you. Also 300,000 dollars that was recommended for housing repairs and that we hold that funding, so we can use it for providing that service either through small businesses and contractors or through an overall nonprofit organization.

Driehaus: okay great thank you thank you, so it was deference I would like to get to the speakers is that okay I'd like to ask a question there's a couple questions I'm joy if you could first of all thank you for all you do and I'm glad that people volunteered their time to be a part of this process you said earlier that the committee was selected by us when was the selection made the appointments to the Advisory Committee or May February March

Pierson: Actually, let me back up. The advisory committee has been

around for decades and several years ago we changed the makeup of the committee so that we had staggered terms. Some people who served one year, some two, some three, and now all new appointments are every three years. Most recently there were four people appointed, I believe it was in March, we came before the Commission and four people were appointed wrote most recently. The applications came from the county clerk, who solicited applicants last fall and then the appointments were made in March for four people. Once this year is over there'll be additional appointments and then the following year and every year. There will be an option for people to reapply if they'd like to continue to serve more or for new applicants to apply but ultimately the commissioners will make those appointments every year.

Dumas: And what would be the name of the committee

Pierson: the community development Advisory Committee

Dumas: Okay so I don't remember being a part of that, but we had it was a unanimous yes, that we voted from the applications. Okay um just the process that you just laid out, do you have that in writing could I get that in writing, that would be great.

Pierson: Sure, yeah

Dumas: The housing repair of course you mentioned earlier with the 300,000 that's left over I will strongly advocate that we look at small businesses if we can I know that would mean that we'd have to put another RFP out or something to be able to do that so but if we can do that if that's our option and timewise it won't interfere with our obligation with HUD, I would certainly advocate because I know a small business would be happy to get 25,000 so I just like to recommend that. In addition, the committee composition, are they eligible for funding—people that are on the committee?

Pierson: The committee is made up of participating jurisdictions, social service agencies, and other professionals. Inherently the participating jurisdictions are eligible for funding, but their funding is not a competitive process, the budget is split 50/50 and 50% of the funding is given to the communities that participate and we fund what they ask for. If there is a competitive process like this process and if there's an applicant, for example with legal aid there is a representative from legal aid on the committee, they abstain. They recuse themselves from this process. And then we have one small program, the mini grant program, and we ask that if somebody is going to apply they don't serve on that subcommittee. Likewise, with the Community and Economic Development Assistance Program, if they are going to apply for that funding they do not sit on that subcommittee.

Dumas: Thank you, but lastly there are 11 people in the committee yes okay did any of those people on the committee whether or not they abstained or not did they receive any of the funding for their agency

Pierson: Legal aid did receive funding in the legal aid in the Community Action Agency did receive funding for a new eviction prevention program

Dumas: Free store?

Pierson: No there's nobody else on the committee from any of the social service agencies that were recommended for funding the only representative was from legal aid and he recused himself and community action...

Dumas: you're saying.

Pierson: ... that was a joint application but there's nobody from Community Action serving on the advisory committee.

Dumas: okay thank you all right let's get to our public speakers or rather our community speakers I will apologize in advance if I mess up your name.

Driehaus: Sandra Saylor is first, oh very good, and just as an overview we generally allow people two minutes to comment to the item at hand.

Sandra Saylor: Thank you it's on time to me twice today. Good evening everyone and thank you for allowing me to speak I'm Sondra Saylor. I'm a lifelong resident of Hamilton County I'm college-educated I have a 48-year work history. I've always been independent, and I've always been proud to state that I've stood on my own two feet and taking care of myself. In 2011 that all changed, in November I lost my husband of 42 years to pancreatic cancer in 91 days. In December I almost died, and the doctor said I could not return to work I was crushed. Social Security approved my disability in six weeks but there is no medical coverage for 20 months once you're approved for a disability. Between paying for Cobra and monthly medical bills, my savings were depleted in five years. A year ago, I reached the donut gap in Medicare halfway through the year and my inhalers went from a hundred and forty-seven dollars a month to over six hundred, breathing treatments, EpiPen, and medication added another five hundred. I swallowed my pride and I went to St. Vincent DePaul pharmacy and I asked for help. Unexpectedly, I was treated so kindly and with so much respect. That was in a matter of minutes. Mike made me feel like I was talking to a long-time friend. I've witnessed the same graciousness and treatment to each client that comes into that pharmacy. As we have to go there once a month to get our refills we are all one major medical illness away from being financially devastated. Thank you for your time and any consideration that you could give to St. Vincent DePaul charitable pharmacy would be greatly appreciated by me and all of their clients, thank you.

Driehaus: Thank you, our next speaker is Lydia Bailey.

Lydia Bailey: [I'm a] Clinical pharmacist for St. Vincent DePaul, the scope of my position is to ensure every single patient receives the optimal clinical care that we can provide. When you picture your typical pharmacy you probably don't imagine clinical appointments before receiving your medication but we're not your typical pharmacy. Every patient gets a one on one appointment every six months where we sit down and have a full health screening review: every disease, state every medication they're on, and provide counseling. Each month during pick up, a pharmacist talks with a patient to make sure they answer any questions they have. No other pharmacy offers this level of care. We're diligent with these clinical services because we want to make sure we're being good stewards of the free medicine we're providing. It's through these consistent interventions that we create powerful health outcomes, but it doesn't stop with our patients. After graduating with my doctorate degree, I became connected with St. Vincent DePaul through their residency program. This program is a year-long opportunity that provides

training in underserved care. One of the most impactful parts of my job now is training the new residents, students, and volunteers because I know we're creating a network of providers who value patients for who they are not what they can offer. Since I have begun, only three years ago, we have graduated another three residents, 182 students, and 775 volunteers, imagine the imprint we could have on the Cincinnati community of healthcare providers in the next three years if we receive the funding. That's where Hamilton County comes in, with your continued support we can accept new patients and keep medications in stock and we can keep building our clinical program and our teaching program. So, I urge you to consider funding for St. Vincent DePaul we appreciate you so much, thank you.

Driehaus: Thank you for being here. Our next speaker is Mike Espel. Welcome.

Mike Espel: I am the founder and the director of the St. that's a Nepal charitable pharmacy I've had 44 years in underserved care as a pharmacist this SVDP charitable pharmacy is the last resort safety net for medication assistance in hammington County over four hundred and sixty thousand prescriptions worth fifty five million dollars have been felt since 2006 qualifying patients receive their Medicare prescriptions at no cost and get positive health outcomes through the clinical services we provide we help underserved patients find a medical provider decrease their risk of hospitalizations and ER visits improve their adherence to medication and improve their diabetes control almost 60% of our patients are diabetic the primary reason for the charitable pharmacy success is because we can we get donated medicine and that covers 80% of the prescriptions that we fill you all know that how expensive medicine is and we just have a bunch of diverse donated sources for our medicine the charitable pharmacy filled over sixty one thousand prescriptions last year which was a 17% increase you will be relocated into a new facility in this in November the news more spacious Bank Street pharmacy will have expanded open hours and enable more efficient operation in more space for medication donations we can't continue to grow the to help provide it to our neighbors without the continued assistance of our community partners such as Hamilton County thanks for funding us for the Block Grant last year I hope you will consider funding us again thank you

thank you for being here our next speaker is Richard McVeigh good evening

Richard McVey: I live in Colerain Township and tonight I'm addressing you as a member of the board of Maslow's army all the Maslow's army are praying for the quick recovery of Commissioner port tomb he is a dear friend Maslow Army has become recognized based on homelessness in Hamilton County I urge the commissioners to seriously consider their modest request for funds to continue this especially important work the work Maslow's Army has done to provide needed shelter during cold weather is well publicized as well as the outreach efforts on Friday at the Cincinnati Central Library and at the Hamilton County Justice Center on Sunday afternoon recently I was able to spend a few days with Sam Landis the founder during the week and I witnessed firsthand the peer mentoring skills he uses in reaching out to those in need Sam and Susan because of their backgrounds are quickly able to connect with those who are in need and who are hesitant for any number of reasons to reach out to take advantage of many of the available services in Hamilton County they are a go-between this grant will provide Maslow's army with the additional funds to reach out to those with needs and connect them to available resources thank you for a thoughtfully considering our request thank you.

Driehaus: thank you, our next speaker is Kurt Reiber

Kurt Reiber: Good evening good evening state of senior hunger in Hamilton County a study was released this Tuesday that showed that Hamilton County was one of the top 10 worst counties out of the 88 counties in Ohio dealing with food insecurity for adults age 50 to 59 the Free Store Foodbank does is to try and provide services to those families that are in need that are food insecure we have 450 entries in 20 County service area the Free Store Foodbank that provide this year would be thirty three and a half million meals to those families the funds that the Hamilton County CDBG funding provides is allows us to provide fresh produce to families in over 30 count 30 of our pantries they're outside of the city of Cincinnati you know it makes a huge impact as far as the only some of the health initiatives and problems that many of those families suffer from when you think about it this study also showed that Kentucky ranked first in adult hunger and Ohio ranked ninth that's not a top-10 list that we want to be on and Hamilton County has been very supportive of the work that we do and the outreach that we have we can't do without collaborative partners such as Hamilton County and 450 pantries that we support throughout the 20 County service area we also want to congratulate joy and her team and the committee on the very transparent and thoughtful process that they underwent in order to come up with this recommendation we think that it was very thorough and thoughtful and is something that is really a linchpin to some of the work that we do throughout the county so I thank you for that thank you for your consideration have a good evening thank you thank you

Driehaus: Alright the next speaker is Shedrica Pastor

Shedrica Pastor: Good evening my grandmother uses Saint Vincent DePaul charitable pharmacy grateful for this program before being recommended to St. Vincent de Paul. I was actually working overtime hours to help her pay for a medication I prayed to God for something to give literally two days later a nurse called and recommended St. Vincent DePaul pharmacy first and we got an appointment within that week the same day they gave her all her medications at no cost they've always been really nice I couldn't believe it honestly this program is answering prayers for real people in need so I'm really grateful to fall thank you thank you

Driehaus: the next speaker is Dr. Amar Bhati

Amar Bhati: Good evening god bless and apologies thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the St. Vincent DePaul my name is Amar Bhati and I'm an internal medicine physician here in Cincinnati I've been working with the charitable pharmacy at Saint Vincent for over five years now and I've been lucky enough to serve as board president for the past year and a half you've heard these countless amazing stories and all these lives that were able to touch over the years but at the same time I know you all have to deal in dollars and cents so I'd like to give you some hard numbers basically the ROI for Hamilton County now I'll start with the referral sources we get about 82 percent of our referrals from the hospital health systems that includes tri health at 33 percent Mercy Health 21 percent Christ Hospital 17 percent and UC health at 11 percent the remaining 18 percent come from the underserved clinics or behavioral health agencies and Angie second smattering of other community and private health clinics then we have the total value that we provide for the local healthcare systems specifically from 2017 to 2018 we worked on three very specific categories for each health system we calculated number one that estimated cost avoidance the service worth and the number and value of prescriptions we provided the total value for tri health was at 8.3 million dollars Christ Hospital at four point seven Mercy Health also at four point seven million dollars and UC health at 3.2 million dollars these numbers include about

90,000 prescriptions which have a value of over twenty million dollars excuse me twelve million dollars in the end we provided a total value to Hamilton County of over 20 million dollars I hope you'll take all this data and ROI in consideration when you're making a decision on the Block Grant funding for St. de paul

Clair Luby: good evening my name is Claire Luby I'm the director of development at St. Vincent DePaul and I've been involved there for about eight years thank you so much for including us tonight in this discussion and for learning more about our programs sixty-eight dollars and 59 cents is the cost it takes for Ohio Medicaid to fill one prescription for that same amount of money our pharmacy St. Vincent DePaul tradeable pharmacy can fill five prescriptions it costs the pharmacy only \$12.99 to fill each prescription the pharmacies leveraging of resources is unprecedented with volunteer labor and donated drugs the pharmacy can take every one of the county's dollars and distribute \$11 worth of medications to those in need with the investment from the Hamilton County Block Grant in 2018 we plan to serve to 107 families in fill 6600 prescriptions the pharmacy exceeded these goals and not just by a little the pharmacy served 200 more families and filled over 9,000 more prescriptions than we had proposed initially in our in our grant to you all we appreciate your consideration of supporting the pharmacy again this year and I'm here to tell you we would not disappoint you in achieving our proposed outcomes and improving the lives of Hamilton County residents. thanks for your consideration thank you thank you

Driehaus: alright our next speaker is Patricia Garry

Patricia Garry: good evening hi I'm here because I am actually the person who actually wrote the grant for Maslow's army and what I what I did because I had so much admiration for these as I have said these people who didn't know what they're doing couldn't be done it just started so they filed as a 501c3 which is a hard thing to do and they managed selves and then they just started to work and people started to help them so they get all kinds of things my son Brian's porch is always still used with donations for Maslow's army it just goes on and on and on and they really there's no way that they're what they're doing should have even happened because it's just too hard to start all that but people just pitched in and now they managed to get a bus and so last winter I'm sure you all saw on the news all the time that they saved lots of lives a couple of people they actually lost because you know one guy decided that he could just he was going to get housing soon so he could just stay outside until he got housing and it didn't work out that way at any rate we wrote this small grant request to try to get the ability to have that van out more often to have it out all year long and to try to get people to their appointments even after people get housing for instance if they're placed out in you know you know way out then that you have to get downtown to appointments and it's just an impossible they also are not necessarily ready to be organized to make their phone calls and do all that kind of stuff so Sam and Susan and there are many volunteers help with all of that and this would be I think a great investment for the county to make and I hope you're able to do that and thank you

Driehaus: thank you our next speaker is Sam Landis

Sam Landis: good evening just recently that Prosecutor's Office Judge Joe dieter has funded a project for Maslow's army where we printed 25,000 weather-resistant Street guides which lists all the emergency shelters detox treatment shower laundry know all the basic necessities all for free we've so far distributed 59,000 copies of these things and this is something that we did on a shoestring budget because we've been reaching out for help Maslow's army is an Ohio registered nonprofit a corporation our emergency mobile shelter is housed at 6:45 Lynn Street Cincinnati Ohio for five two oh three that's at fern with with the executive director or that the director of fern Aaron Bloodworth allows us to park there we have worked with Hamilton County reentry Hamilton County job of Family Services the

Hamilton County Sheriff Department the prosecutor's office again who paid for the printing and during the polar vortex we began what is the country's first emergency mobile shelter which exists to serve Hamilton County and in fact it saved lives as it was mentioned before 21 people lost their lives during this year's polar vortex not in Cincinnati so as I said on a shoestring budget made possible by independent financial contributions we've existed since 2016 we have served over 200,000 meals our mobile that we just purchased this year on a business loan from our own pocket has served over 200 individuals living directly on the streets that means place is not there for human habitation and we are an emergency mobile transportation system during the day we have participated in the Taste of Cincinnati for three consecutive years the first year we serve seven thousand nine hundred slices of Jeff's pizza absolutely for free the second year we worked with Texas Roadhouse where we serve 200 pounds of pork this year we've been invited back by the Chamber of Commerce and the new captain his name is slip in my mind to do all three days once again so Maslow's army will be there all three days of the Taste of Cincinnati affording people meals that that just don't have the economics to be able to have a meal but can't participate in this year's taste Cincinnati so I just want to strongly urge you to consider Maslow's army for somewhere in this grant because a little bit of money we could do a lot they think the day congratulations to all they were recommend

Driehaus: all right, Brian Garry

Brian Garry: good evening administrators first thing I just want to thank the committee who was worked so diligently and fairly in the process of choosing people I am here probably obviously on behalf of mass those are me and as I'm sure everyone knows homelessness is on the rise in Hamilton County during the polar vortex which has been referenced a lot as Sam said 21 people died in in the Midwest and during the polar vortex in Hamilton County none died largely due to our efforts of being out day and night all night and our the areas that we were working in in fact our temporary stationary cold shelter at that time we partnered with a church in Elmwood place and we've been working in Norwood Delhi Anderson the Colerain area mm-hmm and I just wanted to say in terms of bang for the buck we're a 100% volunteer organization so when you're investing in a hundred percent quality organization there's no money going to administrative costs and it doesn't get much bigger in terms of your bang for your buck there we did save lives in fact one young man who grew up in white oak Kenny Nagel when we saw him he was wearing nothing this was the one that was 25 below with the windchill I think it was 10 below or 15 below 25 below with the windchill Kenny Nagel he had nothing more than a tweed coat and he was just sitting freezing and probably would have died just from that but we got him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with pneumonia and we got him on his feet again got him the antibiotics that he needed and then got him the psych emergency services that he needed but these are the people who are on our streets in the county and we would appreciate it if you could maybe spread that money a little bit further and include us I know there's lots of great needs we heard them tonight but I think we may be able to share just a little bit more with new innovative organizations like ourselves we're only asking for \$70,000 and we can make that stretch a long way thank you so thank you

Driehaus: Brian thank you, the next speaker is Bruce Berger

Bruce Berger: Good evening, my name is Bruce Berger I'm a treasure from as Lazar me and I was integral in creating Maslow's army I took Sam Landis off the street and got him going with his life and we he wanted to do an outreach and I funded that outreach for the first year 2017 you know gave away socks we get—we underwear all brand-new t-shirts which Peter gave away Pizza fresh fruit and water but you know there's only so much a person can do especially in my situation what we were looking for is money from the county so that we can extend our services into the county get beyond the city and have buses

that that it can go and really work out of the city in the various County neighborhoods and help those that are homeless which are there you know you gave homeless to make nonresidential or not miscible area of Cincinnati there was some you know we started out incorporated in Kentucky we have a Cincinnati pol box we get private funding only hit for the last two close to two and a half years we're looking for some public money to help us extend their services to help us give us legitimacy which is very key to go into other foundations to get the matching money so you know whatever you think but we're trying to improve ourselves and I think a lot of benefits really thank you

Driehaus: thank you next we have Susan Landis

Susan Landis: I'm president of the board of Maslow's army well we came in today and to advocate not for ourselves but for the individuals out there living directly on the streets that we encounter when we take our bus out and of course every single Sunday so I don't have a speech prepared but what I can tell you is what I've seen you know when we have had the bus out during very cold temperatures the things I have seen have kept me up at night because we've encountered so many individuals directly on the streets that may have not got the attention that they desperately needed we encountered one individual who had a whole practically in his knee and had we not picked him up he would have been out there and the things thought Maslow's army is able to do with very too little funding it has just been amazing and it's been instrumental to these individuals I don't know if any of you have ever you know been outside when it's extremely cold and you've just felt that bitterness hits you well we think I've encountered that I lived out in it and when I see these individuals get on our bus it makes me look and say that was me at one point what if something like this had been out there for me and the individuals that get on our bus get connected to the resources because transportation is a gap in Hamilton County especially for these individuals some of them I'll admit some of them are not very they can be very difficult to work with we've had individuals that I've gotten are like Brian had mentioned that had pneumonia and was just in a little small jacket it's those kind of things that keep me up at night and make me come up here and speak on their behalf not on Maslow's behalf but theirs thank you appreciate you coming thank you

Driehaus: thank you alright that concludes the hearing for this evening enjoy I'm gonna ask you to come back up and talk to us a little bit about timeline here we are I'm gonna ask that we extend the hearing until next week on Tuesday because this is an unusual time and place for our hearings and so I want to be sensitive to that and so but talk to us about the time frame as far as the vote of the Commission.

Pierson: Okay I mentioned earlier that we submit our plan to HUD and if we don't hear from them after 45 days we assume it's been approved so had we submitted our plan tomorrow it would be approved July 1st so we're close to this 45-day wanting to start projects July 1st but we can just wait to start the projects in the communities and wait to start the contracts we do have one organization that has existing funding that we will ask them to extend their contract until the end of July so they can continue their operations but we would like to have the Commission passed this next week so we can submit it and start contracts July 15th we have boilerplate contracts that have been approved by the prosecutor's office and we've shared samples on our website with the RFP process so our agencies are aware of the stipulations and most of the agencies that are being recommended have already worked with the county and I've already worked under this contract so we don't anticipate delays as far as implement implementing and executing contracts if need be if there's more time that's needed on the commissioners part all the other projects will just be delayed further we have to there's a process where we submit we get the action plan approved and then we request the release of funds and so those go hand in hand

Driehaus: okay so the target is next Thursday okay and I'm just gonna again make this suggestion that we keep the hearing open until Tuesday take any comment than anybody has on Tuesday I don't want to you don't know if there's been any confusion about an evening meaning out in Colerain Township but in the case that there has would it be deferential to that and then expect that we can have a vote on Thursday okay

Pierson: and if anyone has comments that they want to send they can mail them to Community Development at 138 East Court Street 10th floor and the zip is 45202 or they can mail or email them to my attention joy.pierson@Hamilton-co.org if we received them by Tuesday they will be included with and shared with you and enter into the record

Driehaus: okay great thank you, any comments or questions?

Dumas: Joy if you could wait for a few minutes... what's the latest date to submit to meet our deadline with HUD?

Joy: I believe we have 60 days after receiving our grant agreement but that means all of our projects are on hold and the problem is that HUD has a timeliness deadline and we have a snapshot at the end of January where we can only have one and a half times our grant on our line of credit and even though we don't get our money we used to receive our grant on March 1st even though we're not receiving our grant last year it was September 29th we still can only have one and a half times our grant on the line of credit so we're playing a game where we're trying to constantly keep things moving because we don't want to give money back so the timeliness is more about the timeliness of passing the action plan really is more to do with keeping our timeliness in check for January so that we don't have three and a half million dollars sitting on the line sitting on the books that projects haven't been started and getting the move the money spending so right now we have existing projects from seventeen and eighteen that we're trying to continue and closed-off and then what we're kind of on this like a like a gerbil or a hamster you know in one of those wheels to try to keep spending the funds and make sure we're timely we do not want to give the money back

Dumas: yeah, I certainly would not want to give the money back and didn't want to indicate that just needed to know that so also I noticed I know the committee set priorities on what areas the money should be allocated to it if I wrote it down right homelessness was two hundred thousand that you guys decided that's what I wrote down anyway allocation the recommendations were one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for eviction prevention no I'm not talking about this sheet the recommendations but when you got the money from HUD did you guys set priorities on how much would go into each area no that was not done okay well where did I get this from there

Pierson: Okay let me I mean we bring it that's two hundred eighty thousand that only can be used for homelessness prevention maybe that's what emergency solutions grant okay the emergency shelter grant and we work with the continuum of care and strategies to end homelessness by law we have to and the city of Cincinnati's funds go into that pool as well so the city receives about nine hundred thousand dollars five hundred thousand of that is used for shelters and the balance is used for homelessness prevention rapid rehousing and other related programs and then our funding is just used for rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention

Dumas: thank you so well I have a couple other questions the recommendations that we were presented how many of those facilities or agencies have received monies before of the five programs hmm four of them received funding last year okay and one of them two of them received funding in the past, so the eviction prevention and a foreclosure prevention program was started

Pierson: This will be the third year they received funding, so they were started in seventeen with some funding that was left over from the housing opportunities made equal and then then the program was expanded last year but the new program is the eviction prevention that was brought forward by the Human Services chamber and with some study that was done

Dumas: I appreciate the thoroughness just really kind of looking at numbers right now all these agencies are wonderful for whatever they do in the community some of them I'm familiar with other ones are not but these are great agencies to be involved in the community lastly of the 300,000 that we had left over for home repairs are we mandated by HUD then to use that toward home repair or do we have the discretion of using that 300,000 for something else?

Pierson: HUD does not mandate any of the programs so can I use that for something else like it can be used for other eligible CDBG activities, but it cannot be used for additional social services, so we have a 15% cap from HUD there the majority of the funding cannot must be used on housing and community development projects so of the 300,000 and 25,000 of that could be used on a social service but the 275 could be used for a community project it could be used for economic development projects it could be used for planning administration grants, but it cannot be used for additional public services

Dumas: thank you

Driehaus: all right thank you so with that thank you all for coming is if it's okay with you but we're going to extend the hearing until Tuesday so if anybody else would like to come speak please let them know that but thank you all for coming it's very helpful to hear your perspectives in your support for the different agencies that are involved in the funding so and thank you to the folks that did the work to bring the recommendations forward so appreciate y'all coming I'm gonna give you all a minute to go unless you want to stay and we're going to move on to the rest of the agenda

Comments from May 21 Public Hearing

Joy Pierson gave an overview of the HUD grants the county receives. She then reiterated the recommendations of the CDAC from the previous meeting including a \$300,000 set aside for revamping the home repair program.

Ms. Denise Driehaus asked Joy to explain the geography limitations of the funding.

Ms. Pierson addressed the need to spend the funds in the county, outside the City of Cincinnati and in participating jurisdictions.

Ms. Driehaus asked director of Planning + Development, James Noyes, if he had anything to add.

Mr. Noyes mentioned a correction, commended the CDAC for the time they spent on the recommendations and reviewing applications. Mr. Noyes asked that the commissioners proceed with

the hearing so that everyone got an opportunity to speak and to call on him if he could provide information, otherwise Ms. Pierson would be available for explaining any detail.

Ms. Patricia Ling spoke on behalf of You Always Count Ministries application for affordable housing; She stated that their programs go unrecognized because they focus on the work and not on the reward.

Ms. Kelly Prather spoke on behalf of You Always Count Ministries application. She is the CEO of You Always Count ministries; She stated that there were issues with the receipt of her application and that she no longer had access to the work e-mail she had used to send the application on March 27th. She highlighted the organization's focus on reentry, homelessness and eviction. She pointed out that while her application was for sites inside the city that they have properties outside of the city that they are ready to invest in. She then related a story about the founder, her struggle with reentry and ultimately her death due to cervical cancer and related this to her experience now with breast cancer and the lack of services for African American women in this regard.

Ms. Driehaus stated that she did not have their application on the list of requests for funding and that she wanted to fix the disconnect in the submission process in the future so that her application went to the right people.

Ms. Prather stated that she had submitted from her employer's e-mail on March 27th.

Ms. Driehaus again mentioned the disconnect and wanting to fix this for future cycles.

Ms. Stephanie Summerow-Dumas asked Joy Pierson to verify whether the application had been received.

Ms. Pierson stated that she had no record of the application, that she had coordinated with the department's IT staff and that they had not been able to find any record of the e-mail either. Ms. Pierson had reviewed the application the night prior, after receiving it, and the request for 1.2 million dollars for 4 buildings would not be eligible under this RFP, instead they should seek to apply for HOME funds under the HOME Affordable Housing Development RFP.

Ms. Summerow-Dumas thanked Ms. Pierson for her clarifications.

Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Pierson how non-profits are able to follow-up on their applications if not receiving funding.

Ms. Pierson stated that the division holds a Q&A for all applicants after the awards are made. The Q&A includes members of the CDAC so that applicants can get feedback directly from the people making the decision. Ms. Pierson also indicated that we follow up with applicants with e-mail updates as the RFP process proceeds with information about whether they are recommended for funding or not and directing them to attend the public hearing if they want to advocate on behalf of their application in front of the commissioners. Overall there are several opportunities for communication during and after the process.

Ms. Driehaus asked if the division supplies any other feedback on applications or directs applicants to other sources of funding?

Ms. Pierson stated that the Q&A held after the awards was the major opportunity for feedback after the fact.

Mr. Mark Lawson spoke on behalf of the joint application made by CAA and Legal Aid. He addressed the need, innovative nature of this partnership, the increased capacity this program creates, and the impact on homelessness. Mr. Lawson pointed to the eviction crisis with Hamilton County having a 40% higher rate of eviction than the national average (12,000 per year). He mentioned his experience with these programs at Legal Aid and now working at CAA, he is able to combine the work of both agencies to innovate and create a one stop shop to prevent evictions. He mentioned that 99% of tenants facing eviction lose in court. Mr. Lawson stated that this funding would increase their capacity by allowing them to serve those above 125% of the poverty line, up to 80% of the area median income or roughly \$62,000 annual income for a family of four, effectively serving the working poor. This funding, \$150,000 would help 150 families avoid homelessness and remain in their homes and keep their jobs.

Stephon Pryor spoke on behalf of You Always Count Ministries. Mr. Pryor stated that You Always Count does great work and that he volunteers with them. He then talked about his belief that banks in the area had wasted money funding organizations that were taking funds without actually helping people. Mr. Pryor suggested that people listening should use Google to read more about the Cincinnati Reinvestment Fund. Mr. Pryor also cited the programs You Always Count operates to feed the homeless and give backpacks to kids as programs that show the great work the organization is doing in the community.

Crystal Davis spoke on behalf of You Always Count Ministries. She stated that the others have already said much of what she wanted to say. She mentioned the 40,000-unit affordable housing deficit in the County. She described her work history, non-profit finance for fifteen years, and current status as a doctoral student as well as her past experience growing up in OTR and the West End. She stated that the same organizations keep getting funded and that those funds are not really used for the people that really need it. She closed by discussed a project she was working on to help seniors with property tax delinquency issues.

Ms. Driehaus stated a desire to cast a wider net and to include more organizations and to improve the process each time we open the RFP. She welcomed suggestions of who should be contacted and asked that You Always Count Ministries stay after the meeting to speak with Ms. Pierson.

Ms. Driehaus motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Summerow-Dumas seconded the motion. The motion was carried without opposition.

Ms. Driehaus stated the commissions intent to vote on the recommendations Thursday, May 23, 2019.