

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

Hamilton County's PY 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report outlines the County's accomplishments in addressing its community development and housing goals and objectives through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs for the period of March 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

During this period, the County was able to complete 45 CDBG activities, 38 HOME housing units, and assisted XX persons in the ESG Program. The County also continued to make progress in expenditure of CDBG- CV funds. Overall, the County has made satisfactory progress on the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan goals despite market conditions and supply chain shortages that have delayed some capital improvement and housing activities.

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

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / ESG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	30000	27473	91.58%			
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / ESG: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	100	57	57.00%			

Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$/ HOME: \$/ ESG: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	150	59	39.33%			
Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$/ HOME: \$/ ESG: \$	Other	Other	0	650		300000	0	0.00%
Eliminate Slum/Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	30	12	40.00%	6	0	0%
Eliminate Slum/Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care	Household Housing Unit	30000	24097	80.32%			
Eliminate Slum/Blight	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	0	0		5000	0	0.00%
Fair Housing	Affordable Housing fair housing	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	125	68	54.40%			
Fair Housing	Affordable Housing fair housing	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	500	218	43.60%	1000	0	0.00%
Improve Quality of Life	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	200000	97475	48.74%	1500	0	0%
Improve Quality of Life	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	200	769	384.50%			

Improve Quality of Life	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	2000	273	13.65%	0	0	0.00%
Improve Quality of Life	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	0	8347		15000	0	0.00%
Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	3115		0	0	
Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	50	6	12.00%	8	0	0.00%
Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	250	248	99.20%	43	0	0.00%
Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	75	15	20.00%			
Provide Affordable Housing for Homeowners	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	0	0				
Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	500	10	2.00%	5	0	0.00%

Provide Affordable Housing for Renters	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	250	59	23.60%			
Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	40000	67193	167.98%	70000	6560	9.37%
Public Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		28000	0	0.00%
Public Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50000	88612	177.22%	80000	4920	6.15%
Public Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
Public Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5000	11275	225.50%			
Public Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	0	0		5	0	0.00%
Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	Homeless	ESG: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	1000	194	19.40%	300	0	0.00%

Serve Homeless Families and Reduce Homelessness	Homeless	ESG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	500	300	60.00%			
Spur Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	500	112	22.40%			
Spur Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	0	0		3	0	0.00%
Spur Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	21		6	0	0.00%
Spur Economic Development	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	0	2				

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

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

More than 95% of PY 2022 CDBG activities benefitted low to moderate income persons, exceeding the CDBG low to moderate income benefit 70% requirement. CDBG funds were allocated between community projects in the participating local governments and countywide programs. Several CDBG community facility activities and public services activities were completed, helping the County meet or exceed its goals in public infrastructure and improving quality of life categories.

In PY 2022, Hamilton County completed 1 senior center project, 8 parks and recreational facility improvement projects, 1 water/sewer improvement project, 2 street improvement projects, 2 sidewalk projects, 4 clearance and demolition projects, 1 tree planting project, and 2 other public improvement projects. Housing Rehabilitation assistance was provided to 93 homeowner households. CDBG funds were also used for public service programs to provide essential needs and support services such as senior service programs, food banks, legal services to

prevent eviction and foreclosure, rental assistance, housing counseling, and employment and training programs.

In the HOME program, the County completed multiple rental development project that resulted in 28 HOME units. Habitat for Humanity completed their construction of 6 single-family home units within Springfield Township. Homesteading and Urban Redevelopment Corporation (HURC) completed their construction of 4 units of single-family homes in Lincoln Heights. Affordable housing construction activities (and CDBG construction activities) continued to lag or be delayed due to labor and material shortages and construction cost increases. The County has multiple affordable rental housing projects and single-family affordable housing projects in predevelopment or construction phase.

Hamilton County completed 18 CDBG-CV activities that were started during the PY 2020 year and continued to expend its allocation of ESG -CV funds for homeless programs to respond to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME	ESG
White	194,600	4	
Black or African American	167,394	23	
Asian	17,509	0	
American Indian or American Native	956	0	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	850	0	
Total	420,432	28	
Hispanic	100,797	0	
Not Hispanic	319,635	28	

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

Narrative

Since there is no multi-racial data entry field in the eCon Planning Suite, the totals under the race and ethnicity tables will not match.

Under ESG, included in the sum but not in the chart are **XX** people who reported as multiple races. Under CDBG there are an additional 39,123 who are included in the sum that reported as multiple races. Under HOME there is an additional individual who is included in the sum that reported as multiple races.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	3,443,333	3,274,117.33
HOME	public - federal	1,702,181	1,889,783.19
ESG	public - federal	289,593	289,593
Other	public - federal	0	0

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Grant resources for the three entitlement grants (CDBG, HOME, and ESG) as described in the County's PY 2022 Annual Action Plan totaled \$ 5,358,927. Please note that the CDBG resources include \$3,367,153 in CDBG entitlement funds and \$76,180.37 in CDBG program income. The County drew down \$5,453,383 across all three entitlements.

The County received \$4,364,567 in CDBG CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds and \$2,871,898 in ESG CARES Act (ESG-CV) funds in PY 2019 to respond to the pandemic. To date, Hamilton County has expended \$3,782,435.25 of CDBG-CV funds, and in PY 2022 completed 18 CDBG-CV activities.

ESG-CV funding is reported quarterly in SAGE as required by HUD. Quarterly reports include all financial expenditures detailed by component and activity, narratives on both unique and standard eligible ESG programming, and performance reporting (including outcome and output data) for 100% of expenditures and participants served with the funding.

In 2022, Hamilton County ESG-CV funding supported:

- Strategies to End Homelessness' Homelessness Prevention program, operated in collaboration with Freestore Foodbank, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Bethany House Services to reduce the number of people entering onto the already-overwhelmed homelessness system
- Temporarily expanded emergency shelter capacity for singles during the coldest months (aka "Winter Shelter") in a non-congregate setting to reduce the likelihood of participants and staff contracting or spreading COVID-19.
- Increased expenses for existing capacity for emergency shelter for families transferred to a non-congregate setting to reduce the likelihood of participants and staff contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Hamilton County allows all communities to request funds for eligible activities that align with the Consolidated Plan in each three-year cycle.

Leveraging

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

The County did not incur a HOME liability match for PY 2022 as this was waived by HUD. In 2022, projects were smaller, and leverage was only \$2 to every \$1 in CDBG funding. All non-admin HOME funds have been invested in affordable housing projects since 2016. Since then, \$6,279,178 in HOME funds have leveraged \$143,285,578 in investments or \$22.82 per \$1 in HOME funds and 625 housing units have been funded. In 2020 and 2021 leverage was smaller due to COVID related market issues resulting in leverage of \$15.50 for every \$1 dollar in HOME funding.

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

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated Labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

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

Table 7 – Program Income

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

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

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

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

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

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

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

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	300	
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	56	
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	
Total	356	

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	XX
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	13	18
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	43	10
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	56	

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

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

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including supply chain shortages and construction delays continued to affect housing production and goals. **Rental assistance was provided to XX homeless households through the ESG Rapid Rehousing Program.**

HOME funds supported the rehabilitation of Marianna Terrace in Lincoln Heights: this project included the rehabilitation of a 74-unit multifamily building, of which 10 multi-family rental units were HOME-assisted units.

HOME funding also supported the new construction of Wayne Lofts: this project included construction of a 58-unit multifamily building, of which 10 multi-family rental units were HOME-assisted units. Additionally, HOME funding supported the new construction of Freedom Homes: this project included construction of 8 accessible housing rental units for individuals with disabilities, all of which were HOME-assisted units.

In addition, CARES funding provided additional help for additional public services.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The County will continue to balance the priorities of the Consolidated Plan along with CARES Act funding received to respond to the pandemic. HOME-ARP funds will provide an additional source of funding to address housing needs for qualified populations.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income		
Low-income		
Moderate-income		
Total		

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Hamilton County provided CDBG assistance to low-income families for various essential services and programs such as the food bank, emergency shelter services, eviction prevention and foreclosure prevention, housing rehabilitation, senior services, rent and utility assistance, and housing counseling. The Housing Repair Services program completed critical or emergency heat and/or air conditioning repairs for 20 eligible households.

Under the HOME Program, the County completed 28 HOME rental assistance units and 10 single-family homes. The County has several HOME projects that are were awarded 2022 HOME funds, which are currently in pre-development and development phases, including:

- Habitat for Humanity – construction of six single-family homes – \$400,000
- Homesteading and Urban Redevelopment Corporation – construction of four single-family homes – \$300,000
- Episcopal Retirement Services Affordable Living LLC – construction of 48 apartment units for seniors, 11 of which are HOME-assisted units – \$1,000,000
- Victory Vistas LLC – construction of 50 apartment units for seniors, two of which are HOME-assisted units

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

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

The Homeless Outreach Group (HOG) is a group of outreach providers who meet monthly to discuss best practices. This group also has a closed session in which providers monitor and discuss chronically homeless and/or high-risk individuals and families to ensure they are prioritized for housing coordination according to policy guidelines. Representatives from both the Cincinnati Police Department and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department regularly attend the meetings. Currently, there are three agencies with four programs and 10 full-time outreach workers listed below that provide outreach services to those experiencing homelessness:

- Lighthouse Youth Services works with youth ages 18 to 24 experiencing unsheltered homelessness;
- Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health's PATH Team connects people living in unsheltered situations suffering from mental illness to needed services and operates a program, GeneroCITY513 (formerly operated by Block by Block) specifically focusing on persons experiencing homelessness in the downtown area of Cincinnati; and
- The Veteran Administration employs two dedicated street outreach workers to house veterans living in places not meant for human habitation.

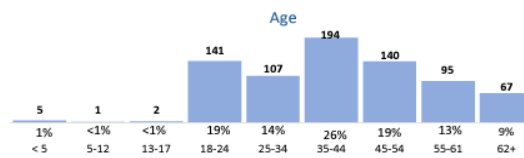
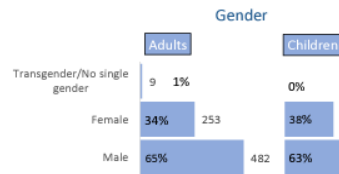
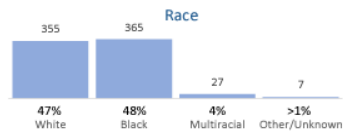
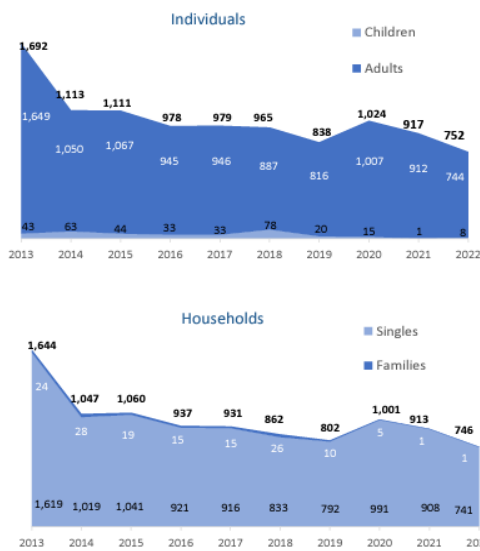
Housing and supportive services are marketed to people experiencing homelessness through these street outreach programs, a centralized intake service (the Centralized Access Point, or "CAP") which works to connect people experiencing a housing crisis to appropriate services, and seventeen different shelter diversion, emergency shelter, and transitional housing programs. The Homeless Outreach Workgroup members collaborate at monthly meetings to ensure that each person living on the streets is engaged in outreach services and is then connected to appropriate resources and programs.

Strategies to End Homelessness currently operates the Coordinated Access system which has three parts: Central Access Point (CAP), Coordinated Entry, and Coordinated Exit. CAP is the intake and assessment point for the Shelter Diversion Program as well as for emergency shelters and transitional housing projects. The Coordinated Entry System which prioritizes housing referrals started in January 2016 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 shelters. Through a series of questions, the assessment assists in determining which housing intervention would best meet the household's housing needs. STEH employs full-time 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 matches the demand. A Coordinated Entry workgroup meets monthly to ensure that the system is following best practices and adequately serving the people in the community with housing needs. Coordinated Exit is the final stage of the Coordinated Access system. This stage addresses substantial community collaboration to ensure that individuals and families have access to the necessities to remain housed. Upon permanent housing and linkage to services, individuals and families can be successfully exited from the system.

In March of 2021, Strategies to End Homelessness released Street Reach, an online application for Android or iOS, which allows people in the community to report people experiencing homelessness to our Central Access Point (CAP) Helpline Intake Specialists. The report includes a general description of the person/persons and a location. CAP Intake Specialists send a trained Street Outreach Worker to that location to check on them and help them start their journey back to stable housing.

Strategies to End Homelessness with the support of partnering CoC agencies have also integrated the development of a new vulnerability assessment tool. Currently, the VI-SPDAT is used to address the needs of those who are unsheltered or in emergency shelters. However, the development of the new tool is a result of Racial Equity concerns centered on systemic barriers that often reduce access to services and housing for BIPOC individuals. The new tool will be used to foster better engagement for all individuals and families in Hamilton County. Strategies to End Homelessness has amplified the voices of Persons with Lived Experience- PWLX (in homelessness) to assist with creating the tool. Efforts to expand best practice to address the needs of all county residents have also been exemplified in the creation of a PWLX Workgroup and Racial Equity Workgroup.

STREET OUTREACH: 752 INDIVIDUALS



Street Outreach

Community Solutions/ Built for Zero

In June of 2021, a team of community partners began working with Community Solutions, a nationally recognized non-profit organization that helps communities use data and system modeling in responding to homelessness. Community Solutions worked with the team to set goals. A primary goal agreed upon by the group was to exit 70% of the unsheltered population to positive destinations by June of 2023. The group determined that the strategic drivers to achieve these goals included using data to drive improvement, case conferencing with community partners to increase speed to housing, ensuring people remain housed after assisting them in exiting from homelessness and engaging leadership and other stakeholders in the community to support the efforts of the team. The success of the Community Solutions Built for Zero program has been driven by new policies for at-risk and chronically homeless

individuals and a substantial decrease in chronically homeless individuals experiencing street homelessness in the Downtown Cincinnati area. The program is set to expand throughout Hamilton County in 2023/2024.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

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

As a result of the Homeless to Homes Plan (2009), the Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative was formed to reconfigure the existing shelter capacity to serve the unique needs of the homeless population most effectively. 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.

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

- Lighthouse's Sheakley Center for Youth, which opened in January 2012, has shelter beds for homeless men and women aged 18 to 24. The Sheakley Center moved locations in early 2018 and increased bed capacity from 28 to 36.
- Talbert House has been operating the Parkway Center since July 2012. The facility on Central Parkway is a 60-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 72-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.

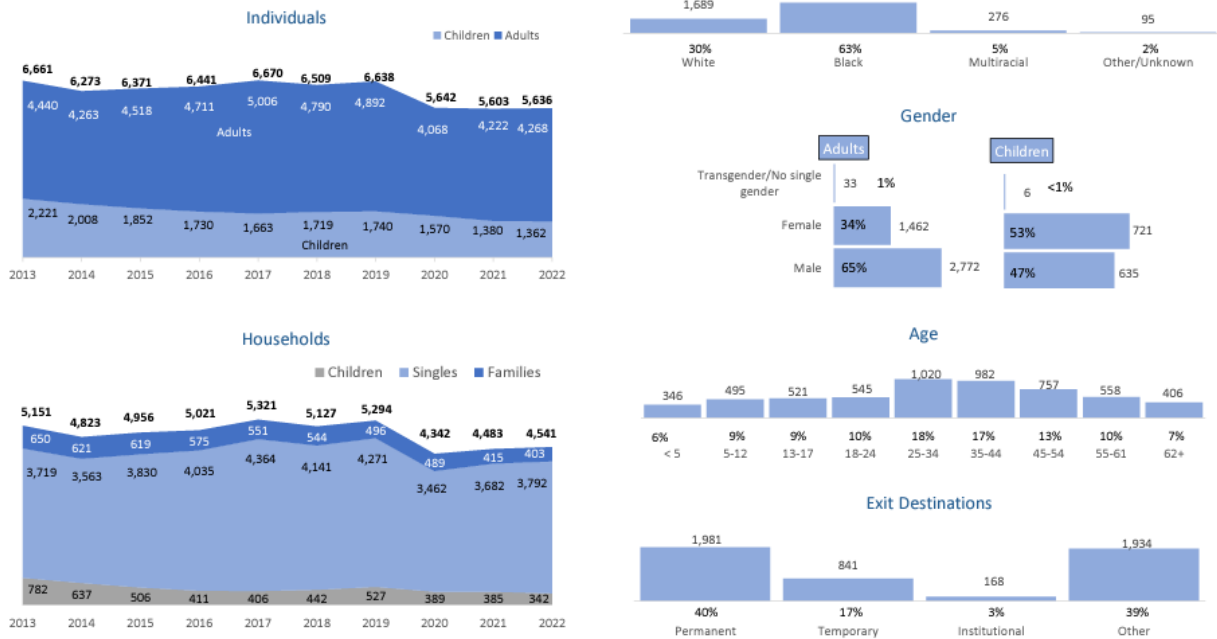
As part of the Solutions for Family Homelessness plan, the Family Housing Partnership (made up of Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Salvation Army, and YWCA Greater Cincinnati) is reevaluating current case management models to determine how to best serve homeless families. The group piloted a "cross-system case management" model in 2017 which allowed for a more seamless transition in case management when a family moves from homelessness into housing. In 2018 the group expanded after-care case management to ensure that families are maintaining stability in housing.

It is a community requirement that emergency shelters funded with ESG dollars operate with minimum barriers to entry. The CoC is focused on improving shelter policies and aligning the system to ensure that all people in need of emergency shelter can access the resource.

The federal government continues to prioritize Rapid Re-housing over Transitional Housing models, so the community has decreased transitional housing capacity over the years. STEH and the Homeless Clearinghouse agree with the continued strategy to increase permanent housing opportunities and

phase out transitional housing except for some specific substance abuse treatment and domestic violence programs. The YWCA began operating a new CoC-funded joint transitional housing and rapid re-housing project in 2018, which allows those who are fleeing domestic violence to have an immediate transitional housing option until they are ready or able to move into rapid re-housing in the private rental market. In 2018, the YWCA was awarded CoC bonus funding to expand the project and began operating that project in July 2019.

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND SAFE HAVEN: 5,636 INDIVIDUALS



Emergency Shelter

ESG-CV

In 2019- 2021, several agencies that typically operate congregate emergency shelters and transitional housing operated ESG-CV-funded temporary shelter capacity at area hotels/motels in response to COVID-19. This aided in the prevention of the spread and infection of the virus. The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County work together to plan for the use of stimulus funding to help emergency shelters reconfigure their space to allow for more social distancing within their facilities. This provided for a safer environment, but also a more dignified experience for persons experiencing homelessness. While construction was being planned for and underway, and while vaccines were not available to very young children, a large percentage of persons seeking emergency shelter were provided services in hotels/motels.

As a result of the response coordinated by the CoC and administering ESG-CV funds, the CoC has addressed Hamilton County about the trending changes in homelessness services outlining the need for expanded prevention services and non-congregated shelters. ESG-CV funding has redirected the attention of service providers and best practice to administer 2022 ESG funding.

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

Discharge Planning activities are coordinated with State level departments. The following outlines protocol for each discharge plan area:

Foster Care

Each public children's service 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 on 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 evaluate 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

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 persons 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.

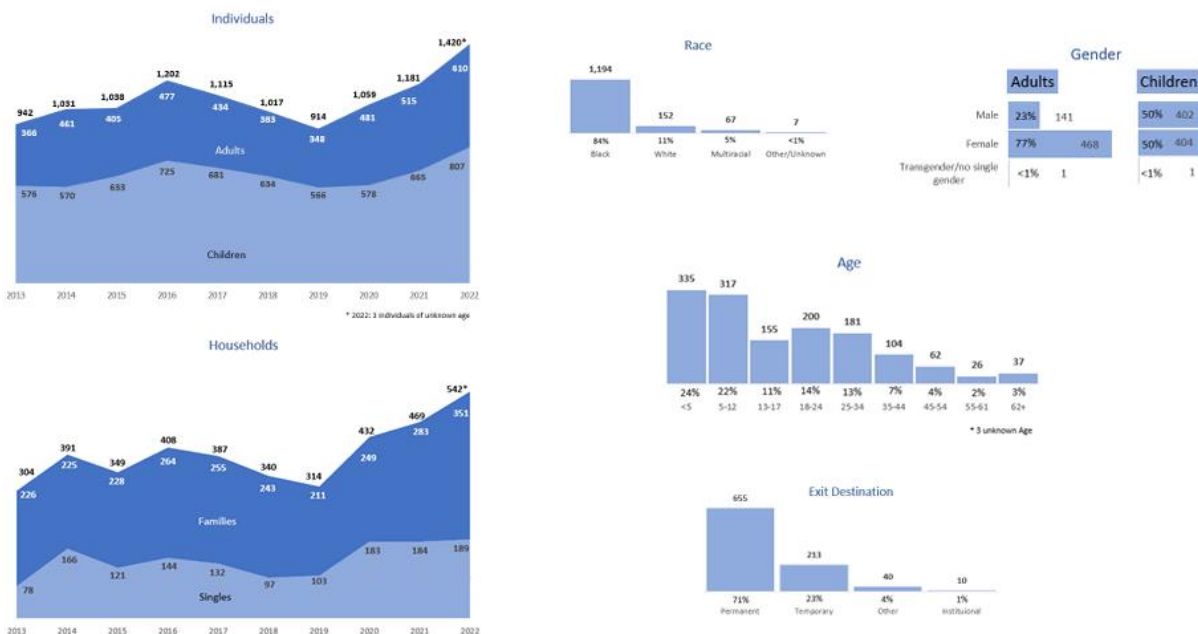
Homeless Prevention

Strategies to End Homelessness collaborates with three partner agencies for the homeless prevention program, known as Shelter Diversion. When households contact the Centralized 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) and is appropriate for the program (screening indicates they will, in fact, be entering shelter without assistance) 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 deposit, rental, and utility arrears, along with current rental and utility payments. The goal is to stabilize households within 3 months; however, some households require assistance beyond the 3-month target.

Of the households who exited the program in 2022, 24% increased their income. In addition, in 2022, 71% of households exited to positive housing outcomes. And, of the households that exited the prior year, 96% of them did not become homeless in 2022. This outcome has seen a major improvement over 2017's percentage of 83%. Hamilton County ESG funds and Ohio Department Services Agency funding,

along with United Way funds, provide direct financial assistance to support the program. This type of programming is a high priority. CAP also screens Veterans for the VAs Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) grant operated by Talbert House. This program serves Veterans and their households who are at risk of becoming homeless. Both case management and short-term financial assistance are provided for the household to increase stability and prevent homelessness. All the Shelter Diversion and SSVF agencies are required to contribute data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system. When CAP screens callers, all of the client's information is recorded in a centralized system, then an electronic referral is completed for the appropriate program.

SHELTER DIVERSION: 1,420 INDIVIDUALS



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

The 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 a variety of housing resources so that households can access appropriate 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/homelessness prevention activities have continued:

- Local and State of Ohio ESG and ESG-CV, City of Cincinnati General Funds, TANF, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and United Way funding are being used to divert 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, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, three Emergency Assistance agencies, and Strategies to End Homelessness. Risk factors considered for inclusion in this program include the immediacy of the 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 administers a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) prevention program that prevents homelessness for veterans and their families.

Improved Services:

The recommendations and improvements for emergency shelter services that have been implemented as a part of the Homeless to Homes initiative (described above) have significantly raised the level of daytime and case management services being offered to single individuals within the shelter system. The Solutions for Family Homelessness Plan, released in October 2015, 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 is in alignment with the goals of the federal government. The Cross System Case Management pilot began in April of 2017 and the family shelter system continues extensive training on Trauma Informed Care Training series to re-train all case managers on case management best practice. Several case managers have been certified as Trauma Informed Care trainers so that there is no gap in service when staff turns over. Additionally, the family homelessness system has identified a need for increased aftercare support for families exiting emergency shelters and housing programs. They have recently implemented consistent aftercare strategies to ensure longer-term housing stability and decrease the number of households that re-enter homelessness.

Housing

Housing: Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a nationally recognized best practice for quickly ending episodes of homelessness in a cost-effective and effective way. **RRH has become a high priority in our community and in 2022 the CoC had: XX CoC-funded RRH projects; XX multi-component CoC-funded Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) projects; 1 County ESG funded family RRH project; XX City ESG funded RRH projects; X TANF-funded RRH project (up to 4 months of assistance); XX Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) funded RRH projects; and XX joint component CoC TH/RRH projects, two of which are for survivors of domestic violence.** 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 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, and veteran homelessness are all priorities that are in alignment with HUD goals. The Coordinated Entry system continues to evolve to ensure that the system is in alignment with HUD requirements, following national best practice models, and is relevant to the needs of our local community. In 2020, COVID-19 risk factors were incorporated into prioritization criteria. Also, in 2021, the community continued to work with Racial Equity Partners consulting to assess racial disparity in homelessness services, including the Coordinated Entry process.

Housing Prioritization - As a result of the HEARTH Act and its subsequent CoC and ESG program interim rule, 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 initially developed and implemented these policies and procedures in 2013 and have updated them accordingly to be consistent with HUD guidance and community needs. Strategies to End Homelessness monitors compliance with these policies in annual monitoring visits. All community policies are presented at least annually for review and approval by the CoC Board and subsequently the entire CoC during the annual Governance meeting. Targeting PSH to the Chronically Homeless - All PSH Programs prioritize available housing for chronically homeless individuals and families. The CoC continues to prioritize housing for the chronically homeless aligning with the national benchmarks and criteria established by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Housing First - 100% RRH and 98% of PSH projects within the CoC operate under Housing First principles which means 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 around the client and specific to the client's needs and wishes. 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.

Additional programming has also been implemented by Strategies to End Homeless to better serve property managers in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and expand access to equitable and affordable housing. RentConnect reduces homelessness while affording property owners more rental income opportunities. The concept of this program increases the likelihood of establishing positive outcomes for permanent housing amongst those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Benefits for property owners include financial incentives for reliable rent payments, lease signing, and referral bonuses/holding fees. The use of Padmission- a free and easy-to-use marketing platform. Funding for Padmission is donated by Anthem. Wraparound support services for all program participants to achieve goals and maintain stability in housing and lower vacancy rates.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

County funds were awarded \$500,000 in 2019 and 2020 funds to CMHA to complete the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) conversion of 70 units of public housing to project-based section eight at Marianna Terrace in Lincoln Heights.

CMHA and County staff are actively involved with Affordable Housing Advocates of Greater Cincinnati (AHA), our local group of housing advocates, as well as the Housing Our Future County Wide Housing Strategy Executive Committee. County staff also served on the West End Choice Neighborhood Advisory Committee and Housing Subcommittee during 2021 and 2022. The majority of public housing is located in the City of Cincinnati. The County's role is often to share information, such as CARES funding updates, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program details. County staff remain engaged to share information and to provide feedback to the CMHA Action Plan.

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

CMHA hosts an annual Homeownership Fair where families are connected to agents, lenders, home ownership counseling professionals, and other organizations to guide them through the home ownership process. The Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership and Family Self Sufficiency programs continue to be strongly promoted. The Family Self Sufficiency Program links CMHA residents to several supportive programs such as job training, educational opportunities, homeownership training/counseling, financial literacy, counseling, after school programs, childcare, health care, housekeeping services, and English as a Second Language.

CMHA is moving to convert public housing units to project-based section 8 properties; this changes the role of the residents in management; under traditional public housing, resident advisory boards are required for each property. This is not required for RAD properties. During 2020 and early 2021, CMHA's homeownership program was inactive; part of the reason is the lack of adequate supply of homes on the market. Providing services via social distancing and/or zoom was difficult as well. CMHA does have three programs for self-sufficiency including:

- M.O.V.E. Program
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Additional information can be found at their website: cintimha.com

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

CMHA is not a troubled public housing authority.

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

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

In 2019, the Greater Cincinnati Local Initiative (LISC) and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation spearheaded an effort with over 200 stakeholders and residents to address issues related to barriers to affordable housing. The end resulted in a report called "Housing Our Future" which can be found here: <https://www.lisc.org/greater-cincinnati/what-we-do/housing-our-future/>. It includes over 100 strategies to preserve existing housing stock, produce more affordable housing and protect vulnerable residents and communities.

County staff and leadership have been engaged in this process and is working to implement the appropriate strategies with our partners.

Partially as a result of the Housing Our Future plan, the County has funded multiple community-specific housing action plans. These plans take Housing Our Future data and themes and do a deeper dive into community-specific issues to find potential actions to effect change and preserve, protect, and produce affordable housing.

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

The County has limited funding for addressing underserved needs. We work with other agencies and other departments to maximize our funding. For example, we contract with Housing Opportunities Made Equal to address fair housing and housing mobility programs. We work with the City of Cincinnati, CMHA, and Affordable Housing Advocates of Greater Cincinnati to address affordable housing needs in the region.

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

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; in 2020, they provided 5 assessments.

Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) 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 aged 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. Beginning in January 2021, the HCPH began a \$3 million HUD Healthy Homes Grant with \$300,000 in CDBG matching funds, \$100,000 per year, to focus on 8 communities – Cheviot, Colerain Township, Elmwood Place, Lincoln Heights, Lockland, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, and St. Bernard. With this funding, HCPH will establish a comprehensive program to identify and control lead-based paint hazards and reduce the likelihood of elevated blood lead levels among children under the age of six within eligible privately-owned rental or owner-occupied housing throughout Hamilton County. HCPH will also perform lead-based paint remediation and abatement in 97 units in HCPH’s jurisdiction during this three-year program term.

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

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. In 2022, the County used CDBG, HOME and ESG funds to provide services to poverty level families including: emergency food services, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing programs, free homeowner repairs, modifications to housing for those with disabilities, seniors’ services, as well as foreclosure prevention.

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

Housing Action Plans – The County began a new program where we contracted with a consultant (LISC along with CBI) to conduct housing action plans for communities who volunteer for the process. The purpose is to take a deeper community-level dive using the Housing Our Future framework to assess the current housing conditions and related factors and then provide recommended action steps to address the community-specific issues. Part of what is analyzed is each community’s capacity and who the most relevant and helpful partners will be to help them implement some of the strategies.

Mini Grants – The county has continued to offer the competitive Mini-Grant program, which helps provide local communities with the capacity to plan for impactful projects for their 3-year requests or the Community and Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAP).

CEDAP – The Community and Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAP) is another competitive program. This program provides communities with a way to apply for larger projects that will create or retain jobs or otherwise foster economic development.

Hamilton County Community Development is a division of the Planning + Development Department. In 2022, we continued to work closely with our Community Planning Division and met regularly to share updates on all communities participating in the CDBG program. We awarded mini-grants for planning projects using an RFP for up to \$40,000 and a total of \$100K per year. Community Development is working with Alloy and the Community Planning Division to identify and meet needs of low-capacity communities. Our departments all have separate but related missions, so it is important that we collaborate to ensure we are serving the communities as efficiently as possible.

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

County staff work to stay connected with other organizations providing housing and related services in the region, state, and country. They were very active in the following organizations monthly: the Homeless Clearinghouse through CoC; Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition; and the Affordable Housing Advocates. Statewide, county staff is active with the Ohio Conference for Community Development and statewide HUD meetings. Nationally, staff attend conferences and workshops hosted by the National Community Development Association (NCDA), National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED), Ohio CDC Association (OCDCA), National Development Council (NDC), and other organizations. We have been building stronger partnerships with housing partners such as Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Network of Hamilton County, the Model Group, and AHA member organizations.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is organized on a year-round basis to include a number of working groups whose role is to coordinate services and housing for their specific group of clients, improve access to mainstream resources and benefits, and facilitate improvements in systems needed by the homeless. Each of the working groups meets monthly. These working groups are divided as follows: Family Homelessness workgroup, Data workgroup, Homeless Outreach workgroup, Permanent Supportive Housing workgroup, Transitional Housing workgroup, Rapid Re-housing workgroup, Veteran's workgroup, and the Coordinated Entry workgroup. A representative of each work group, along with representatives from the following entities are seated on the CoC Board: homeless education liaison, Healthcare for the Homeless, Veteran's Services, homeless coalition, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Victim Services Provider, ESG subrecipients, agency executive directors, City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, UFA/HMIS Lead agency, and at least one homeless or formerly homeless community member. The CoC Board meets monthly to oversee planning, coordinate efforts, and monitor progress on the goals of the consolidated plan.

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

We have included an update to the actions to overcome impediments to fair housing in the attachments.

In 2020, Community Development partnered with the City of Cincinnati and contracted with the Community Building Institute of Xavier University to conduct a robust, impartial, and substantive analysis of impediments to fair housing. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing was presented to several county wide organizations such as AHA, MARCC, First Suburbs, and the Housing Our Future Steering Committee. No new impediments to fair housing choice were identified in 2022.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

Previously, Hamilton County monitored all CDBG, HOME and ESG programs at least once every two years. With the development of HOME policies and procedures, monitoring of these programs will occur at least annually. With CDBG funded projects, monitoring will vary by type of project or activity but generally will be conducted at least once per year. This includes file monitoring / desk reviews, on-site inspections, and review of financial audits. When new housing repair improvement programs are instituted, we monitor applications for services for up to three months to make sure the subrecipients are properly screening clients. The County ensures that the regional minority newspaper, the Cincinnati Herald, is used for 100% of HUD public notices, legal advertisements and bid solicitations. We work with CMHA and the City of Cincinnati for our Section 3 program and database. 100% of HUD funded construction and demolition projects solicit MBE and Section 3 participation. The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan processes are followed to ensure comprehensive planning requirements are met.

The ESG funding is monitored by Hamilton County at least annually with intermittent desk reviews. The RRH and homelessness prevention grants are monitored by Strategies to End Homelessness, Inc. (STEH), a subrecipient for the administration of these grants with Hamilton County. Monthly RRH invoicing includes a remote monitoring of dollars expended by provider agencies, matching spending to the approved budget allocations and to HUD allowable expenditures. Annual on-site monitoring visits are conducted of each program by STEH. Monitoring tools used are calibrated annually with the HUD field office monitoring tools to ensure consistency with HUD requirements. At the beginning of each fiscal year, STEH completes a standard risk assessment for each federally funded program and determines the annual monitoring plan based on those results. This plan is flexible and is changed when needs arise within the community. STEH does a second risk assessment immediately prior to each agency monitoring to determine a monitoring plan specific to that agency. STEH employs a Finance Assistant, Program Coordinator and Housing Specialist all dedicated to the Shelter Diversion program. All financial payments are reviewed and approved before checks are processed and all units meet habitability standards and are certified as rent reasonable before payments are made.

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

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

The CAPER was made available to the public for review and comment from September 11, 2023, through September 25, 2023. The County purchased legal advertisements in the Cincinnati Enquirer and Cincinnati Herald to notify the public that they can access the CAPER document in County offices and on the County website. This notice was also sent to all Hamilton County CDBG participating jurisdictions on September 11, 2023.

We published the public notice on our website on September 11, 2023, along with a copy of the CAPER with the statement that any comments received through September 25, 2023, would be included in the submission to HUD.

Hamilton County website:

http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/departments/community_development/cd_public_notices/

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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

Small changes were made in funding as projects closed with a balance and/or needed additional funds to complete. All changes are documented in the attachments via Actions Taken documents signed by the County Administrator.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

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

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

Onsite inspections were not conducted in 2022 due to the pandemic and lack of staff capacity. After complete team turnover, the leaders of Hamilton County Planning + Development Department worked diligently to reestablish the Community Development Division. As a result, Community Development now has a new team consisting of an Administrator and four Program Managers who have built a strong, collaborative Division over the past year. As a result, monitoring has resumed in 2023.

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

Hamilton County informed the general public by referencing the County's policy in information related to the HOME Program and informed developers by requiring use of this policy in the selection of homeowners for their units.

Participating property owners or developers are required to make information on the availability of units known through any of the following: advertisements in the Cincinnati Herald, if the owner ordinarily advertises available rentals or homes in news media; notifying the agency Housing Opportunities Made Equal concerning the availability of rental units; notifying the Greater Cincinnati Home Ownership Center concerning the availability of homeownership units; placing an Equal Housing Opportunity poster in a highly visible location in the building to be rented or sold; making brochures or informational leaflets available online and through various minority organizations and faith-based organizations; if there is a Limited English Proficient (LEP) population, translate marketing material to serve the relevant population, work with language minority-owned print media, radio, and television stations, partner with faith-based and community organizations that serve newly arrived immigrants, and conduct marketing activities at adult-education training centers or during English as Second Language (ESL) classes. The County's practice includes examining records from developers prior to paying final invoices for the projects completed. The demographic data for renters and homeowners should represent the diversity of the County's population; if not, corrective action may be undertaken.

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

The County did not receive or use any HOME Program Income for projects in PY 2022.

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

Hamilton County has used 100% of its HOME funds for affordable housing development projects since 2016. In 2016, two Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects were funded, including Maple Knoll Meadows in Springdale and West Union Square in Colerain Township; and

in 2017, one Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) project was funded, 821 Flats. In 2018, the County and City funded Logan Tower with 60 units of housing, including 30 units of permanent supportive housing. In 2020, the County awarded funding to three LIHTC projects, two 9% projects by MVAH (formerly known as Miller Valentine Affordable Housing) in Colerain Township and Woodlawn and one 4% project by CMHA in Lincoln Heights. The Woodlawn and Lincoln Heights projects were awarded funds. In 2021, HOME funds were awarded to projects such as Melrose Place Interfaith Hospitality Network for the development of a 26-unit permanent supportive housing project and Housing Network Freedom Homes Housing Development to develop 8 units of housing for persons with developmental disabilities. PY 2022 HOME funding was awarded to three projects throughout the County: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati's new construction project of single-family homes in Springfield Township and Lockland; Homesteading & Urban Redevelopment Corporation's (HURC) new construction project of single-family homes in Lincoln Heights; and Episcopal Retirement Services' Pedretti Place project of new construction of rental multifamily housing for seniors.

CR-58 – Section 3

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

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

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					
Other.					

Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

Hamilton County staff members have been working with the subrecipients, developers, and contractors to educate them about the changes to the Section 3 program. Many of Hamilton County's projects were already active prior to the changes to Section 3 and therefore labor hours of Section 3 workers were not collected. Hamilton County has incorporated the new Section 3

Program requirements into all its construction procurement documents to ensure that we can adequately report and count all Section 3 hours and Section 3 training and outreach efforts for each project. Hamilton County created a template Section 3 Plan tool to help subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors comply with the Section 3 requirements and achieve the Section 3 goals. It is intended to be a plan to guide parties through implementation of the Section 3 requirements.

CR-60 - ESG 91.520(g) (ESG Recipients only)

ESG Supplement to the CAPER in *e-snaps* For Paperwork Reduction Act

1. Recipient Information—All Recipients Complete

Basic Grant Information

Recipient Name	HAMILTON COUNTY
Organizational DUNS Number	134718100
UEI	
EIN/TIN Number	316000063
Identify the Field Office	COLUMBUS
Identify CoC(s) in which the recipient or subrecipient(s) will provide ESG assistance	

ESG Contact Name

Prefix	Ms
First Name	Maria
Middle Name	
Last Name	Collins
Suffix	
Title	Community Development Administrator

ESG Contact Address

Street Address 1	138 E Court St
Street Address 2	Room 1002
City	Cincinnati
State	OH
ZIP Code	45202-
Phone Number	5139468234
Extension	
Fax Number	
Email Address	Maria.Collins@hamilton-co.org

ESG Secondary Contact

Prefix	Ms
First Name	LaChe
Last Name	Roach
Suffix	
Title	Program Manager
Phone Number	5139468230
Extension	
Email Address	Lache.Roach@hamilton-co.org

2. Reporting Period—All Recipients Complete

Program Year Start Date	03/01/2022
Program Year End Date	06/30/2023

3a. Subrecipient Form – Complete one form for each subrecipient

Subrecipient or Contractor: Name Strategies to End Homelessness

City: Cincinnati

State: Ohio

Zip Code: 45206-2859

DUNS Number: 826936051

UEI:

Is subrecipient a victim services provider: N

Subrecipient Organization Type: Other Non-Profit Organization

ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount: 289593

CR-65 - Persons Assisted

4. Persons Served

4a. Complete for Homelessness Prevention Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 16 – Household Information for Homeless Prevention Activities

4b. Complete for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 17 – Household Information for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

4c. Complete for Shelter

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 18 – Shelter Information

4d. Street Outreach

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 19 – Household Information for Street Outreach

4e. Totals for all Persons Served with ESG

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	
Children	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 20 – Household Information for Persons Served with ESG

5. Gender—Complete for All Activities

Gender	Total
Male	
Female	
Transgender	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 21 – Gender Information

6. Age—Complete for All Activities

Age	Total
Under 18	
18-24	
25 and over	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	
Missing Information	
Total	

Table 22 – Age Information

7. Special Populations Served—Complete for All Activities

Number of Persons in Households

Subpopulation	Total	Total Persons Served – Prevention	Total Persons Served – RRH	Total Persons Served in Emergency Shelters
Veterans				
Victims of Domestic Violence				
Elderly				
HIV/AIDS				
Chronically Homeless				

Persons with Disabilities:				
Severely Mentally Ill				
Chronic Substance Abuse				
Other Disability				
Total (unduplicated if possible)				

Table 23 – Special Population Served

CR-70 – ESG 91.520(g) - Assistance Provided and Outcomes

10. Shelter Utilization

Number of New Units – Rehabbed	
Number of New Units – Conversion	
Total Number of bed - nighths available	
Total Number of bed - nights provided	
Capacity Utilization %	

Table 24 – Shelter Capacity

11. Project Outcomes Data measured under the performance standards developed in consultation with the CoC(s)

Project outcomes measured for the ESG programs are in line with the Annual Performance Report outcomes measured for the CoC programs. See Attachment: 2021 ESG CAPER Report. The ESG Rapid Rehousing Project is evaluated on: the percentage of persons exiting to Permanent Housing; percentage of persons re-entering homelessness; percentage of adults who maintain or increase employment at exit; and percentage of adults who maintain or increase income at exit, etc.

The percentage of persons with positive housing exits from shelter; length of stay in shelter; and percentage of persons returning to homelessness are the outcomes evaluated for the shelters. The allocation process for ESG shelter funds is a community process that uses both outcomes information and community input to determine final recommendations to the City of Cincinnati. Those programs with the highest outcomes start with a greater allocation of ESG Shelter funds and the amount may be adjusted based on community feedback. The City of Cincinnati participates in this community process and the outcomes used for evaluation are revised at least annually.

CR-75 – Expenditures

11. Expenditures

11a. ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	117,310		
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	16,702		
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	37,689		
Expenditures for Homeless Prevention under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0		
Subtotal Homelessness Prevention	171,701		

Table 25 – ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

11b. ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	62,069		
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	7,255		
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	21,049		
Expenditures for Homeless Assistance under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0		
Subtotal Rapid Re-Housing	90,373		

Table 26 – ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

11c. ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Essential Services	0		
Operations	0		
Renovation	0		
Major Rehab	0		
Conversion	0		
Subtotal	0		

Table 27 – ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

11d. Other Grant Expenditures

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Street Outreach	0		
HMIS	0		
Administration	8,803		

Table 28 - Other Grant Expenditures

11e. Total ESG Grant Funds

Total ESG Funds Expended	2020	2021	2022
	270,877		

Table 29 - Total ESG Funds Expended

11f. Match Source

	2020	2021	2022
Other Non-ESG HUD Funds	0		
Other Federal Funds	0		
State Government	0		
Local Government	0		
Private Funds	0		
Other	99,176		
Fees	0		
Program Income	0		
Total Match Amount	99,176		

Table 30 - Other Funds Expended on Eligible ESG Activities

11g. Total

Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities	2020	2021	2022
	370,053		

Table 31 - Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities