

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Bristol, Virginia is part of the Kingsport-Bristol VA-Bristol TN Metropolitan Statistical Area in Southwest Virginia/Northeast Tennessee. The City of Bristol Virginia has an overall poverty rate of 17.2% (2020 5-year ACS) with a negative population change of 4% from 2010-2020. The City has five census tract blocks that exceed LMI (80% AMI) rates of 50%. The housing stock in Bristol trends older compared to the market area and southwest region. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the housing stock in the City was built prior to 1990, 35% prior to 1960. City-wide, the Median Household Income is only 46%, or less than half, of that of the Commonwealth of Virginia (\$43,879 compared to \$80,879). Per capita income in the City is \$27,868 which compares very unfavorably with the state (\$43,267) and the nation (\$37,637). Eighty-two point one percent (82.1%) of all children in the City of Bristol are eligible for the free/reduced lunch program compared to 44.2% in the Commonwealth. All of these statistics demonstrate that the City of Bristol still falls well behind the state and the nation economically. Additionally, the City is home to a population of 16.9% people, under the age of 65, who are considered disabled - this is compared to only 8.0% in the Commonwealth. Additionally, 41.73% of seniors are disabled in Bristol compared to 31.98% in the state. This is the population that is most in need of the City's Emergency Home Repair program.

This year, the City of Bristol has been allocated \$259,836 in HUD funds for its CDBG program and \$86,365.36 in HOME funds. While the City of Bristol Virginia provides administration and oversight for its CDBG allocation, its HOME funds are managed by the First Tennessee Development District (FTDD), who serves as the administrative agent for the HOME Consortium of which the City of Bristol Virginia is a member. Bristol, Tennessee is the lead entity for the HOME Consortium. FTDD is responsible for administering all projects undertaken by the Consortium, which includes HOME funds for Bristol Virginia's larger home rehabilitation projects.

The City continues to value comments from its residents, and as such, has reviewed any and all public comments received, and established funding priorities for its PY 2023 CDBG allocation. Based on these priorities, the City has established its PY 2023 CDBG Annual Action Plan.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The City will benefit the LMI population in the City by using its CDBG funding for Economic Development, Sidewalk and infrastructure improvements, demolition of blighted properties, emergency home repair, and Code Enforcement activities. The City will use carryover funding for Economic Development activities including facade improvement grants in the Enterprise Zone and job training/job placement activities. The need for these projects remains critical and a priority for the City. Also included in this plan are specific public infrastructure improvements that will address pedestrian and public transit safety. Blighted structures remain prevalent in some of the lower income residential area, particularly an area locally called "King Town" and the City will allocate funding for this purpose. In addition, the City will fund emergency housing rehabilitation projects that continue to successfully address blight and low-to-moderate income family distress due to substandard and/or unsafe living conditions. With an aging housing stock, this program remains essential to keeping seniors in their homes, safely and comfortably. These homeowners are typically elderly, disabled and living on fixed incomes, relying on social security in their retirement. Many of these individuals are also in need of ADA accessibility in their homes which are met through this program. This program continues to be in high demand with a waiting list. Last program year and this year, the City has almost doubled its allocation for the Emergency Home Repair program due to the obvious demand and need.

The City recently had a consultant develop a City-wide Housing Needs Assessment. Major findings include: housing of all types is needed; the current state of the housing market is worsening the availability of housing; federal reimbursement programs and COVID restrictions have further reduced availability; revitalization is key to increasing the housing stock. Thirty-six percent (36%) of renters are cost burdened in the area which points to a need for lower-income housing. Strategy recommendations include: Decreasing the number of vacant units and substandard housing stock; increasing the number of workforce rentals, targeting those who commute to Bristol for work and employees from forthcoming major developments; facilitating the development of housing for seniors through modifications, service programs, and alternative approaches; and creating internal mechanisms that promote and enable the development of needed housing types. Some of these findings and goals can be met with CDBG funding such as the home repair program and demolition, etc.

The City will also provide funding for local agencies providing vital public service agencies.

Specific Objectives:

The City's priorities are as follows:

- to support programs that assist homeowners with emergency repairs to aid them in repairing their homes so they can remain safe and comfortable within their homes in challenging economic times
- to support initiatives to provide services and permanent supportive housing for the homeless
- to support activities that provide supportive services and meet basic/essential needs for the City's low- and moderate-income households

- to support organized efforts to leverage resources that will improve neighborhood sustainability, livability, and availability of necessary resources through infrastructure improvements including ADA accessibility and sidewalks
- to continue neighborhood revitalization activities that address blight, code enforcement issues and create job opportunities
- to provide economic development and opportunities to support employability, job placement and job creation, and economic development activities that support downtown and business initiatives in order to create a more vibrant and prosperous community

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Home improvements/emergency rehab continue to be in high demand and for the past two years, there has been a waiting list from one program year to another. So far in PY 2022 (first three quarters), the Home Repair program has assisted fifteen (15) extremely low to moderately low-income households with home repair/rehabilitation to make their homes meet safety codes, be more comfortable, safe and energy efficient. Currently, three additional projects are in progress with 7 eligible applicants on the waiting list that will have to wait for PY23 funding. Improvements include roof replacements, window replacements, HVAC services, ADA accessibility, etc.

CDBG funding continues to support the City's critical public service providers that provide direct services to low- to moderate-income community members and residents. The City's homeless have been assisted through its agency partners, which includes Kings Mt. Permanent Supportive Housing which houses up to 12 chronically homeless men (this PSH property has remained close to or at capacity since 2010), and Crossroads Medical Mission which provides health care to the homeless and uninsured. The City's abused and neglected children have been assisted through the Children's Advocacy Center and the CASA program - collectively in PY 2021, 86 abused/neglected children were assisted in the City, improving their outcomes to find safe and permanent homes. 158 LMI individuals received medical care and prescriptions through Crossroads Medical Mission, and 120 individuals received literacy and job skills through the Bristol Public Library's Jones Creativity Center, 42 individuals being placed in jobs. It must be noted that these are fairly good numbers given that COVID-19 continued to pose service provision barriers during the year.

Four (4) blighted and unsafe structure were demolished during PY 2022.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City developed this Annual Action Plan after consulting with public and private partners. A notice was published in the *Bristol Herald Courier* on Friday, March 10, 2023, announcing a public hearing at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on March 28, 2023, as well as eligible categories of funding, and CDBG program contact information. This notice was also placed on the City's website and in the public library. The public hearing was held on March 28, 2023 to receive any comments and to report on the status of the existing program and to seek community input on housing and community development needs. As per HUD's requirements, a 30-day public comment period was observed between March 28, 2023 and April 28, 2023. Several public service applicants spoke on behalf of their organizations and their annual requests for CDBG funding; these included: Connie Bullock - Girls Inc; TJ DeWitt - Jones Creativity Center; Anna Bryant - Appalachian Independence Center; Kelli Smith - People Incorporated; Lisa Cofer - United Way; and Dottie Havlik - Family Promise of Bristol. There were no other public comments received either at the first public hearing or through the comment period.

The availability of the draft Annual Action Plan for public review was advertised in the *Bristol Herald Courier* on Friday, May 5, 2023 along with the announcement of a second public hearing to be held at a regularly scheduled Council meeting on Tuesday, May 23 2023. This notice was also posted on the City website and the Bristol Public Library.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

At the first public hearing on March 28, 2023, many CDBG public service applicants spoke on behalf of their organization.

At the second public hearing on May 23, 2023, there was Council discussion regarding staff recommendations and more information was requested by the Council. Staff provided additional information.

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

All comments have been accepted and included in this plan.

7. Summary

None.

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	BRISTOL	Community Development
HOME Administrator		First TN Development District

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The 5-year Consolidated Plan (2020-2024) and the most recent Annual Action Plan are prepared by the Community Development Specialist. The Community Development Specialist handles all administration, drawdowns, IDIS administration, public service sub-recipient contracts and oversight, contracts and bidding for emergency home repairs and demolition, and all required environmental reviews. The Finance Department approves all purchase requisitions and IDIS drawdowns.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Public Contact information is available in City Hall, in the office of the Community Development Specialist, Ellen Tolton, Room 108, and on the City's website.

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

1. Introduction

The City developed this Annual Action plan after consulting public and private partners. A notice was published in the Bristol Herald Courier on Friday, March 10, 2023 announcing the March 28, 2023 public hearing, eligible categories of funding, and CDBG program contact information. The public hearing was held on March 28 2023 to report on the status of the existing programs and to seek community input on housing and community development needs. As per HUD's requirements, a 30-day public comment period was observed between March 28, 2023 and April 28 2023.

A second public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 with a final draft of the Annual Action Plan and intended uses of the CDBG allocation. Prior to the second public hearing, two members of City Council reviewed and approved staff recommendations.

The availability of the draft Annual Action Plan for public review was advertised in the Bristol Herald Courier on Friday, May 5, 2023, along with the announcement of the second public hearing to be held at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting on May 23, 2023.

City Council approved the PY 2023 Annual Action Plan at the regularly scheduled Council meeting held on May 23, 2023.

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))

The City works closely with social service providers, community action agencies, lenders, builders, developers and other housing providers as well as other local governmental agencies on a regular basis as members of the Bristol Housing Coalition, Cumberland Plateau Continuum of Care and the Northeast TN/VA HOME Consortium. Additionally, the City is a member of the Community Coordination Team that was started due to COVID which demanded the need for all service providers to work together as Bristol VA and TN addressed issues related to the pandemic. These groups include agencies that focus on services to homeless, children, elderly persons, veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons with HIV/AIDS and their families. In addition to public service agencies, housing providers and health providers are represented as well.

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 Cumberland Plateau Continuum of Care, under the leadership of People Incorporated of Virginia, continues to operate King's Mountain Supportive Housing project. This building, located in Bristol, Virginia, consists of 12 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless, disabled men. The facility typically remains at capacity with a waiting list comprised of chronically homeless men who wish to move into the housing and receive independence-building case management services. This building was donated by a local businessman and has become the first housing of this type in Bristol and in Southwest Virginia. The City of Bristol, in its partnership with the Cumberland Plateau Continuum of Care, continues to address the needs of its homeless and participates in the Point in Time Count each year in January. The Continuum of Care meets every three months. This year, City staff interviewed/survey homeless persons during the Point in Time count at a local homeless day service provider, Hunt Memorial Church.

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

No ESG funds are received through the City of Bristol.

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

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Adult Learning Lab
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Education Services-Employment Other government - Local Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Economic Development 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?	Agency was solicited for needs input and project development regarding job skills and literacy training.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Believe in Bristol
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims Regional organization Community Action Agency Community Development Financial Institution

	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 Economic Development 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?	Staff regularly participates in the agency's focus groups to determine local needs in its service area. Staff also uses the organization's annual Needs Assessment to inform its CDBG activities.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Bristol Redevelopment & Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-homeless Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City of Bristol is a long-term member of the Bristol Housing Coalition which is held monthly through the Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority (BRHA) to discuss current needs and services within the Bristol community. Staff currently participates in the Bristol Housing Coalition to discuss agencies and services in the City that prevent homelessness and promote affordable housing.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Department of Social Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims Child Welfare Agency Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	City of Bristol staff works closely with the local Department of Social Services to identify needs of low- to moderate-income individuals and families with Bristol communities.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Crossroads Medical Mission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-homeless Services-Health Health Agency Regional organization Foundation
	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 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?	In addition to assisting the City identify the needs of its lowest income families, staff continues to work with Crossroads Medical Mission (and other local partners) to address homeless issues in the City by providing additional resources for them.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Health Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Health Agency Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy Health needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Health Department provides the City with health needs among lower income populations and lead-based paint strategies. They have been invaluable during the recent pandemic.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Family Promise of Bristol
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-homeless Services-Education Service-Fair Housing Regional organization Foundation Neighborhood Organization
	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 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?	Family Promise of Bristol has taken a leading role in addressing homelessness issues in Bristol. They have been coordinating a bi-monthly Bristol Coalition meeting created to address pandemic needs in both Bristol VA and TN. This Coalition provides identifies local issues and resources to address them.

8	Agency/Group/Organization	People Incorporated
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Service-Fair Housing Regional organization Community Development Financial Institution Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development 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?	People Incorporated provides many services within the City of Bristol. Additionally, they share their annual Needs Assessment with the Community Development Specialist to address needs in the City.

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

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	People Incorporated	The CoC plan identifies homeless needs and an expansion plan to address them, including providing Rapid Rehousing and permanent supportive housing. The City's annual Action Plan provides support to housing up to 12 chronically homeless and disabled men.
Northeast TN/VA HOME Consortium	Bristol, TN	There are seven localities/members that develop their plan with the regional strategy of the Consortium which helps the City of Bristol inform its application and distribution of HOME funds.
City Comprehensive Plan 2017	City of Bristol, VA	The most recent adopted Comprehensive Plan continues to influence the goals of the CDBG Annual Action Plan. Multiple work groups of citizens and staff members, convened in order to identify short-and long-term needs, incorporating citizen input. The top issues identified by Citizens in all groups are job creation and economic development, blight and deteriorating infrastructure, and downtown accessibility.
Housing Needs Assessment	City of Bristol, VA	The City of Bristol hired a consultant to conduct a city-wide Housing Needs Assessment (June 2021) to provide current market and housing information which will inform future CDBG Annual Action Plans.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

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

First and foremost, as the City developed its 5-year action plan, it carried out a community needs assessment/survey which received 260 responses that were summarized to inform the City's 5-year action plan.

The City continues to develop its annual CDBG goals and activities after consulting private and public partners. It also relies on previous uses of CDBG funding, and associated spending and demand.

A notice was published in the Bristol Herald Courier on Friday, March 10, 2023 announcing the first public hearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. Staff provided eligible categories of funding, and CDBG program contact information. The hearing was held as scheduled to report on the status of the existing program and to seek community input on housing and community development needs. As per HUD's requirements, a 30-day public comment period was observed between March 28, 2023 and April 28, 2023. The availability of the draft Annual Action Plan was made available for public review and was advertised in the Bristol Herald Courier on Friday, May 5, 2023 along with notice of the 2nd public hearing. The goals for this year's Action Plan consisted of similar activities to last year, which are all included in the 5-year Consolidated Plan. These goals remain priorities for the City.

A second public hearing was held at a regularly scheduled Council meeting on May 23, 2023. The notice for this meeting was published in the Bristol Herald Courier on Friday, May 5, 2023, and posted at the public library and on the City's website.

The City provided information to Bristol residents, non-profit agencies, City departments, and business entities through public notices and Coalition meetings, emails, website postings. The City was able to post the Annual Action Plan at the Public Library, in Room 108 at City Hall, and on the City's website. Reasonable notification and access for citizens was available in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses.

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	Newspaper Ad	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	n/a	None.	None	
2	Public Hearing	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	The 1st public hearing was held at a regularly scheduled Council meeting on March 28, 2023 with typical attendance	Public service agency staff spoke on behalf of their applications requesting CDBG funding.	N/A	
3	Newspaper Ad	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	None	None	N/A	

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)
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	A 2nd public hearing was held at a regularly scheduled Council meeting on May 23, 2023 with typical attendance	Questions were asked by the Council for reasons behind allocations as presented, and desired more information from staff. Staff provided the additional information as requested.	All comments were accepted.	
5	Internet Outreach	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	A copy of both public notices were placed on the City website as was the Annual Action Plan.	None.	N/A	

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)
7	Internet Outreach	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	The CDBG application for public service agencies was emailed to past grantees as well as those public service agencies that were eligible to apply; additionally, the application was placed on the City's website.	The City received twelve completed applications.	All applications were accepted, reviewed and scored by a committee.	
8	Newspaper Ad	<p>Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p>				

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City was allocated \$259,836 CDBG Entitlement funding from HUD for Program Year 2023. It will also be utilizing approximately \$191,481 in carryover funds from prior years. These funds will assist the City in carrying out its goals and objectives during the PY 2023.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				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	259,836	0	189,482	449,318	200,000	Historically, the City of Bristol receives about \$250,000 per year in CDBG funding. This year the City received \$259,836. It does not anticipate any program income and estimates that there will be \$189,482 carried over.

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

Firstly, the City generates leveraged funding and resources from its public service partners that receive public service grants. In 2022, the City used \$39,200 its CDBG allocation to fund seven (7) public service agencies. In turn, these agencies collectively raised \$806,508 to fully operate their programs. These leveraged funds came from donors, foundations, as well as local, state and federal funding. Additionally, these agencies utilized volunteer hours to meet their missions, increasing the leverage value.

Secondly, the City is able to leverage funding from City resources, including state maintenance funds and VDOT grant funds to make public infrastructure improvements. This includes sidewalks, ADA accessibility, and other pedestrian improvements. The City must also subsidize a portion of the Community Development Specialist as she carries out CDBG activities as well as the Code Enforcement Officer. The Enterprise Zone incentives are based on significant private investments made to the City, both commercially and in job creation/placement. So as CDBG funds are used to incentivize economic development activities, these also leverage additional project resources.

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

The City owns very little property in the City. The City owns a few lots on Russell Street that is within an LMA; possibilities for this property include adding a playground or fitness park.

Discussion

None.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Rehabilitation	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	LMI households	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$85,269	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Public Infrastructure/Sidewalks	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$34,500	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 400 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Public Service Agencies	2020	2024	Public Housing Homeless Non-Housing Community Development	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 LMI households all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4	Public Service Agencies Homeless Services Economic Development	CDBG: \$38,970	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2000 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 100 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Neighborhood Revitalization	2020	2024	Blight	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4 Opportunity Zone CT 201, 204	Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$3,168	Buildings Demolished: 3 Buildings
5	Economic Development	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT Enterprise Zone all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district	Economic Development	CDBG: \$16,262	Jobs created/retained: 10 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Code Enforcement	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 LMI households all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4	Housing Rehabilitation Affordable Housing Public Improvements and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$29,700	Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 30 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	This goal includes repairing/rehabbing homes owned by LMI to meet building codes, encourage energy efficiency, and keep homes warm, safe and dry. This goal also includes addressing any ADA needs by LMI/disabled/senior home owners.
2	Goal Name	Public Infrastructure/Sidewalks
	Goal Description	This goal includes sidewalks, ADA Accessibility, and public facility improvement requests.
3	Goal Name	Public Service Agencies
	Goal Description	The goal of financially assisting public service agencies is to provide resources that support housing and economic opportunities for disadvantaged families and individuals.
4	Goal Name	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Goal Description	This project consists of addressing blight issues including demolition and also encourage participation in the labor market which has been severely strained during the COVID pandemic, through second-change employment opportunities.
5	Goal Name	Economic Development
	Goal Description	Funding for the goal of Economic Development will enable the City to provide Enterprise Zone facade improvement grants to improve downtown and to increase the availability of job skills training/job placement. The City's labor market workforce has been very constrained by the COVID pandemic and is struggling to meet its labor demand needs. The City has been working with partners to provide neighborhood/city-wide job revitalization efforts including second-chance job placement activities.
6	Goal Name	Code Enforcement
	Goal Description	The goal of this project is to keep neighborhoods and the City clean and safe for residents and visitors.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects carried out with entitlement CDBG funds will enable the City to benefit its LMI families and communities by making the City safer, improving failing or poor infrastructure and assisting with the City's economic vitality, making the City more inviting to visitors and possible new residents.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration 2023
2	Code Enforcement 2023
3	Neighborhood Revitalization 2023
4	Emergency Home Repair 2023
5	Sidewalks/ADA Accessibility
6	Economic Development 2023
7	Public Services 2023

Table 7 - Project Information

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

First of all, administration is a necessary expense. Housing rehabilitation, City infrastructure, economic development and code enforcement remain priorities for the City in order to keep it safe and livable. Median household incomes remain low, while poverty and housing cost burdens remain high, necessitating sufficient vital public service in these areas. More CDBG dollars are being spent on Emergency Home Repair to keep residents in their homes and in a safe environment.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Administration 2023
	Target Area	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 Enterprise Zone LMI households all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4 Opportunity Zone CT 201, 204
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation Public Infrastructure/Sidewalks Public Service Agencies Neighborhood Revitalization Economic Development Code Enforcement
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation Public Service Agencies Homeless Services Affordable Housing Economic Development Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$51,967
	Description	First of all, administration is a necessary expense. Housing rehabilitation, City infrastructure, economic development and code enforcement remain priorities for the City in order to keep it safe and livable for all. Median household incomes remain low, while poverty and housing costs burdens remain high, necessitating sufficient vital public service activities in these areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	All CDBG projects and activities are administered by the Community Development Specialist; the City estimates that more than 1,000 LMI individuals will benefit from these activities.
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	The City will use these funds for the general administration of the CDBG Entitlement program, including fair housing activities, training, salary and benefits for the Community Development Specialist, marketing and all other related administrative activities. Such activities include program oversight, environmental reviews, contracting for home repair, etc., and required public notices.
2	Project Name	Code Enforcement 2023
	Target Area	Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 LMI households all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4
	Goals Supported	Code Enforcement
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$29,700
	Description	This project will cover code enforcement activities provided to improve the City and make it safer for all residents. Activities include demolition, inspection of residences in response to concerned citizen requests, and identification of infrastructure needs, particularly in LMI areas of the City.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	40 residences and the LMI neighborhoods they are located in will benefit from code enforcement activities.
	Location Description	LMI neighborhoods
	Planned Activities	The Code Enforcement officer will receive and address community and property complaints; review any obvious code violations through regular windshield observations; assist with demolition activities, and assist with social service questions and requests.
	Project Name	Neighborhood Revitalization 2023

3	Target Area	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4
	Goals Supported	Neighborhood Revitalization
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000
	Description	This project includes the identification, inspections, and demolition of blighted and unsafe structures as identified by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Official.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 2 to 3 blighted structures will be removed benefiting neighborhoods.
	Location Description	Within City limits
	Planned Activities	Approximately 2 to 3 blighted structures will be demolished as identified by the Code Enforcement officer and the Building Official.
	4	Project Name
Target Area		AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 LMI households Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4
Goals Supported		Housing Rehabilitation
Needs Addressed		Housing Rehabilitation
Funding		CDBG: \$85,269
Description		Emergency home repair services will be provided to eligible LMI homeowners by qualified contractors to make their homes warm, safe and dry.

	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	At least ten (10) LMI households will receive home repair to bring their homes to code, making them safer and more energy-efficient, and more accessible.
	Location Description	Within City limits
	Planned Activities	Houses owned by LMI families will receive emergency home repairs to meet code and to be safer, more comfortable and accessible, and address ADA barriers. All applicants will complete an application to determine eligibility, and environmental reviews will be completed for each project.
5	Project Name	Sidewalks/ADA Accessibility
	Target Area	AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Census Tract 202, BG 3 Census Tract 203, BG 2 LMI households all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district Census Tract 201, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 2 Census Tract 202, BG 4
	Goals Supported	Public Infrastructure/Sidewalks
	Needs Addressed	Public Improvements and Infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$210,412
	Description	This project includes the installation of sidewalks and ADA accessibility in public areas in LMI areas of the City. It also includes infrastructure improvements to benefit the LMI population and neighborhoods, as well as public housing areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 400 individuals will benefit from new sidewalks, ADA accessibility projects, and other public infrastructure improvements.
	Location Description	All sidewalk and infrastructure improvements will be located in and benefit LMI areas of the City.

	Planned Activities	New sidewalks will be constructed, ADA accessibility issues will be addressed, and other public infrastructure that provides for safer pedestrian traffic.
6	Project Name	Economic Development 2023
	Target Area	BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS Enterprise Zone LMI households Census Tract 202, BG 4 Opportunity Zone CT 201, 204
	Goals Supported	Economic Development
	Needs Addressed	Economic Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$23,000
	Description	This project includes economic development activities that address downtown revitalization, job training skills and job search assistance, as well as job placement. A portion of these funds are used to provide some incentives for the City's Enterprise Zone program which encourages job creation and economic development in the City.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	At least 10 LMI individuals will be provided job skills and job placement assistance. It is estimated that two new businesses in downtown will get a facade improvement grant through the City's Enterprise Zone program.
	Location Description	Various
	Planned Activities	Economic development activities include facade improvement grants (up to \$8,000 each) for businesses locating in the City's Enterprise Zone as well as job skills training and job placement through the Jones Creativity Center located in the City's public library.
	Project Name	Public Services 2023

7	Target Area	<p>AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS</p> <p>Census Tract 202, BG 3</p> <p>Census Tract 203, BG 2</p> <p>LMI households</p> <p>all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district</p> <p>Census Tract 201, BG 2</p> <p>Census Tract 202, BG 2</p> <p>Census Tract 202, BG 4</p>
	Goals Supported	Public Service Agencies
	Needs Addressed	Public Service Agencies
	Funding	CDBG: \$38,970
	Description	The City of Bristol will utilize up to 15% of its annual CDBG Entitlement funding to support public service agencies in the City through a competitive application process.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 2000 LMI persons and 100 households will benefit from CDBG-funded public service agency activities.
	Location Description	Throughout the City
	Planned Activities	Planned public service activities include case management services for the homeless; services and referrals for disabled and senior residents; advocacy for neglected/abused children; health services for the uninsured; and permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

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 City's entitlement CDBG funding will primarily benefit LMI individuals and families, LMI communities (those with 51% or more population LMI), and areas surrounding public housing units and communities. CDBG funding may also be used to meet eligible economic development goals within its Enterprise Zone, Downtown District and Opportunity Zones.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
BRISTOL COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT	8
AREA SURROUNDING ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS	2
Census Tract 202, BG 3	15
Census Tract 203, BG 2	15
Enterprise Zone	10
LMI households	25
all LMI neighborhoods and downtown district	
Census Tract 201, BG 2	10
Census Tract 202, BG 2	10
Census Tract 202, BG 4	5
Opportunity Zone CT 201, 204	0

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City's Home Repair program is very much in demand, particularly among the City's senior homeowners. All of the households eligible for this program must be LMI which is why 25% has been allocated to this geographic area. The Census tracts selected all have more than 50% of the population below 80% AMI. These will be target areas for sidewalks, handicapped accessibility, public infrastructure projects, etc. And approximately 10% will be used to assist small business owners within the Enterprise Zone to improve their businesses and to support job skills training and job placement activities. Five percent may be used to promote mixed-use development activities in Opportunity Zones.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Affordable housing activities will include providing grant funds to Kings Mt. PSH to provide case management services to 12 chronically homeless, disabled men, and to provide emergency housing repair to LMI residents/families. People Inc., the case manager of King's Mountain, has also added seven (7) scattered site permanent supportive housing which can include women and children. The City has increased CDBG dollars for Emergency Home Repair to keep folks within their homes - these are mostly seniors who could not afford to move. In addition to bringing houses to code, ADA improvements remain a very popular request.

The lack of affordable housing to place homeless or low-income persons is a big concern in the City and is mentioned by all area organizations that provide housing assistance (including vouchers) to those in need. The City encourages new development and redevelopment investors to consider providing affordable, workforce housing for our low-income individuals and families.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	12
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	12

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	10

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

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Founded in 1938, Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority (BRHA) is Virginia's second oldest redevelopment and housing authority. BRHA is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners who are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Bristol, Virginia. In addition to creating governing policy, the Board outlines BRHA's long-term goals. The Board also employs an Executive Director (Ms. Lisa Porter) to manage daily operations for the Authority. BRHA has a variety of housing opportunities available depending on a family's or individual's need.

BRHA is the designated public housing agency in the City of Bristol. BRHA currently owns and operates 336 conventional public housing units located in five developments. The agency administers 303 Housing Choice vouchers, 30 Mainstream vouchers, 15 Emergency Housing vouchers, and 74 tax credit/mixed finance units.

There are three types of rental housing assistance programs provided: public housing program, housing choice voucher program, and low-income housing tax credit program:

- **Public Housing:** BRHA **owns and operates** 336 public housing units in six apartment complexes in the City of Bristol. Participants select an apartment in one of our complexes, sign a dwelling lease with BRHA and pay 30% of their adjusted gross income for rent.
- **Housing Choice Voucher:** In the HCV program BRHA provides rental assistance payments for participants who live in **privately owned** rental properties. Participants will sign an HCV participant agreement with BRHA *and* will sign a lease with the owner of the private property. Participants pay 30% of their adjusted gross income for rent.
- **Tax Credit:** BRHA owns and operates 74 units of affordable housing through the "tax credit" program. These units are located at Sapling Grove Apartments and The Village at Oakview. These units have **fixed rents** that do not change with a participant's income; that is, rents are not based on a percent of a family's income. You must have sufficient income to be able to rent these units.

According to the City's recent housing assessment, there are 608 multi-family that are rent subsidized and 311 that are rent restricted.

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

There continues to be a demand for higher quality affordable housing as well as single and accessible units. The PHA is in the process of converting 100 single and studio units into 92 larger single units (two separate complexes). While the majority of public housing stock is very old (the oldest units were built in the 1940's and are still being used), it is a delicate balance to utilize existing resources for new facilities while having to demo some of the older structures. The City continues to meet regularly with Bristol

Redevelopment and Housing Authority (PHA) to identify ways the City and PHA can work together to create more housing opportunities in the City.

BRHA continues to improve and upgrade their aging stock of public housing. They have completed Exterior Site Improvements of the Rice Terrace (VA2-1), Johnson Court (VA2-2) and select Mosby Homes (VA2-4) developments located in Bristol Virginia.

The City is also very excited to have completed a city-wide Housing Needs Assessment to identify and inform current and future housing needs. This was completed in the June 2021.

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

Residents' associations and boards are present for all of the developments. In addition, BRHA offers self-sufficiency programs that encourage goal setting and services toward homeownership. They've recently opened an EnVision Center, sponsored by HUD, to provide families in public housing and the greater Bristol area with greater employment opportunities and outcomes through education and training. The City is providing some CDBG funding for this new service in the community.

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

The PHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

None.

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

Introduction

The City is continuing to work with its "sister" City Bristol TN to address homeless needs. Communication and coordination are getting stronger and more services are available for the homeless population. Through efforts among cities, social service agencies, and non-profits, the Cities now have two successful "day centers" available to the homeless community five days a week. "A Place to Be" is located within the Salvation Army shelter and is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hunt Memorial is open Mondays and Fridays.

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

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

As both the City of Bristol VA and the City of TN are recognizing a growing prevalence of homelessness and its associated issues, it has become a greater priority for community leaders and stakeholders. Several community organizations have come together to develop a theory of change surrounding homelessness, which includes the establishment of a Day Center that provides basic amenities (showers, laundry, etc.) as well as a central access for case management services. This is a difficult population to assist due to the many varied reasons they are homeless, as well as mental illness issues. As mentioned in the Introduction section, the City now has two Day Center options available Monday through Friday that provide coffee and snacks, laundry and shower facilities, and access to case management and referral services. Also, several of our community-based non-profits are opening more resources to assist with mental and behavioral health issues among this population (and those uninsured).

It is hoped that the homeless population will take advantage of these facilities so that some of their basic needs can be met, individualized case management and housing services, health care, and mental and behavioral services can be provided.

The City has come closer to assisting its homeless population through services and churches that have opened up their facilities to provide space for homeless individuals as well as certain basic amenities such as showers, clothing, and food. Family Promise of Bristol now has a Homeless Coordinator to organize assistance, and they recently received funding to hire a full-time Case Manager to assist homeless individuals. Additionally, the newly opened EnVision Center will provide resources for this population.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The greatest needs identified through the Continuum of Care process are for additional transitional

housing and permanent supportive housing units and more affordable housing units for sale or rent. As previously mentioned, there are 12 units of permanent supportive housing in Bristol, Virginia. These units are for chronically homeless and disabled men only. The case management provider, People Incorporated, now has funding for seven scattered site housing units that will be available to women and children. Unfortunately, the last homeless count the CoC conducted in Bristol, in 2023, showed 62 homeless persons in the City of Bristol VA which is a large increase from last year. It must be noted that the only shelters - Salvation Army and Haven of Rest - are on the Bristol TN side and their count is usually larger due to the location of the shelters. Staff surveyed 20 homeless individuals at the Hunt Memorial Church in Bristol, VA who opens their doors twice a week for the homeless population. The City of Bristol TN counted _____ this year which is also an increase from last year. The Cumberland Plateau CoC continues to conduct yearly point-in-time counts to identify the number, geographic location and other relevant demographics of chronically homeless and homeless persons in the CoC designated localities.

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 Cumberland CoC, which the City actively supports and participates in, maintains agreements and relationships (in the Bristol locality) with Bristol Faith in Action, Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Salvation Army, United Way of Bristol, Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, Department of Social Services, Abuse Alternatives, the Crisis Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, Crossroads Medical Mission, Healing Hands Health Care Center, Highlands Community Services, and People Incorporated to provide comprehensive services and to avoid duplication of services. Two churches have stepped up this past year to provide day services to the homeless population by providing food, clothing, showers, laundry, etc. This growing network helps families and individuals transition to a sustainable living environment more quickly and efficiently. Many of the partners mentioned above can provide transitional housing and permanent supportive housing for individuals in need.

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.

Bristol VA continues to have an optimal range of supportive services for all special needs populations. Families are served by most agencies that have already been listed in this document. However, due to federal, state and local funding cuts, many of these agencies are suffering financially and are having to decrease their services. In the fiscal year addressed by this Annual Action Plan, staff plans to continue developing the information sharing system to enable the City to better understand the services families are receiving, identify any gaps in services, and make proper referrals. The City also hopes to find proper intervention solutions for those who are at risk of becoming homeless. The Community Development Specialist will continue to be involved with the Bristol Housing Coalition which meets every month so she can be familiar with services agencies and providers, distribute and receive resource materials that serve public service residents, low-income persons, and persons with special needs.

The Cumberland Plateau CoC has established agreements with the Bristol VA Department of Social Services, the Southwest Virginia Mental Institute, Highlands Community Services, Bristol Regional Counseling Center, Bristol VA sheriff's office, Crossroads Medical Mission, Bristol Faith in Action, etc. to help coordinate the discharge from respective systems to local homeless shelters. All agencies involved work together to make the transition from institutions as smooth as possible for the clients. The City and its community partners will continue to assess current services, work to coordinate existing resources to maximize effectiveness and reduce duplication, and enhance services as necessary.

Discussion

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

Introduction:

Barriers to achieving affordable housing faced by Bristol residents include:

- High poverty and low median incomes that lead to high housing cost burden;
- **Lack of decent, affordable housing stock to rent;** this has become a huge issue for social service providers. Not only is housing limited, but with increased demand for rental units, many landlords have priced their rentals out of subsidized housing limits.
- Limited resources to bring current housing stock up to building code;
- Stagnant wages that don't keep up with the rise in utilities, fuel costs, medical costs, and the general cost of living;
- Poor credit histories and lack of financial management skills;
- Zoning restrictions and building codes;
- Prevalence of predatory lenders, both institutional and online;
- Aging and disabled population living on fixed incomes;

During this planning period, the City will continue to examine local building codes, zoning restrictions, etc. to determine to what extent these regulations create barriers to affordable housing. If there are reasonable, responsible actions that can be taken to lessen any hardships these may cause, the City will act.

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

In 2021, the City of Bristol completed a Housing Needs Assessment that, among providing other valuable information about existing and future housing needs, provided information regarding barriers to workforce/affordable housing and any negative effects from current public policies. Some takeaways:

- While overall population in the City is declining, the percent of older people has increased;
- non-family households are increasing (singles)
- incomes are rising faster for family households as opposed to single households;
- close to half of renters are cost-burdened (more than 30% of income is spent on housing); 21% are severely cost burdened;
- owner households are considerably less cost-burdened (only 20%)
- housing demand is largely coming from those with incomes less than \$35,000;
- while jobs in Bristol have been on the decline, a major jump is anticipated - GOOD NEWS;

however, this also decreases the availability of rental housing.

Bristol VA is a member of the Northeast TN/VA HOME Consortium. Through this Consortium, the City receives HOME funds which enables it to provide down payment assistance, major rehab and reconstruction to qualifying residents.

The City will continue to operate an emergency home repair program for income-eligible homeowners. Last year and this year, the City has almost doubled its CDBG allocation for this purpose due to the need and demand.

The City will refer potential first-time homebuyers to Northeast TN/VA HOME Consortium or People Incorporated for their first-time homebuyer program and housing counseling.

The City will continue efforts to establish greater economic development opportunities with adequate wages; continue to provide assistance and education to residents in financial management, credit repair, etc.

The City will continue to provide tax relief to the elderly and disabled.

The City will continue to support BRHA, non-profits and private developers who are addressing the needs for additional affordable housing units and encourage mixed-income housing developments.

The City will increase its efforts to educate landlords, developers, realtors, and residents in fair housing laws.

The City will ensure CDBG sub-recipients are in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Architectural Barriers Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The City will continue to support agencies that provide rental assistance, health care, dental care, etc. so these expensive services will not prevent our residents from obtaining affordable housing or place them in a position where they are threatened with homelessness.

Discussion:

None.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

I would suggest that the City of Bristol could do a great deal more in assisting with efforts to meeting underserved needs (housing, poverty, physical and mental health services, etc.) if it received more CDBG funding. The City's CDBG Entitlement Allocation has been greatly reduced through the years; the City received \$372,000 in 2002 and its allocations have continued to fluctuate and decline, particularly with this year's allocation which reflects a 3% decrease from the prior year. Overall, this greatly impedes the City's ability to subsidize its nonprofits who do so much to help our LMI citizens. Additionally, costs continue to rise for housing improvements and public infrastructure. Decreasing allocations directly impede the City in its efforts to effectively provide services to its LMI residents.

This program year, the City has run out of Emergency Housing Repair funds at the end of April, leaving more than 10 applicants in need emergency repairs having to wait for available funding. Additionally, the City was not able to fully fund its public service applicants, including a request for transitional housing dollars that would assist keeping LMI individuals housed who may be facing eviction or living in unsuitable housing.

The need for CDBG funding is greater than ever due to rising costs of living and construction, and having reduced CDBG funding makes the task of assisting our LMI residents increasingly difficult. The City of Bristol continues to have low income, high poverty and a growing homeless population. An increase in CDBG funding would be greatly appreciated and well utilized.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will continue to support agencies that provide literacy programs, such as the Adult Learning Lab (Jones Creativity Center) at the Bristol Public Library, and job training and placement opportunities. It will also continue to support agencies that provide affordable or free medical care to the uninsured or underinsured, assistance with food, shelter, utility and rental assistance, and basic life essentials. These agencies will be served either through United Way via general fund contribution or CDBG allocations. Also, the City will continue to be heavily involved with local coalitions that serve residents by sharing resources, identifying new problems, etc.

City staff has become more informed about housing and employment issues among substance abuse recovery participants. Staff will continue to become more involved with this population and learn how the City can assist in stabilizing these recovering individuals. Currently staff is involved with promoting

second-chance employment among local employers.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will endorse BRHA's efforts to provide self-sufficiency programs and homebuyer opportunities to its residents. It will also support agencies that provide homebuyer resources including education, budgeting and financial instruction, and basic life skill training.

The City is encouraging development and redevelopment activities within the City to include "workforce" housing to ensure that those who work and play in the City have a decent, affordable place to live. This has become a priority.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The overall goal of the City is to reduce or eliminate lead-based paint hazards and prevent childhood lead poisoning. This will be accomplished through a coordinated effort of public and private sectors. The Bristol Virginia Health department has established a lead screening process to screen children under the age of six and treat high levels of exposure to lead. The BRHA has received training addressing lead-based paint issues and has conducted seminars for Section 8 landlords. All housing proposed for rehabilitation under the City's Home Repair program is screened by the year built to determine possible LBP hazard. All home repair applications include "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home".

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Bristol VA employs an Economic Development professional to search for new businesses for the area that will create adequate paying employment opportunities for our citizens. As previously mentioned, the City is making great strides in creating job opportunities at the Exit 5 and The Falls development. The City also encourages expansion among its existing businesses and tries to cultivate economic incentives to bring in well-paying industries. The City is also generous with providing property tax relief to the elderly and disabled. Through the assistance of some of its housing and non-profit partners, job search and placement assistance are provided.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Bristol VA works in cooperation and collaboration with several agencies, both public and non-profit, in providing service and offering resources to Bristol residents. During the next year, the City will continue to maintain productive relationships with the agencies we serve and develop new relationships with private developers, lenders, public institutions, public service providers, etc. The City will work to cultivate relationships with the non-CDBG funded agencies that are dedicated to the well-being of LMI persons, the disabled, the homeless, the elderly and those with other special needs populations.

One of the City's strengths is the number of partners it has that provide for the special needs of its

populations. The City will continue to actively participate with the Bristol Housing Coalition, attending monthly meetings, and the Community Coordination bi-weekly meetings. The City will participate in special events of participating agencies and maintain a quality of service and involvement that our CDBG sub-recipients and the populations they serve deserve.

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

The City has a wonderful working partnership with BRHA; the City continues to work closely with BRHA to ensure housing opportunities for all residents. And the City works closely with social service providers, lenders, builders, developers and other housing providers as well as other local governmental agencies on a regular basis as a member of the Bristol Housing Coalition, Cumberland Plateau CoC, the Northeast TN/VA HOME Consortium, and the Poverty Awareness and Education group. These groups include agencies that focus on services to children, elderly persons, disabled persons, and persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Discussion:

None.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The City will continue to ensure that at least 70% of its CDBG allocation benefits the low-moderate income persons living, working and playing in the City.

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.	70.00%

The City of Bristol does not anticipate any program income from its CDBG activities. It will meet the minimum benefit of 70% of funding spent to benefit LMI. Demolition activities are considered blight and, although these demolitions are typically within targeted LMI communities, they do not meet the definition of LMI benefit.