First Program Year Action Plan

The City of Rochester, N.H.

DUNS # 073960874

First Program Year Action Plan (FY 2015-2016)
Consolidated Plan (FY 2015-2020)

Submitted May xx, 2015

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

Introduction

This Action Plan represents year one (1) of the City of Rochester's Five (5) Year Consolidated Action Plan for FY 2015-2020. Each year, the City outlines a specific plan for the activities planned in a given year in order to improve conditions within low to moderate income communities and to address vital housing, facilities, infrastructure, and economic development needs within the City. This specific plan is an extension of the identified needs as defined in the Consolidated Action Plan and incorporates ongoing analysis of current conditions within the City.

The FY 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) amount for the City of Rochester is $227,062.00, with $45,412.40 (20%) allocated for planning and administration, $34,059.30 (15%) for public services, and the balance of $147,590.30 for projects focused on the areas of housing, public facilities and infrastructure, and economic development. In addition, there is currently $57,481.64 from prior years' grant funds that are available for investment in future projects. The focus of this year's Action Plan is to support the needs of local public service agencies, facilities, infrastructure, housing, and economic development projects that will benefit low to moderate income residents of the City. Specific details on the use of funds are described in the "Consolidated Action Plan Goals" section under each activity and addresses one of the three national objectives set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for CDBG grant expenditures: (1) to provide decent housing; (2) to provide a suitable living environment; or (3) to expand economic opportunities.

Objectives and Outcomes Identified in the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan

Please see the "Consolidated Action Plan Goals" section below.

Evaluation of Past Performance

The FY 2014-2015 Annual Action Plan identified a number of housing, public service, and economic development needs with the City of Rochester. A significant portion of the FY 2014-2015 Plan focused on the needs of the City's homeless population, and funding was provided to the three primary homeless shelters in the region (providing seasonal, transitional, and year-round services). All three shelters report that they are on-track to meet or exceed the projected numbers for City residents to be served during the FY 2014-2015 period. This Annual Action Plan for FY 2015-2016 incorporates continued funding for the provision of services through regional homeless shelters as needs analyses show a continued priority need for these services.

One FY 2014-2015 grant subrecipient, the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center, has reported that it is not on target to meet the projected number of businesses served. Due to this failure and the relocation of the Small Business Development Center from the City of Rochester to a neighboring city, alternative small business development resources are being researched and planned to replace the services of the Small Business Development Center. This research is being conducted jointly with the City's Office of Economic Development.

Community needs analyses and consultations also have indicated a gap in focus as relates to fair housing issues and lead-based paint abatement issues in previous Annual Action Plans and

the FY 2010-2015 Consolidated Action Plan. This gap is being addressed in the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan through the exploration of lead-based poisoning prevention program options and funding for fair housing education programming in the City.

Further, the rise in substance abuse in the City of Rochester, particularly the abuse of heroin and other opioids, is a topic of concern not anticipated (or able to be anticipated) in the FY 2014-2015 Annual Action Plan or FY 2010-2015 Consolidated Action Plan. This substance abuse impacts housing stability, homelessness, employment, health care needs, neighborhood safety, and many other areas. Consequently, services for those persons with substance abuse issues are addressed in several places in the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan as well as the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan.

Citizen Participation and Consultation Process in the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan

The City of Rochester's Community Development Division has conducted extensive public outreach as part of both the Consolidated Action Plan and FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan planning and preparation processes. This has included a public hearing, attendance at monthly local neighborhood ward meetings, consultations with local public service agencies, consultations with local business organizations, and social media outreach. At the public hearing, two people spoke on behalf of a public service agency that intended to seek CDBG grant funding, and three comments were received from City residents. This outreach was conducted in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan outlined in the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan.

For FY 2015-2016, applications for CDBG grant funding were made available on December 23, 2014 and originally were due back to the Community Development Division by January 9, 2015. In response to requests for extension, the deadline for applications was extended to January 16, 2015. Applications were reviewed by the Community Development Division and forwarded to the members of the Community Development Committee. The first review of the applications occurred at the January 22, 2015 meeting of the Community Development Committee. The grant applicants were invited to present on their applications at the Community Development Committee meeting held on February 26, 2015. After review of all grant applications received, the members of the Community Development Committee rated their level of support for each agency, and those receiving the most support were recommended for funding. Public service agencies were recommended across all areas of priority needs (basic needs, safety net, and investment). The Community Development Committee voted on its grant application funding recommendations at the March 26, 2015 Community Development Committee meeting. Throughout the evaluation process, careful attention was paid to the priorities identified in the draft FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan.

The formal public comments announcement was posted in the local newspaper of general circulation on March 20, 2015, and copies of the public comments notice were also posted at City Hall, the City's Community Center, the City's Public Library, and on the City's website on March 27, 2015. In the notice, the public was invited to review the draft Annual Action Plan in-person at the Office of Economic and Community Development and/or on the City's Community Development Division webpage.

The draft FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan was presented for a first reading to the full City Council at the April 7, 2015 City Council Meeting. A public hearing was held on April 21, 2015. [information on who spoke] At the May 5, 2015 City Council meeting, there was a second reading of the draft FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan, and the Action Plan was adopted.

Summary of Public Comments

Please see the “Citizen Participation Outreach” section below.

Summary of Comments or Views Not Accepted and the Reasons for Not Accepting

Please see the “Citizen Participation Outreach” section below.

Summary

The FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan focuses on the community needs identified during the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan community needs assessment process and the citizen participation and consultation process. This includes needs that continue to exist from previous Annual and Consolidated Action Plans, such as permanent and supportive housing for homeless populations; needs that have not been fully addressed in previous Annual and Consolidated Action Plans, such as fair housing; and needs that have been newly identified, such as services for persons with substance abuse issues. This Annual Action Plan will be used to evaluate new funding and project opportunities, and community needs analyses will continue and be incorporated as necessary and relevant.

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AGENCY/ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING/ADMINISTRATING THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN
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
Community Development Coordinator/Grant Manager	City of Rochester	Community Development Division, Office of Economic & Community Development
Public Service	Homeless Center for Strafford County	N/A
Public Service	SHARE Fund	N/A
Public Service	My Friend's Place	N/A
Public Service	Cross Roads House	N/A
Public Service	Tri-City Co-Op	N/A
Public Service	Dover Adult Learning Center	N/A
Public Service	Project Pride	N/A
Public Service	New Hampshire Legal Assistance	Housing Justice Project
Economic Development	The City of Rochester	The Office of Economic and Community Development/Economic Development Division
Public Service Carrying Out Housing Activities Under Weatherization Assistance Program	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County	Weatherization Program

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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Community Development Coordinator/Grants Manager
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CONSULTATION
AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

Enhancement of Coordination Between Service Providers

The City of Rochester has made extensive efforts to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers, as well as private and governmental health, mental health, and public service agencies. For example, the City of Rochester has participated fully in the transition to the regional Coordinated Access system for provision of a range of services to the City's homeless population. Coordinated Access provides a single point of contact for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and referrals are provided to regional homeless shelters, organizations providing rent assistance, general health care and mental health care resources, and more. The Community Development Coordinator has met multiple times with the Coordinated Access specialist to discuss ways the City of Rochester can more fully support regional coordinated efforts on behalf of vulnerable populations.

The City also funds a wide range of public service agencies that provide services such as housing, homelessness prevention, and mental health assistance. The Community Development Coordinator attends many of the meetings organized by these agencies and attempts, whenever possible, to make introductions between organizations to facilitate the most efficient and effective provision of services to overlapping constituencies

In addition, the Community Development Coordinator is a member of the Steering Committee of the Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the regional homeless shelters, public housing authorities, other local governments, and public service agencies concerned with addressing homelessness.

Coordination with Continuum of Care

The Community Development Coordinator has reached out to the Balance of State Continuum of Care (which includes the City of Rochester) and received access to the Balance of State Continuum of Care list-serv. The Community Development Coordinator has also discussed homeless issues directly with the Balance of State Continuum of Care administrator and has planned to attend all possible Balance of State Continuum of Care meetings and trainings.

The Community Development Coordinator is also actively involved with the regional Continuum of Care that serves the Seacoast region specifically. The Community Development Coordinator has met with the regional Continuum of Care's organizer and the head of the Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homeless to discuss homeless issues in the Seacoast region as well as how to better facilitate communication and coordinated efforts between the public service agencies serving homeless populations.

In meetings with the region's Coordinated Access specialist, executive directors of two of the region's homeless shelters, City Welfare director, and others, the Community Development Coordinator has discussed specifically the needs of and potential programs for chronically homeless persons. In meetings with the City's school department and the region's Head Start program director, the Community Development Coordinator has discussed specifically the needs of and potential programs for homeless youth and their families.

In addition, the Community Development Coordinator is a member of the Steering Committee of the Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the regional homeless shelters, public housing authorities, other local governments, and public service agencies concerned with addressing homelessness.

During all the aforementioned consultations and discussions, the Community Development Coordinator discussed with the consulting persons and agencies how funds should be allocated, evaluation of past funded programs, and data collection and management systems presently in place and planned for future use.

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.

	Name of Individual	Title/Position	Name of Organization	Area of Consultation
1.	Todd Marsh	Welfare Director	City of Rochester	Homelessness
2.	Maria Sillari	Chair	Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness	Homelessness
3.	Stacey Price	Executive Director	Rochester Housing Authority	Low-income housing needs
4.	Rene Philpott	Community Relations Director	The Homemakers	Needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities
5.	Various	First Public Hearing	City of Rochester	Neighborhood revitalization, low-income housing needs, food service needs of low-income persons, educational needs of low-income students and youth
6.	Maureen Ryan	Administrator of the Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	Homelessness
7.	Erik Swanson	Coordinated Access Specialist	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County	Homelessness
8.	Martha Stone	Executive Director	Cross Roads House	Homelessness
9.	Richard Jones	Community Development Coordinator	City of Dover	Homelessness, fair housing, sexual assault survivor issues,

				substance abuse
10.	Adam Cannon	Special Projects Manager	City of Portsmouth	Homelessness, fair housing, sexual assault survivor issues, substance abuse
11.	David Moore	Community Development Director	City of Portsmouth	Homelessness, fair housing, sexual assault survivor issues, substance abuse
12.	Michelle Mears	Staff Planner	City of Rochester	Fair housing, low-income housing, workforce housing, housing for elderly persons and people with disabilities
13.	Seth Creighton	Staff Planner	City of Rochester	Fair housing, low-income housing, workforce housing, housing for elderly persons and people with disabilities
14.	Rad Nichols	Executive Director	Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation	Transportation issues
15.	Brian Deguzis	Manager of Operations and Planning	Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation	Transportation issues
16.	Richard Wagner	Executive Director	AIDS Response Seacoast	Food security, housing, and health care issues affecting people living with HIV/AIDS
17.	Nicole Rodler	Teen Drug Court Coordinator	City of Rochester	Substance abuse issues affecting youth
18.	Lauren Colanto	RAYS Assistant Director	City of Rochester	Substance abuse issues affecting youth
19.	Michele Halligan-	Project Director	Safe	Substance abuse

	Foley		Schools/Healthy Students Grant	issues affecting youth
20.	Nicole Dale	Prevention Specialist	Rochester School District	Substance abuse issues affecting youth
21.	Various	Board of Directors	Rochester Area Senior Center	Transportation, health care, and other issues affecting elderly persons and people with disabilities
22.	Kathy Beebe	Executive Director	Sexual Assault Support Services	Sexual assault survivor issues
23.	Christine Wellington	Fair Housing Project Director	New Hampshire Legal Assistance	Fair housing issues
24.	Michael Provost	Executive director	Rochester Main Street	Economic development and transportation issues affecting downtown area
25.	Torey Kortz	Executive Director	SHARE Fund	Housing and food security issues affecting low-income population
26.	Susan Ford	Executive Director	Homeless Center for Strafford County	Homelessness
27.	Heidi Moran	Clinical Administrator	Southeastern New Hampshire Services	Substance abuse
28.	William Guinter	Program Policy Analyst	New Hampshire Housing	Low-income housing, fair housing
29.	Daniel Smith	Director of Housing Research	New Hampshire Housing	Low-income housing, fair housing
30.	William Ray	Managing Director for Policy and Planning	New Hampshire Housing	Low-income housing, fair housing
31.	Jennifer Marsh	Economic Development Specialist	City of Rochester	Economic development
32.	Karen Pollard	Director of Economic Development	City of Rochester	Economic development
33.	Mary Moriarty	Assistant Superintendent	Rochester School District	Issues affecting low-income and homeless youth
34.	Stephen LeClair	Title I Coordinator	Rochester School District	Issues affecting low-income and

				homeless youth
35.	Various	Ward 4	Rochester United Neighborhoods	Homelessness, low-income housing, substance abuse
36.	Various	Ward 3	Rochester United Neighborhoods	Economic development, transportation, issues affecting people with disabilities
37.	Various	Ward 2	Rochester United Neighborhoods	Homelessness, substance abuse, low-income housing issues
39.	Paige Eldridge	Director	Rochester Youth Safe Haven	Needs of students and youth in low-income housing
40.	Paul Lakevicius	Surveillance Manager/Epidemiologist	Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Division of Public Health Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	Lead poisoning, housing
41.	Beverly Drouin	Section Administrator	Healthy Homes & Environment Section, Division of Public Health Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	Lead poisoning, housing
42.	Jenifer Gould	Employment Counselor Specialist	Employment Program, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	Employment issues affecting low-income persons, transportation, substance abuse, health care, economic development
43.	Janet Laatsch	Chief Executive Officer	Goodwin Community Health	Health care needs of low-income persons,

				mental health care, substance abuse
44.	Laura Ring	President/Chief Executive Officer	Rochester Chamber of Commerce	Economic development
45.	Jennifer Flannery	Development and Communications Coordinator	Community Partners	Mental health care needs of low-income persons, substance abuse, housing needs of low-income persons
46.	Melissa Adams	Deputy Director/Head Start Coordinator	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County	Needs of low-income students and their families

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

3. Any agency types not consulted and rationale for not consulting.

All agency types were consulted during the planning process.

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4. 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?
1.	2014 Needs Assessment	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County	This report identifies the top three needs for Strafford County as being transportation, housing and homelessness, and mental health. The Annual Action Plan addresses all three issues.
2.	2012 Needs Assessment	Frisbie Memorial Hospital	This report outlines five prioritized community health needs: access to resources to address risky behaviors, access to treatment and rehabilitation for drug and alcohol dependence, access to behavioral health services, increased attention to chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions, and access to safe and affordable housing. The Annual Action Plan incorporates substance abuse treatment, behavioral health-related issues, and safe and affordable housing.
3.	2013 Annual Report	Goodwin Community Health	This report outlines a number of the service areas served, which include dental services, prenatal services, behavioral health, diabetes treatment, and WIC food package distribution. The Annual Action Plan addresses behavioral health needs and issues of food insecurity.
4.	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Strafford Regional Planning Commission	This report identifies a number of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) in the Strafford County region. Among the weaknesses identified are less-developed transportation in the northern part of the county, high high school dropout rate, expensive workforce housing, and businesses oriented in the south in the cities of Portsmouth and Dover. The Annual Action Plan addresses transportation shortfalls, workforce housing, and the development and support for a small business development center within the City of Rochester.
5.	Fair Housing Guide	New Hampshire Housing	This report addresses the impact of disability and age on housing, affordable housing, and fair housing issues. The Annual Action Plan addresses

			accessibility improvements to housing and public buildings, affordable housing issues, and fair housing issues.
6.	2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	This report did not provide goals but provided data outlining specific areas of concern regarding homelessness in the Strafford County region, such as high reporting of disabilities among homeless persons and a significant number of persons staying at emergency shelters multiple times throughout the reported year. The Annual Action Plan addresses these issues through specific planning related to behavioral health and permanent supportive housing.
7.	Local Solutions for the Strafford Region: Regional Master Plan (Draft)	Strafford Regional Planning Commission	This draft plan outlines a number of future priorities and needs for the Strafford County region across a wide range of community areas such as environment, transportation, economic development, and housing. This Annual Action Plan addresses a number of these areas, including projects supporting pedestrian- and bicyclist-friendly travel; supporting public health through increasing access to recreational opportunities; supporting affordable housing options for elderly persons; and supporting existing and new businesses, employment opportunities, and the City's educational system.
8.	Regional Housing Needs Assessment	Strafford Regional Planning Commission	This report identifies a number of key housing needs, both for the Strafford County region in general and for the City of Rochester specifically: the need for smaller units of housing, housing to support the increasing percentage of the population that is elderly and people with disabilities, increase in assisted rental housing units, and increase in workforce rental housing. The Annual Action Plan includes support for rental assistance programs, analysis of workforce housing support opportunities, and funding for building accessibility improvements and additions.
9.	Fair Housing and Equity Assessment	Strafford Regional Planning Commission	This report addresses a number of areas of concern such as the need for more affordable housing, more options for low-income housing, housing and transportation for elderly persons that

			allows access to needed services, and the disproportionately low home ownership of communities of color. The Annual Action Plan supports rental assistance programs, transportation analyses, and fair housing programs.
10.	2015-2020 Five Year Plan	Rochester Housing Authority	This plan addresses working on alternate uses for a building owned by the Rochester Housing Authority, reducing turnover time for public housing units, and the promotion of aging in place. The Annual Action Plan addresses these issues in its focus on affordable housing, including low-occupancy housing units accessible to persons at a wide range of ages.
11.	Framework to Inform the Greater Seacoast's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (Draft)	Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness	This report outlines three main areas of recommendations: improved access to primary and behavioral health care for persons experiencing homelessness, improved coordination and increased capacity of homeless system network of organizations and providers, and increased access to permanent housing. The Annual Action Plan addresses these issues in prioritizing the provision of homeless shelter services and behavioral health support to low-income populations
12.	Housing Needs in New Hampshire	New Hampshire Housing	This report identifies a number of present and upcoming housing needs, including housing for an aging population with increasing accessibility needs, an increasingly less affordable rental market, an increasing demand for workforce housing, and a decline in home ownership. The Annual Action Plan includes support for rental assistance programs, workforce housing support analysis, and support for building accessibility installations and improvements.
13.	2013 Lead Poisoning Surveillance Report	Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	This report identifies the City of Rochester as one of New Hampshire's eight highest-risk communities and recommends that all children in high-risk communities be tested for blood lead poisoning before the age of six. The Annual Action Plan includes analysis and support for lead paint testing efforts.
14.	Homelessness	Bureau of Homeless and	This report discusses both statewide and

	in New Hampshire Report for 2014	Housing Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	regional needs of homeless populations, and it identifies chronically homeless persons with multiple co-occurring disorders and substance abuse issues as a subpopulation particularly in need. The Annual Action Plan provides funding for several of the regional homeless shelters, including those listed as resources within this report; support for substance abuse and mental health treatment; and support for permanent supportive housing.
15.	Master Plan	City of Rochester	This plan outlines a number of goals and visions in areas such as natural resource protection, economic development, and recreation. Under economic development, the plan calls for implementation of a customized business retention and expansion program, an educational task force to stimulate additional educational opportunities for the City's high school students and other workforce members, and investing in the City's neighborhoods. The Annual Action Plan includes funding for educational programs to prepare youth for the workforce, analysis of the development of a City-located small business development center, and construction projects enhancing recreational facilities in the City.
16.	New Hampshire STD/HIV Surveillance Program 5 Year Data Summary Report: 2009-2013	New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services' Infectious Disease Surveillance Section	This report discusses the rates of HIV/AIDS infection (and other STI infection) of various New Hampshire communities as well as the demographics of infected persons. The Annual Action Plan addresses these issues through substance abuse prevention and treatment programs (as intravenous drug use is a known transmittal method for HIV infection) and special needs housing efforts.
17.	Getting Ahead of the Curve: Video Training Modules	Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast	This series of training modules introduces workforce housing basics, provides an overview of New Hampshire's workforce housing law, and suggests strategies for encouraging the development of workforce housing. The Annual Action Plan addresses these issues through exploration of how best to achieve affordable housing expansion.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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PARTICIPATION
AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The City of Rochester's Community Development Division has conducted extensive public outreach as part of both the Consolidated Action Plan and FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan planning and preparation processes. This has included a public hearing, attendance at monthly local neighbor ward meetings, consultations with local public service agencies, consultations with local business organizations, and social media outreach. At the public hearing, two people spoke on behalf of a public service agency that intended to seek CDBG grant funding, and three comments were received from City residents. This outreach was conducted in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan outlined in the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan.

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The draft FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan was presented for a first reading to the full City Council at the April 7, 2015 City Council Meeting. A public hearing was held on April 21, 2015. [information on who spoke] At the May 5, 2015 City Council meeting, there was a second reading of the draft FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan, and the Action Plan was adopted.

Citizen participation affected goal-setting in a number of key areas. Citizens' comments on various public service agencies that had been funded previously and/or were applying for FY 2015-2016 funding were included in the Community Development Coordinator's analysis of public service agency grant applications and funding recommendations. Citizens' comments on the primary areas of need for the City included the City's homeless population, economic and workforce development, and rise in substance abuse. The Annual Action Plan addresses these areas of needs in a number of different funded programs and projects.

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)
	In-Person Meeting	Citizens of Ward 4 District	Approximately 15 individuals in attendance, including the Ward district police officer	Comments were offered on a number of public service agencies' performances, street and sidewalk issues, and the needs for homeless resources	All comments were accepted or referred to other City departments for follow-up, as appropriate	N/A
	Public Notice of Public Hearing, News Article about Public Hearing	General citizenry	Four email responses	One comment requested thinning out of bushes at Hanson Pines Park; one comment suggested a community garden; one comment received from a public service agency requested funding; one comment received from a skateboard park company offered to help with a proposed project at Hanson Pines Park	The first two comments were referred to other City departments for follow-up; the third commenter was sent a grant application; the fourth comment was not accepted because the proposed help was not in alignment with planned renovations to the park	N/A
	Public	General	Representativ	Recommend	Comment	N/A

	Hearing	citizenry	es from Community Action Partnership of Strafford County; general citizenry	ation for funding of weatherization program, Head Start, and summer meals program; criticism of previously funded projects such as rehabilitation of historic buildings; support for programs aimed at supporting marriage and "traditional families;" criticism of accepting federal funding due to federal control of local decision-making	criticizing acceptance of federal funding due to federal control of local decision-making was not accepted. This comment was not accepted because it was decided that it is in the City of Rochester's best interest to continue to receive CDBG funding.	
	In-person meeting	Citizens of Ward 3 District	Approximately 30 in attendance, including the Ward district police officer and City councilors	Comments were offered requesting more business development downtown, funding for a business development center located in the city, more transportation access for elderly	All comments were accepted or referred to other City departments for follow-up, as appropriate	N/A

				persons and people with disabilities, desire for new industry, desire for job development resources for both the general public and certain special populations, and request for reduction in absentee landlords		
	In-person meeting	Citizens of Ward 2 District	Approximately 12 in attendance, including the Ward district police officer	Comments were offered on need for services for homeless population, funding requests for three specific public service agencies, issues with trash pile-ups in certain locations, concerns regarding a currently-funded housing rehabilitation program, request for playground equipment for a Ward-located	All comments were accepted or referred to other City departments for follow-up, as appropriate	N/A

				school, and need for a drug treatment facility located in the city		
	In-person meeting	Citizens of Ward 1	Approximately 6 in attendance, including the Ward district police officers and City councilor	Comments were offered that funding be spent on programs that promote self-reliance and do not reward individuals merely seeking "hand-outs," work incentive programs were suggested	All comments were accepted or referred to other City departments for follow-up, as appropriate	N/A
	In-person meeting	Citizens of Ward 6	Approximately 10 in attendance, including the Ward district police officers and City councilor	Comments were offered on the rise in heroin abuse and the sidewalks outside School St. School are badly cracked and damaged	All comments were accepted or referred to other City departments for follow-up, as appropriate	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

EXPECTED RESOURCES

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

Introduction

The City of Rochester owns the land of Hanson Pines Park, the land of Rochester Commons, the buildings that house the Rochester Public Library and the Rochester Opera House, the building that houses the Rochester Community Center, and all public school buildings. This represents a significant variety of cultural, educational, and recreational resources. In addition, the City of Rochester provides annual funding through its general budget for public services, and additional funding and leveraging is available through other awarded grants.

Priority Table

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 (HUD)	Acquisition, Admin and Planning, Economic Development, Housing, Public Improvements, Public Services	227,062.00	60,506.04	57,481.64	345,049.68	1,054,624.16	Program income is calculated in the form of Job Opportunity Benefit (JOB) Loan repayments.
Non-CDBG	General City Funding	Public Service Agencies	47,500.00	0.00	0.00	47,500.00	190,000.00	The City provides funding in its general budget to three public service agencies every fiscal year. These agencies provide services to low-income residents of the City.
Non-CDBG	Economic Development Funds	Community economic development projects outside of CDBG	186,000.00	0.00	24,729.00	210,729.00	744,000.00	This fund is based on a contribution to the City by Waste Management.
Non-CDBG	NH Department of Environmental Services	Watershed development	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	This is a grant funding the development of

								watershed protection.
Non-CDBG	Public – Federal (SAMHSA)	Substance abuse prevention	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	125,000.00	375,000.00	This is a grant funding the work of drug-free communities coalition Bridging the Gaps. The City is presently applying to become the new fiscal agent for the coalition and its grant.

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

In the FY 2015-2016 grant applications submitted by public service agencies, the City of Rochester requested information on whether CDBG funding would be used to leverage other funding available to the public service agencies. This information was collected and taken under consideration during the grant application evaluation process, with the goal of maximizing funding impact through taking advantage of leveraging opportunities. In addition, the City will use general City funds to assist in construction projects through providing City employees to accomplish work on several construction projects.

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

The City owns the land of Hanson Pines Park, the land of Rochester Commons, the building that houses the Rochester Public Library, the buildings that house the Rochester Community Center and the Rochester Opera House, and all public school buildings. Projects such as bicycle racks installations and accessibility improvements are planned for these locations.

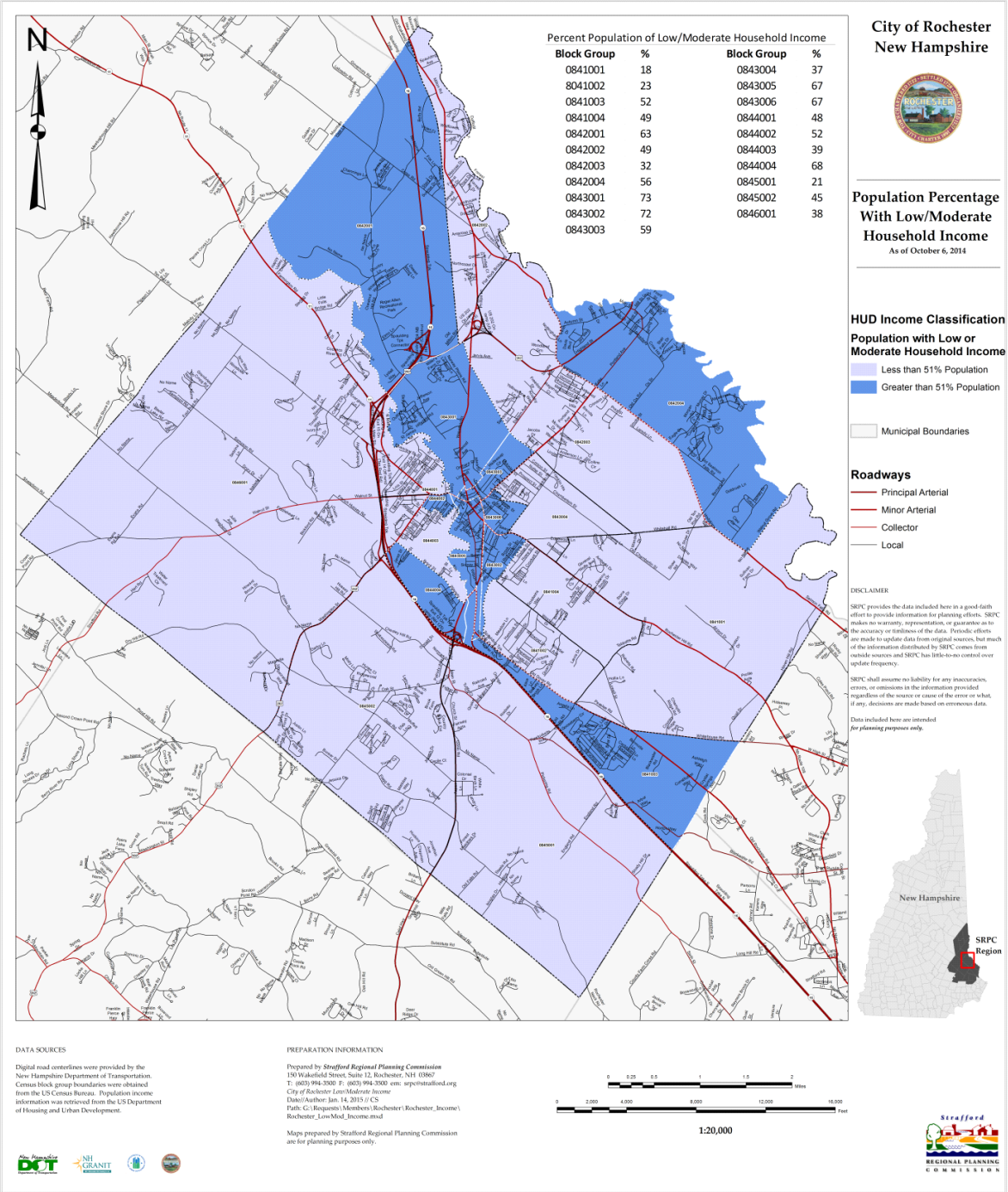
Discussion

N/A.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities - 91.215(a)(1)

DRAFT

General Allocation Priorities



Percent Population of Low/Moderate Household Income

Block Group	%	Block Group	%
0841001	18	0843004	37
8041002	23	0843005	67
0841003	52	0843006	67
0841004	49	0844001	48
0842001	63	0844002	52
0842002	49	0844003	39
0842003	32	0844004	68
0842004	56	0845001	21
0843001	73	0845002	45
0843002	72	0846001	38
0843003	59		

The blue regions, which are 51% or more low to moderate income residents as determined by most recent HUD data, comprise the City of Rochester's general allocation priority areas.

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

These identified regions, which are 51% or more low to moderate income residents as determined by most recent HUD data, comprise the City of Rochester's general allocation priority areas. Using these census tracts and block groups as a basis for allocation prioritization ensures that projects and programs will primarily benefit low to moderate income City residents.

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs Identified

Narrative

These priorities are based on the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan and the extensive research and consultations that the Community Development Coordinator conducted with local public service agencies, relevant government agencies and departments, and the general citizenry. Many worthwhile requests are proposed, and a system of project classification is required in order to make the most beneficial investments in the City as defined in the goals of the Consolidated Action Plan.

Projects, activities, and requests for funding have been assigned to one of three categories described below. They do not change or indicate a preference for the types of programs supported with CDBG funds; rather, they provide a framework to summarize the presumed impact of a project when making community investment decisions. The City of Rochester commits to prioritizing activities and projects that meet a combination of the most important basic needs and longer-term important needs of the City's marginalized individuals and families, primarily through strategic partnerships with other agencies.

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food, shelter, and clothing. Without these, no person is able to live, let alone realize a productive existence. These basics, along with health and safety concerns, form the definition of what our most fundamental requirements are to keep alive. Especially since the recession of 2008, the burden to provide health care, safe housing, and even adequate food is a struggle for many working families and individuals in the Rochester community.

Safety Net

These are programs that provide direct services to the community's children, elderly persons, people with disabilities, and persons in crisis and augment the City's services, such as the police force and Welfare office. These are projects that intervene in emergency situations and create a place for accessing assistance.

Investment

With addressing basic needs and safety concerns are an understandable priority, the funding of investment projects and activities help to reduce the funding needed in the future for addressing the basic needs categories through addressing poverty and homelessness at their core roots.

The expected objectives, outcomes, and indicators for the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan are outlined in the narrative section under each project/activity below and are aligned with those set forth by HUD and identified in the goals of the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan.

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

Goals Summary Information

CDBG - Administration (20% of Grant)		
Consolidated Plan Priority Category	***Project/Activity***	***Funding Amount***
N/A	Planning and Administration	$45,412.40
CDBG - Public Services (15% of Grant)		
Consolidated Plan Priority Category	***Project/Activity***	***Funding Amount***
Basic	Homeless Center for Strafford County	$7,059.30
Investment	Project Pride	$5,000.00
Basic	SHARE Fund	$5,000.00
Safety Net	New Hampshire Legal Assistance Housing Justice Project	$1,000.00
Basic	My Friend's Place	$6,000.00
Safety Net	Tri-City Co-Op	$1,500.00
Basic	Cross Roads House	$3,500.00
Investment	Dover Adult Learning Center	$5,000.00
Total:	$34,059.30	
CDBG - Economic Development		
Consolidated Plan Priority Category	***Project/Activity***	***Funding Amount***
Investment	Development of In-City Small Business Development Center	$12,000.00
CDBG - Housing Rehabilitation		
Consolidated Plan Priority Category	***Project/Activity***	***Funding Amount***
Basic	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County - Weatherization Program	$50,000
CDBG - Facilities/Infrastructure		
Consolidated Plan Priority Category	***Project/Activity***	***Funding Amount***
Investment	Rochester Public Library - Handicap-Accessible Doors	$16,500.00
Basic	Homeless Center for Strafford County - Roof Construction	$3,850.00
Investment	Rochester Child Care Center - Fire-Safety Upgrades	$4,400.00
Investment	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County - Head Start Security Upgrades	$8,800.00
Investment	Rochester School Department - Handicap-Accessible Elevator Lift	$48,400.00

Investment	Bicycle Racks Project	$13,200.00
Investment	Handicap Accessibility Improvements Microgrants Program	$47,921.94
Total:	$143,071.94	
CDBG - Total		
Total:	$284,543.64 (FY 2015-2016 grant + prior year resources)	

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

This section outlines HUD's expectations for what the City should be addressing with its CDBG funding and what has been approved, concurrently, in the City's Consolidated Action Plan for FY 2015-2020. The individual activities were established to meet HUD outcomes and were those seen to meet the needs of the City's low to moderate income population as identified at present and projected over the next five years. Within the context of these identified needs and objectives, other eligible activities can and may be undertaken and supported with CDBG funding as opportunities are defined and new needs in the community emerge.

Program Goal for the City of Rochester: To Provide Decent Housing

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Assisting Homeless Persons to Obtain Affordable Housing and Assisting Persons at Risk of Homelessness

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Support of shelters, including transitional shelters and permanent supportive housing, for homeless persons and other vulnerable groups, including funding for building upgrades and rehabilitation
  - Support for rent assistance programs targeting homeless persons most at risk for chronic homelessness, including persons with substance abuse issues and persons with mental illnesses
  - Exploration of resources and support for resources available for long-term supportive housing for the chronically homeless population

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Retention of Affordable Housing Stock

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester: In conjunction with Community Action Partnership of Strafford County and private and non-profit housing developers:

  - Support of weatherization and other energy efficiency efforts to provide long-term and sustainable affordability to low-income homeowners
  - Exploration of future housing rehabilitation programs, including funding for lead paint contamination testing efforts
  - Exploration and support for the creation of workforce housing opportunities

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Increasing the Supply of Supportive Housing Which Includes Structural Features and Services to Enable Persons with Special Needs (Including Persons Living with HIV/AIDS) to Live in Dignity and Independence

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Support for rent assistance programs targeting homeless persons and those at risk of becoming homeless, including persons with substance abuse issues and persons with mental illnesses
- Exploration of resources and support for resources available for long-term supportive housing for the chronically homeless population
- Funding allocations for accessibility microgrants for building upgrades and new installations of accessibility features (*e.g.,* wheelchair ramps, lifts, etc.), including in residential buildings

Program Goal for the City of Rochester: To Provide a Suitable Living Environment

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Reducing the Incidence of Increasing Substance Abuse (Especially Heroin and Other Opioids) and Addressing Root Causation

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Support for rent assistance programs targeting homeless persons and those at risk of becoming homeless, including persons with substance abuse issues and persons with mental illnesses
  - Support for organizations and programs addressing mental illness (due to the high coincidence of substance abuse and mental illness)

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Improving the Safety and Livability of Neighborhoods

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Ongoing coordination with the Department of Public Works for enhancements to major infrastructure improvement projects in low-income neighborhoods
  - Ongoing coordination with the Recreation Department for improvements and expansions to youth recreational facilities to provide pro-social activity opportunities and to reduce youth vandalism and other misconduct
  - Continued review of neighborhood conditions and exploration of projects that can address deficiencies that negatively impact the health, safety, and quality of life in low-income neighborhood

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Increase Access to Quality Public and Private Facilities and Services

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Support for public service agencies providing programs and support to low-income populations of greatest need
  - Continued participation in local coalitions of service providers (*e.g.,* Balance of State Continuum of Care, regional Continuum of Care, and Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness)

- Encourage and support regional transportation groups to provide greater access to community resources for low-income population as well as senior citizens and people with disabilities
- Renovations to public buildings to increase access and accessibility for all citizens, with particular focus on people with disabilities

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Increase Access to Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Funding allocations for fair housing education programs to provide education to tenants, landlords, community-based organizations, and general citizenry
  - Exploration of future housing rehabilitation programs, including funding for lead paint contamination testing efforts
  - Encourage thoughtful exploration of appropriate locations for low-income housing and workforce housing placement

Program Goal for the City of Rochester: To Expand Economic Opportunities

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Establishment, Stabilization, and Expansion of Small Businesses, Including Micro-Businesses

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Explore development and funding resources for an in-city small business development center
  - Continue to maintain revolving loan fund for small business financing in exchange for low-income job creation/retention agreements

- HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Provision of Public Services Concerned with Employment

  Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

  - Support for vocational education programs and workforce training programs for low-income residents, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged populations
  - Encourage partnership responses to addressing specific employment accessibility gaps in populations identified as in need, such as the newly unemployed, veterans, and minors

Program Goal #1: To Provide Decent Housing
Assisting Homeless Persons to Obtain Affordable Housing and Assisting Persons at Risk of Homelessness
Retention of Affordable Housing Stock
Increasing the Supply of Supportive Housing Which Includes Structural Features and Services to Enable Persons with Special Needs (Including Persons Living with HIV/AIDS) to Live in Dignity and Independence

Program Goal #2: To Provide a Suitable Living Environment
Reducing the Incidence of Increasing Substance Abuse (Especially Heroin and Other Opioids) and Addressing Root Causation
Improving the Safety and Livability of Neighborhoods
Increase Access to Quality Public and Private Facilities and Services
Increase Access to Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents
Program Goal #3: To Expand Economic Opportunities
Establishment, Stabilization, and Expansion of Small Businesses, Including Micro-Businesses
Provision of Public Services Concerned with Employment

Table 7 – Goal Descriptions

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b):

In addition to temporary and emergency housing provided through support of the three regional homeless shelters, the City of Rochester will provide affordable housing through support for the SHARE Fund and the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County. The SHARE Fund provides rental assistance and other related housing-based support to low-income persons and families. An estimated number of 195 low-income families and individuals are estimated to be provided affording housing, or assistance staying in affordable housing, during FY 2015-2016. The Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, through its weatherization program, will provide weatherization of an estimated 40 homes during FY 2015-2016, which will reduce these homeowners' utility bills and allow these homes to remain affordable.

This increase in available housing will supplement pre-existing housing supplies. About five units for people with mental or physical disabilities are managed by the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County in conjunction with Community Partners. Rent is 30% of tenants' adjusted gross income.

Four units of transitional housing are available through the Homeless Center for Strafford County in conjunction with Waste Management. These units house one family each for a period of 12 to 18 months. Case management is provided to the families.

Ninety units of housing have been made available through Low Income Housing Tax Credits. This includes twelve units of housing for elderly persons.

Four units of housing are available to people living with HIV/AIDS. These units are owned and managed by AIDS Response Seacoast in conjunction with the Housing Partnership.

PROJECTS

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

This section outlines HUD's expectations for what the City should be addressing with its CDBG funding and what has been approved, concurrently, in the City's Consolidated Action Plan for FY 2015-2020. The individual activities were established to meet HUD outcomes and were those seen to meet the needs of the City's low to moderate income population as identified at present and projected over the next five years. Within the context of these identified needs and objectives, other eligible activities can and may be undertaken and supported with CDBG funding as opportunities are defined and new needs in the community emerge.

CDBG - Administration (20% of Grant)	
Project/Activity	***Description***
Planning and Administration	Planning and administration (salary, office supplies, etc.)
CDBG - Public Services (15% of Grant)	
Project/Activity	***Description***
Homeless Center for Strafford County	Funding for general operational expenses of provide seasonal shelter services to homeless women and families
Project Pride	Funding to maintain the organization's operating budget and equipment as well as to provide services such as car repairs, groceries, interview apparel, etc. to disadvantaged youth to assist in obtaining employment
SHARE Fund	Funding for the organization's Emergency Financial Assistance program, which assists low-income families to identify affordable housing options and assists with back rent to prevent eviction and subsequent homelessness
New Hampshire Legal Assistance Housing Justice Project	Funding to support targeted education and outreach on housing discrimination and other fair housing issues to Rochester area residents, landlords, and community-based organizations
My Friend's Place	Funding for the organization's emergency shelter program which provides transitional housing services to homeless families
Tri-City Co-Op	Funding for overall operating expenses to provide non-medical mental health wellness and recovery services
Cross Roads House	Funding for operating expenses and staff salary/benefits for one direct care staff person working 20 hours per week to serve the emergency and transitional shelter
Dover Adult Learning Center	Funding for High School Equivalency Test examinations and child care services for students.
CDBG - Economic Development	
Project/Activity	***Description***
Development of In-City Small Business Development Center	Funding to develop and manage an in-city small business consulting program
JOB Loan Program	The Job Opportunity Benefit (JOB) Loan Program provides a revolving fund for loans to businesses to expand, modernize, or relocation within Rochester if they commit to hiring full-time/FTE low-income employees. (The JOB Loan Program fund has been self-sustaining over the last several years

	without need for additional funding.)
CDBG - Housing Rehabilitation	
Project/Activity	***Description***
Community Action Partnership of Strafford County - Weatherization Program	Funding to support the organization's weatherization program that helps low-income homeowners and renters to update home insulation and benefit from heating system/hot water heater repairs or replacement
CDBG - Facilities/Infrastructure	
Project/Activity	***Description***
Rochester Public Library - Handicap-Accessible Doors	Installation of handicap-accessible doors at the main entrance
Homeless Center for Strafford County - Roof Construction	Repairs to the roof on the three transitional units that are rented to homeless persons or those who would become homeless if the units were not available
Rochester Child Care Center - Fire-Safety Upgrades	Installation of door hardware and to replace a fire barrier door to meet fire codes
Community Action Partnership of Strafford County - Head Start Security Upgrades	Installation of a security system and security camera at the organization's Head Start facility to allow parental access as required by New Hampshire child care licensing regulations
Rochester School Department - Handicap-Accessible Elevator Lift	Installation of a handicap-accessible elevator lift at the City's high school
Bicycle Racks Project	Installation of bicycle racks in key downtown locations to encourage bicycle-riding and downtown commerce

Table 8 – Project Information

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

These priorities are based on the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan and the extensive research and consultations that the Community Development Coordinator conducted with local public service agencies, relevant government agencies and departments, and the general citizenry. In particular, activities and programs providing homeless services, affordable housing, and substance abuse and mental health services were prioritized based on accessed community needs.

Obstacles to addressing underserved needs include, in part, the capacity and competence of funded public service agencies to provide the services for which they requested funding. The capacity and competence of public service agencies applying for CDBG funding was assessed during the grant application process, and in some cases the need for a proposed project or program was weighed against the public service agency's assessed ability to successfully provide the proposed services.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
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

Assistance will be directed primarily to low-income areas. This prioritization will be achieved through two main methods. First, assistance will be provided through public services aimed specifically at low-income clients, such as homeless shelter and mental health services, and through facilities projects that benefit low-income persons, such as weatherization of low-income housing. Second, assistance will be directed toward census tracts identified by HUD as comprised of 51% or greater low-income households. These census tracts will be prioritized in consideration for facilities and housing projects.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Downtown	34%
Other	66%

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Combining clientele-specific and low-income census tract-specific targeting will reach the greatest number of low-income persons.

Discussion

N/A.

DRAFT

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Affordable housing remains an under-met need in both the City of Rochester and the greater Seacoast region. In addition to temporary and emergency housing provided through support of the three regional homeless shelters, all three of which receive support from the City or Rochester, the Rochester will provide affordable housing through support for the SHARE Fund and Community Partners. Both the SHARE Fund and Community Partners provide rental assistance and other related housing-based support to low-income persons and families. An estimated number of 300 low-income families and individuals are estimated to be provided affording housing, or assistance staying in affordable housing, during FY 2015-2016.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	135
Non-Homeless	195
Special-Needs	0
Total	330

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through:	
Rental Assistance	195
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	40
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	135

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

Focus is placed on rental assistance and housing stock rehabilitation over housing acquisition as rental assistance and housing rehabilitation have been identified as budget-maximizing approaches to increasing affordable housing. In particular, a disproportionately high percentage of low-income and minority households rent versus own their homes.

PUBLIC HOUSING
AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of Rochester's Community Development Coordinator has been working and will continue to work with the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) to identify and address public housing needs, such as the need for more housing for elderly persons and people with disabilities and the need for more workforce housing. During the creation of the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan and this Annual Action Plan, the Community Development Coordinator consulted with the Rochester Housing Authority on public housing needs and how best the City's CDBG program can assist in addressing these needs.

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

The City of Rochester will provide outreach to the Rochester Housing Authority to encourage the RHA to apply for accessibility microgrants to provide needed accessibility upgrades to its housing stock. The City of Rochester will also explore opportunities to encourage the development of additional workforce housing.

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

The City of Rochester has verified with the Rochester Housing Authority that a Resident Advisory Board, including representatives from each of the RHA public housing sites, meets to review RHA one-year and five-year plans as well as to provide input on RHA operations. The City of Rochester will continue coordinating with the Rochester Housing Authority to explore ways to increase resident engagement with the Resident Advisory Board as well as home ownership opportunities for RHA residents. In particular, given the small households as identified in the current Rochester Housing Authority Five Year Plan (one to two persons), the City of Rochester will be exploring how best to encourage private housing developers to focus on small housing units.

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

The Rochester Housing Authority is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

N/A.

HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

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

Introduction

Extensive consultations and previous experience indicate a continuing need for services and shelter serving the City of Rochester's homeless population. A significant portion of the FY 2014-2015 Annual Action Plan focused on the needs of the City's homeless population, and funding was provided to the three primary homeless shelters in the region. This Annual Action Plan for FY 2015-2016 incorporates continued funding for the provision of services through regional homeless shelters as needs analyses show a continued priority need for these services.

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

The City of Rochester has participated fully in the Seacoast's transition to the Coordinated Access system for provision of a range of services to the City's homeless population, and the City plans to continue its participation and support in FY 2015-2016. The Community Development Coordinator will attend all relevant meetings with the Coordinated Access coordinator, the City's welfare officer, and other key officials and stakeholders to ensure that Coordinated Access implementation continues to proceed smoothly.

Coordinated Access provides a single point of access for the provision of homeless services in the region. As part of the Coordinated Access coordinator's intake process, the coordinator conducts an in-depth assessment of the client's individual situation, including current housing access, community contacts, and other available resources. The Coordinated Access coordinator then matches the client with the available shelters and other supportive resources that best match the individual's needs and maximize available resources.

The City of Rochester will also fund a wide range of public service agencies that provide services such as housing, homelessness prevention, and mental health assistance. This includes direct funding to the region's three homeless shelters, rental assistance to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and supportive services such as mental health support. In particular, services aimed at those with substance abuse and/or mental health issues are meant to effectively and permanently home the segment of the population which is chronically homeless and consumes a disproportionately large portion of services such as bed nights and emergency room visits.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Rochester will fund a wide range of public service agencies that provide services such as housing, homelessness prevention, and mental health assistance. This includes direct funding to the region's three homeless shelters. The Homeless Center for Strafford County provides seasonal emergency and transitional shelter for homeless women and families, My Friend's Place provides emergency and transitional shelter for families, and Cross Roads House provides emergency shelter for men, women, and families. In addition to funding general operating expenses for these three homeless shelters, the City of Rochester is also funding facilities construction work on the Homeless Center for Strafford County's transitional units.

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

The City of Rochester will fund a wide range of public service agencies that provide services such as housing, homelessness prevention, and mental health assistance. This includes direct funding to the region's three homeless shelters. The Homeless Center for Strafford County provides seasonal emergency and transitional shelter for homeless women and families, My Friend's Place provides emergency and transitional shelter for families, and Cross Roads House provides emergency shelter for men, women, and families.

In addition to this funding, the City of Rochester will support rental assistance to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and supportive services such as mental health support. In particular, services aimed at those with substance abuse and/or mental health issues are meant to effectively and permanently home the segment of the population which is chronically homeless and consumes a disproportionately large portion of services such as bed nights and emergency room visits.

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

The City of Rochester will support rental assistance to those who are at risk of becoming homeless and supportive services such as non-medical mental health support. In addition to these basic needs services, Rochester will also fund programs and activities aimed at assisting low-income individuals and families over a longer term through educational, employment, and health investments. These programs and activities include Project Pride's out-of-school youth program serving economically disadvantaged youth who wish to become economically self-sufficient, Tri-City Co-Op's provision of services to those struggling with mental health issues, and the New Hampshire Legal Assistance Housing Justice Project's education and outreach to landlords and tenants about fair housing issues and tenants' rights.

Discussion

The City of Rochester does not receive Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding.

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	0
Tenant-based rental assistance	0
Units provided in housing facilities (transitional or permanent) that are being developed, leased, or operated	0
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	0

DRAFT

BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Introduction

Many barriers to affordable housing for the City of Rochester's residents have been eliminated, but many remain. Rochester commits to continuing its partnerships with the Rochester Housing Authority and regional non-profits (such as the SHARE Fund and the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County) to address remaining barriers to affordable housing.

This will be accomplished through a variety of approaches, including low-income housing tax credit projects, weatherization, and rental assistance. Low-income housing tax credits help to incentivize housing developers to take on housing projects that might otherwise prove economically disadvantageous. Weatherization of low-income homes, accomplished through the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, reduces energy expenses and thereby lowers overall home ownership and maintenance expenses for low-income householders. Rental assistance helps low-income residents to obtain safe, quality housing in a rental market with continually rising rent rates.

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

The Community Development Coordinator consulted with the City of Rochester Planning Department during the process of researching and preparing the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan and FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Action Plan. During this consultation, the Community Development Coordinator specifically raised concerns regarding the potential negative effects of public policies and zoning ordinances on the development and availability of affordable housing. The Community Development Coordinator will continue to consult with the Planning Department and other relevant government officials and boards to monitor and evaluate the overall effects of policies and ordinances on the affordable housing supply.

The City of Rochester will also provide continuing education to City officials and employees on affordable housing issues. This includes encouraging relevant City officials and employees to attend fair housing and workforce housing trainings and seminars, such as those offered by the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast. The Community Development Coordinator will attend such trainings and seminars, as well, in order to provide appropriate guidance to others within the City.

Discussion

N/A.

OTHER ACTIONS

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction

Addressing the needs of the City of Rochester's low-income communities necessitates a wide-ranging, comprehensive action plan. Many of the discrete issues discussed below are addressed elsewhere in the Annual Action Plan under multiple funded programs and activities. In addition, the Community Development Coordinator is committed to outreach and networking with regional public service agencies, government entities, and others to maximize the impact and reach of CDGB funds.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Undeserved needs primarily relate to the rise in substance abuse issues, particularly the abuse of heroin and other opioids, and the impacts of mental illness on housing and employment. The City of Rochester plans to address these serious issues through a combination of approaches. In addition to the work of the City's Police Department to locate drug dealers and reduce the available supply, funding will go toward rental assistance, homeless services, and efforts to permanently house the City's chronically homeless population, which is disproportionately comprised of persons with substance abuse issue. Preventative and supportive activities benefiting persons with substance abuse issues include creation of employment and educational opportunities; permanent and temporary supportive housing; and treatment and support for mental illness, as substance abuse is often a form of self-medication for mental illness issues.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Rochester commits to continuing its partnerships with the Rochester Housing Authority and regional non-profits (such as the SHARE Fund and the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County) to address remaining barriers to affordable housing.

This will be accomplished through a variety of approaches, including low-income housing tax credit projects, weatherization, and rental assistance. Low-income housing tax credits help to incentivize housing developers to take on housing projects that might otherwise prove economically disadvantageous. Weatherization of low-income homes, accomplished through the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, reduces energy expenses and thereby lowers overall home ownership and maintenance expenses for low-income householders. Rental assistance helps low-income residents to obtain safe, quality housing in a rental market with continually rising rent rates.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Rochester will seek to partner with the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority to administer a joint project aimed at increasing lead-based paint screening and lead-based paint abatement. Both the City of Rochester and the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority fund the housing weatherization work of the Community Action Partnership for Strafford County. Given the ages and conditions of many of the homes that receive weatherization assistance, these homes have a higher than average chance of lead-based paint hazard.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Rochester is supporting a wide range of anti-poverty efforts. Educational activities, such as those supplied by Project Pride, are supported as the City recognizes the value of investing in education and believes there is a greater likelihood of positive future economic status if youth and other job-seekers can attain the basic skills needed to advance in the marketplace and avoid poverty. Activities that address impediments to job success and housing retention, such as Tri-City Co-Op's non-medical mental health wellness and rental assistance provided by the SHARE Fund, also support and improve the self-sufficiency of the City's low-income residents.

The City of Rochester also continues to support its Job Opportunity Benefits (JOB) Loan Program, which provides loans to small businesses to encourage the hiring of low-income employees, and will begin exploring an in-city small business development center to further support these efforts.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City is a public entity whose purpose relative to housing and economic development involves areas such as community development, financial assistance to residents in need, planning and economic development, code enforcement, and zoning. The City's funding resources for housing, community development, and economic development assistance for low-income residents come from the Community Development Block Grant programs. The programs are planned and administered through the Community Development Division of the Office of Economic and Community Development with support from other City departments.

The Community Development Division will work with a variety of City departments to implement the programs and activities outlined in this Annual Action Plan, to identify further program needs within the City, and to research other funding sources for City projects that are not and/or cannot be funded through CDBG funds. In addition, the Community Development Coordinator has been and will continue to engage in outreach to key stakeholders, in both the non-profit and private sectors, to facilitate relationship-building and to serve as a key point of contact for the City's community development and low-income economic development matters. This will be accomplished, in part, through the Community Development Coordinator's continued active participation in the Balance of State Continuum of Care, the regional Continuum of Care, the Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness, and other relevant coalitions and activities.

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

The Community Development Coordinator is committed to outreach and networking with regional public service agencies, government entities, and others to maximize the impact and reach of CDGB funds. The City of Rochester will continue to participate fully in the regional Coordinated Access system for provision of a range of services to the City's homeless population. The Community Development Coordinator will continue to attend the meetings organized by the relevant regional public service agencies and, whenever possible, will encourage collaborations between organizations to facilitate the most efficient and effective provision of services to overlapping constituencies

In addition, the Community Development Coordinator will continue to serve as a member of the Steering Committee of the Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the regional homeless shelters, public housing authorities, other local governments, and public service agencies concerned with addressing homelessness.

Discussion

N/A.

DRAFT

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(l)(1,2,4)

Introduction

There exists $57,481.64 in prior year grant funds that will be reprogrammed into the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans. These monies are from projects that were cancelled or reduced in scope due to unforeseen circumstances. The program income from the JOB Loan Program is continually reinvested back into the JOB Loan Program.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(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	$0.00
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	$0.00
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	$0.00
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.	$57,481.64
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	$0.00
Total Program Income	$57,481.64

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	$0.00
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income	100%

Discussion

N/A.