

2021 Annual Action Plan



Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Hinesville's Community Development Department (CDD) is committed to providing safe, decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities – especially for low- to moderate-income individuals and special needs populations in the community. This Annual Action Plan furthers the priorities identified in the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan: 1) Affordable Housing; 2) Community Revitalization; and 3) Quality of Life. The Annual Action Plan defines the actions and outcomes the City plans to achieve in the 2021 program year. It also allows for citizen participation in the development of the plan. The Community Development Department administers federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and ensures compliance of HUD regulations and guidelines. Partnerships with neighborhood nonprofit organizations and other local agencies allow for improvement in the quality of life of Hinesville residents.

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.

Activities proposed in the 2021 Annual Action Plan are directly consistent with the three priority areas identified within the Consolidated Plan.

1) Affordable Housing Opportunities

- 1A Development of New Affordable Housing

The development of new affordable housing will begin in year 3 of the Consolidated Plan. Depending on selected location, the Hinesville Development Authority or the Downtown Development Authority will purchase land to develop affordable housing. Based on construction pricing and trends associated with COVID-19, the approach may be adjusted to rehab existing homes in order to meet the goal.

2) Community Revitalization

- 2A Increase & Improve Access to Public Facilities

The Irene B. Thomas Park project provides for sustained enhancements to a central greenspace in the City.

3) Quality of Life Improvements

- 3A Increase & Expand Public Services LMI

The Public Service Agency Program delivers important quality of life benefits for Hinesville residents. For the 2021 program year, the city expects to fund between three and five local agencies providing services to LMI and special needs populations.

- 3B Promotion of Fair Housing

The City will continue to educate the public about Fair Housing in Hinesville through the long-standing billboard on Oglethorpe Highway, City website, increased annual promotion of Fair Housing Month in April, and educational campaigns via social media throughout the year.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

The City of Hinesville has made significant contributions to provide safe, decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities – especially for low- to moderate-income individuals in the community through collaborative efforts with public, private, and non-profit community housing providers and service agencies. However, preserving and adding affordable housing, improving the quality of life for City citizens and improvements to public infrastructure and facilities remain some of the most prolific needs in Hinesville. During the 2020 program year to date, the City has made the following progress:

Irene B. Thomas Park: The City of Hinesville continues to maintain previous investments at the park including fencing, skate park, exercise equipment, and the pond. The pond requires periodic analysis to ensure a healthy water quality and adequate stock of fish.

Affordable Housing Programs: Utilizing state grant funding, the City completed 4 rehabilitation projects and initiated 1 project through the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab program. Additionally, the City completed construction of two new, affordable, single-family homes in the Azalea Street neighborhood.

Public Service Agencies: Through the Public Service Agency program low-to-moderate individuals have received elder care and medication discounts.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

Citizen participation in the City's CDBG program is vital to its success. The City hosts and participates in a number of efforts as a means to create and nurture ideas leading to community improvements and the enhanced delivery of community services. To do this, the City follows its adopted Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). That plan encourages citizen participation and involvement in all stages of the community planning process and is designed to encourage participation of low-and moderate-income residents where housing and community development funds may be spent.

The 2021 Annual Action Plan was available for public review and comment from March 18, 2021 – April 19, 2021. Information on the review and comment period and Public Hearing was advertised in multiple public areas: 1) Coastal Courier (local newspaper) on March 10 and March 17; 2) City of Hinesville's website from March 10, 2021 – April 19, 2021; and 3) City of Hinesville's social media platforms from March 10, 2021 – April 19, 2021.

The public notice included information as to the various methods to review the Annual Action Plan and provided information regarding translation services if needed.

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.

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

7. Summary

The City of Hinesville is committed to ensuring the projects, programs, and services that result from the development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans are a collaborative effort between the City, local public service agencies, and the citizens of Hinesville. Through the use of various communication tools, which include public meetings, interviews, surveys, and questionnaires, local service providers are engaged and encouraged to discuss the services they currently offer while identifying areas where the needs of the community are not being met.

Hinesville has an effective citizen participation process which is detailed in the Citizen Participation Plan adopted on May 6, 2021. Through this plan, Hinesville provides its citizens with an adequate opportunity and encouragement to participate in the planning and development of its Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and the CAPERs. The Citizen Participation Plan is also designed to engage participation of LMI residents where housing and community development funds are prioritized, as low-to-moderate income citizens are the primary clients of the CDBG program.

The outcome of this collaborative process is a five-year Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans, that are holistic in its identification of services available to the target populations identified by HUD. These documents work together in formulating goals and implementing projects and/or activities that

assist in closing the gap between available services and the identified unmet needs within Hinesville's city limits.

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	HINESVILLE	Community Development Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Hinesville Community Development Department (CDD) is the lead agency that is responsible for overseeing and administering the CDBG program as well as all agencies, groups and organizations that participate in the process.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The City of Hinesville’s Community Development Department (CDD) is the lead agency responsible for overseeing and administering the CDBG program, including all agencies, groups, and organizations that participate in the process. The CDD is responsible for planning, organizing, implementing, and overseeing the City’s community development initiatives, including managing all programmatic and financial aspects of said initiatives.

The CDD relied upon information obtained from ongoing discussions with the Hinesville Housing Authority in developing the Annual Action Plan. Further, the CDD through its many programs, maintains a line of communication with the area's numerous nonprofit and social service agencies.

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 CDD is engaged in a number of efforts and initiatives to enhance coordination among the community's network of providers and service frameworks. To increase collaboration efforts, staff members serve on several committees and boards, including Liberty County’s Initiative for Community Housing (LICH) and the Liberty County Family Connection.

LICH is a certified member of the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) which provides continuing education, technical assistance and tools for addressing housing needs within the community. LICH brings together a diverse group of representatives throughout the community from both public and private entities. As an active member of LICH, the CDD is regularly updated on the actions and needs of the Hinesville Housing Authority and the Liberty County Community Housing Development Organization (LCCHDO).

The City is also an active member of the Liberty County Family Connection which is a collaborative entity comprised of individuals representing organizations from the coastal region who have a common goal to assist individuals and families during times of hardship. During meetings the collaborative discusses housing needs in the community, available resources and collaboration strategies.

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

The City’s Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) routinely engages community collaboratives for both coordination and consultation and works to alleviate homelessness within the City. Based on the nature

of the HPP's programs, it is in constant contact with housing providers and service agencies in order to facilitate wrap around assistance and referrals as appropriate. The HPP is the lead agency for the BoS Coordinated Entry System in the Hinesville/Liberty County area. Coordinated Entry (CE) is a system that allows for centralized entry into the homeless services system, as well as more synchronized movement within and the ultimate exit from the system.

This process allows the HPP to connect homeless individuals and families with projects in the community that are dedicated to serving people experiencing housing difficulties. Through the collaboration with Veteran Affairs, the United Way, the local domestic violence shelters, Liberty County Re-Entry Coalition and other community action agencies, HPP is able to provide customized services and case management.

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

The HPP continues to strengthen its collaboration and communication with agencies and organizations within our CoC. HPP funding is a combination of the City's general funds, state level Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), federal grants, and other funding streams.

HPP utilizes the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), an information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.

HPP also utilizes the Liberty County Coordinated Entry centralized assessment system. This system is the central tool HPP uses to make assessments and match individuals and families to the community resources needed to assist in addressing current obstacles to permanent, stable housing.

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	Hinesville Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Hinesville Housing Authority and The City of Hinesville Community Development Departments Homeless Prevention Program coordinate regularly together. Thus, identified needs and/or improvements are addressed as needs arise. For the purposes of HUD reports, the Housing Authority is contacted via email for the purposes of determining: a) Actions planned/accomplished during the upcoming/previous year; b) Encouraging affordable housing and home-ownership; c) Actions taken/planned to address needs of subsidized housing; e) Identification of new developed need within the community; etc. It is anticipated the outcome of this partnership will continue to strengthen the community's ability to meet the needs of the homeless or those at-risk of homeless within Hinesville.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Atlantic Area CASA, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted via email. Atlantic Area CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is part of a national and state network of court-sanctioned, community-based programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.

3	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of the Coastal Empire
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-homeless Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy 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?	Consulted via email. United Way of the Coastal Empire in Liberty County has programs that serve school children with nutritious meals, emergency food services for families, emergency shelter through hotel vouchers, homeless resources bank of goods, job services, school supplies for students and other social services.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Elks Aidmore
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted via email. Elks Aidmore is a therapeutic foster care agency that provides services to children in the custody of the Department of Family and Children Services with special needs.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	LIBERTY COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted via email. The Liberty County Family Connection collaborative serves as the local decision-making body, bringing community partners together to develop, implement, and evaluate plans that address the serious challenges facing the children and families.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Liberty County Reentry Coalition
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Services - Re-entry
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted via email. The Liberty County Reentry Coalition/SOAR Re-Entry Program is carefully designed as a holistic approach to comprehensive treatment and services that meets the needs of people after release from prison.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Helens Haven Childrens Advocacy Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children 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?	Consulted via email. Helen's Haven Children's Advocacy Center provides family preservation and placement prevention services, center-based parent education and support groups, parent education groups, child/family assessment, case management, service coordination, advocacy, information and referral services, therapeutic counseling, and individual service plans for parents and caregivers of children between 3 and 17 years who are referred by DFCS with allegations of sexual/physical abuse, neglect or family violence.

8	Agency/Group/Organization	Tri-County Protective Agency
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children 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?	Consulted via email. Tri-County Protective Agency provides an emergency safe shelter and support to victims of domestic violence.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	COASTAL GEORGIA AREA COMMUNITY ACTION AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Consulted via email. Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority promotes self-sufficiency and will strive to improve the quality of life of families through education, training, comprehensive services and advocacy.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Liberty County Community Housing Development Organization
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs

<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Consulted via email. LCCHDO works on affordable housing, real estate project development and expansion in Hinesville.</p>
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Not applicable.

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	City of Hinesville	The alleviation and elimination of homelessness remains one of the major ongoing priorities of the Continuum of Care. The most vulnerable populations in the City are homeless persons, those threatened with homelessness, and those with special needs. Assisting this population remains a priority need to the City of Hinesville. Although Hinesville lacks a dedicated shelter, it has several programs to provide temporary and intermediate relief to homeless, as well as a number of programs to assist the extremely low-and low-income who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

The City of Hinesville works closely with Liberty County, the Hinesville Housing Authority, and local nonprofits and agencies to develop the priority needs and goals for the implementation of CPD programs in the City. Through a partnership with the county, the City is able to implement public service strategies that span across the City jurisdiction to the greater county area such as providing for additional referral and resources that assist the homeless. The City and the Hinesville Housing Authority work together to meet the needs of affordable housing in the City.

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

The City of Hinesville follows its adopted Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). The CPP encourages citizen participation and involvement in all stages of the community planning process. The City holds public meetings and hearings, makes copies of the plans available for review at the Community Development Department and on the City’s website, as well as accepts and incorporates citizen input and feedback.

Public Review and Comment:

The 2021 Annual Action Plan was available for public review and comment from March 18, 2021 – April 19, 2021, which allowed residents the opportunity to review the proposed Annual Action Plan, provide feedback, seek clarification, ask questions, or voice concerns. Information on the review and comment period and Public Hearing was advertised in multiple public areas: 1) Coastal Courier (local newspaper) on March 17, 2021; 2) City of Hinesville’s website from March 10, 2021 – April 19, 2021; and 3) City of Hinesville’s social media platforms from March 10, 2021 – April 19, 2021.

The public notice included information as to where to review the Annual Action Plan and provided information regarding translation services if needed.

Public Meeting:

Public Meeting were held which allowed residents the opportunity to review the proposed Annual Action Plan, provide feedback, seek clarification, ask questions, or voice concerns. Information on the Public Hearings were advertised in multiple public areas: 1) Coastal Courier (local newspaper) on March 10 & 17, 2021; 2) City of Hinesville’s website from March 10, 2021 – April 19, 2021; and 3) City of Hinesville’s social media platforms from March 10, 2021 – April 19, 2021.

All comments received prior to 5:00 p.m. on April 19, 2021 were included in the Annual Action Plan.

Additionally, and upon request or necessity, the City was prepared to provide copies of documents in a language other than English and/or to provide translators to assist with communication issues.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Two public meetings were made available during the comment period: March 18, 2021 at 3:00 pm March 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm This was advertised in the Coastal Courier on March 10, 2021.			

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)
2	Newspaper Ad	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	<p>The 2021 Annual Action Plan was available for public review and comment from March 18, 2021 – April 19, 2021.</p> <p>This was advertised in the Coastal Courier on March 17, 2021.</p>			

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)
3	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>	<p>The 2021 Annual Action Plan was available on the City's website for public review and comment from March 18, 2021 - April 19, 2021.</p> <p>This was advertised on the City's website, and the City's social media platforms March 10 – April 19, 2021.</p>			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Hinesville is an entitlement community that receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The city’s allocation for the 2021 program year was \$263,728.

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	263,728	0	0	263,728	368,216	The City of Hinesville CDBG program will be implemented citywide. The city proposes to use 53% of its HUD allocation for affordable housing, 12% is allocated for recreation and open space activities, 15% will be used to assist public service agencies carry out the many social services that they provide to the community, 20% will be used on fair housing activities and on program administration.

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

The City of Hinesville leverages several funding streams, including Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) funding to support development of affordable housing and owner-occupied rehabilitation as well as DCA’s Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) for homeless prevention support. The city further maximizes funding by drawing from other resources including: Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, the city’s own Revolving Loan Fund Program, discounted local loans, owner contributions, and set aside funds from the city’s General Fund budget.

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 anticipates that, depending on location of property, the Hinesville Development Authority or the Downtown Development Authority will purchase land to develop affordable housing. Based on construction pricing and trends associated with COVID-19, the approach may be adjusted to rehab existing homes in order to meet the goal.

Improvements to Irene B Thomas Park will address quality of life for LMI households in the area.

Discussion

N/A

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	1A Development of New Affordable Housing	2021	2023	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Affordable Housing Opportunities	CDBG: \$140,524	Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit
2	2A Increase Avail & Improve Access Pub. Facilities	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Irene B. Thomas Park	Community Revitalization	CDBG: \$30,900	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 149 Persons Assisted
3	3A Increase & Expand Public Services LMI	2019	2023	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: \$39,559	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 230 Persons Assisted
4	3B Promotion of Fair Housing	2019	2023	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Quality of Life Improvements	CDBG: \$52,745	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 500 Households Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	1A Development of New Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	The City of Hinesville will increase the stock of affordable housing throughout the City.
2	Goal Name	2A Increase Avail & Improve Access Pub. Facilities
	Goal Description	The City of Hinesville will increase and improve access to public facilities in LMI neighborhoods throughout the City. Project will focus on improvements at Irene B. Thomas Park.
3	Goal Name	3A Increase & Expand Public Services LMI
	Goal Description	The City will work to increase and expand vital public services for LMI individuals/households and special needs through its Public Service Agency Sub-Recipient program.
4	Goal Name	3B Promotion of Fair Housing
	Goal Description	The City will work to promote fair housing for all households in the community.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Hinesville CDBG program will be largely implemented citywide, with a small portion of funds being designated for a specific area. The following are proposed CDBG activities for FY 2021 including related objectives, and anticipated outcomes and accomplishments of those activities. The City's program year runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG: Program Admin & Fair Housing (2021)
2	CDBG: Public Service Agencies (2021)
3	CDBG: Irene B. Thomas Park (2021)
4	CDBG: Affordable Housing (2021)

Table 7 - Project Information

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

The City's CDBG program will administer the projects listed in the table above to address the three priority needs identified in the Strategic Plan: 1) Affordable Housing Opportunities, 2) Community Revitalization, and 3) Quality of Life Improvements.

Increasing affordable housing will be addressed by acquiring property for the purpose of constructing housing. The Hinesville Development Authority or Hinesville Downtown Development Authority utilized depending upon where the selected property is located. As a result of COVID-19, increased in construction costs may necessitate that homes be purchased and rehabilitated to reach goals 1A.

Goal 2A, Increase availability & Improve Access Public Facilities will be met through sustaining enhancements to Irene B. Thomas Park, a central area of the city. Greenspace improvements in strategic locations, such as this, enhance the quality of life and support community revitalization efforts.

The Public Service Agency Program delivers important quality of life benefits for Hinesville residents in furtherance of goal 3A, Increase & Expand Public Services LMI. For the 2021 program year, the city expects to fund between one and three local agencies providing services to LMI and special needs populations.

Program Administration of the CDBG program will oversee the three projects as well as Fair Housing outreach activities in the City. Goal 3B Fair Housing Promotion will be met through several activities such

as increased annual promotion of Fair Housing Month in April, and educational campaigns via social media throughout the year.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG: Program Admin & Fair Housing (2021)
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	3B Promotion of Fair Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Opportunities Community Revitalization Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$52,745
	Description	CDBG program administration for FY2021.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Staff will manage all programs related to the CDBG program. An estimated 500 households will benefit from fair housing promotion and outreach in the City.
	Location Description	The program administration of the CDBG program is Citywide.
	Planned Activities	Program Administration Fair Housing outreach activities
2	Project Name	CDBG: Public Service Agencies (2021)
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	3A Increase & Expand Public Services LMI
	Needs Addressed	Quality of Life Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$39,559
	Description	The City will support agencies that provide vital public services to address the needs of City citizens, in particular low- and moderate-income households and the special needs population.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	220 LMI Persons Assisted
	Location Description	Public services will be administered citywide.

	Planned Activities	Supported public service agencies throughout the city will provide a variety of services and programs for LMI households and special needs populations, such as elder care and medication discount programs.
3	Project Name	CDBG: Irene B. Thomas Park (2021)
	Target Area	Irene B. Thomas Park
	Goals Supported	2A Increase Avail & Improve Access Pub. Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Community Revitalization
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,900
	Description	Maintain previous investments at the park including fencing, skate park, exercise equipment, and the pond. The pond requires periodic analysis to ensure a healthy water quality and adequate stock of fish.
	Target Date	6/30/2022
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	149 LMI Persons Assisted
	Location Description	Irene B. Thomas Park
	Planned Activities	Improvements to Irene B Thomas park.
4	Project Name	CDBG: Development of New Affordable Housing (2021)
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	1A Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Opportunities Community Revitalization
	Funding	CDBG: \$140,524
	Description	The City will help expand the affordable housing stock through support for the addition of owner-occupied housing units. While the initial approach was new construction, this will likely be shifted to rehabilitation due to rising construction costs resulting from COVID-19.
		Target Date

Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	1 LMI Household Assisted
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Addition of 1 new affordable home to the housing stock.

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

For the most part, the City of Hinesville implements a city-wide community development strategy, inclusive of public services to LMI households, improvements to public infrastructure/facilities and the addition of affordable housing. The area of Irene B. Thomas Park will be assisted in order to maintain previous improvement investments to the park.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide	88
Irene B. Thomas Park	12

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

There is a need for public services that assist LMI households and special needs populations throughout the City. A single, specific, target area has not been identified for affordable housing or public service assistance. Program specific guidelines will require that low-to-moderate income be verified prior to provision of assistance or service.

The Irene B. Thomas Park activity will maintain previous investments made to ensure continued enjoyment by Hinesville citizens. The park serves as an opportunity to partake in various outdoor activities and can be utilized by all age groups.

Discussion

N/A

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City is working to maintain and improve the supply of affordable housing in the City through adding new affordable homes to the housing stock within the City of Hinesville.

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

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	1
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	1

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

Discussion

The City will help expand the affordable housing stock through support for the addition of owner-occupied housing units. While the initial approach was new construction, this will likely be shifted to rehabilitation due to rising construction costs resulting from COVID-19.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The first low-income residences of the Housing Authority of the City of Hinesville were occupied in 1961. Since that time, the Hinesville Housing Authority (HHA) has evolved with the changes in public housing and affordable housing best practices. The mission of the HHA is to provide safe, affordable, market and senior housing options that improve the quality of life for residents of the City of Hinesville as well as Liberty County.

The HHA has eliminated Public Housing from its portfolio and currently manages Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance units.

The Housing Authority's commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and City Council of Hinesville and their terms are for five years with staggered expiration dates, except for the resident commissioner whose term is renewed annually.

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

HHA continually works to provide housing solutions to LMI households in the City. Much of this happens through the provision of the Section 8 program; however, the waiting list is extensive. To increase the availability of affordable housing in the area, the HHA, in collaboration with the Liberty County Housing Development Organization (LCCHDO), may apply for the 2021 Housing Tax Credits to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Also, the HHA will continue to work to create homeownership opportunities and provide housing solutions for the veterans, active soldiers, elderly, homeless and disabled population in Hinesville.

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

There is a resident representative serving on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. This person serves as a liaison between the board, the administration, and the Housing Authority neighborhood residents to keep residents more involved in the management and operations of the community.

The HHA also assists its residents through housing keeping classes, after school and summer camp programs, serving as a volunteer worksite, weekly food distribution, monthly resident meetings, and scheduled community events. HHA recognizes that employability and gainful employment is an important step for families in subsidized or affordable housing to become self-sufficient.

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

provided or other assistance

The City is pleased to report that its Housing Authority is not troubled.

Discussion

N/A

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

Introduction

Hinesville places great importance on assisting vulnerable residents within its jurisdiction, particularly persons who are experiencing homelessness or facing imminent homelessness. The alleviation and elimination of homelessness remains one of the City's major priorities; therefore, the city funds the administration of its in-house Homeless Prevention Program (HPP). The HPP also serves as an umbrella program for grants received to address homelessness issues.

The HPP is the lead agency for the BoS Coordinated Entry System in the Hinesville/Liberty County area. Coordinated Entry (CE) is a system that allows for coordinated entry into a local homeless services system, as well as a more synchronized movement within and the ultimate exit from the system. Coordinated Entry increases the efficiency of a homeless assistance system by standardizing access to homeless services and coordinating program referrals.

The program operates several projects to provide temporary and intermediate relief to the homeless individuals/families, and to assist the extremely low-and low-income who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, including:

- The Rapid Rehousing Project (RRH) which provides temporary rental assistance;
- The Hotel/Motel Voucher Project (HV) which provides immediate, temporary housing for homeless persons; and
- The Homeless Prevention Project (HP) which provides relief for LMI persons facing eviction.

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 HPP will continue to manage the three aforementioned projects (RRH, HV, and HP) to assist individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless throughout the program year. The Program accepts clients on a walk-in basis or by referral. The established referral process is designed to engage other service providers and advance the centralized, coordinated screening, assessment, and intake process to further facilitate inter-agency collaboration.

Following placement in any of the Program's projects, clients complete a comprehensive assessment that includes identification of the family composition, review of income or financial resources, employment history and status, and a Barriers to Housing Stability Assessment. This assessment process ascertains immediate needs, outlines the clients' strengths, and identifies potential barriers that could affect

continued stable housing.

Based on the results of the assessment, a client-centered Housing Stability Plan is developed that builds upon the client's strengths and creates strategies to overcoming identified barriers. The Housing Stability Plan includes a combination of services provided directly by the HPP and referrals to community-based resources. The primary goal of case management services is to support clients in achieving both self-sufficiency and maintaining permanent stable housing upon Program exit.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Although Hinesville lacks a dedicated shelter, HPP is able to provide temporary and intermediate relief to homeless persons. The Hotel/Motel Voucher project addresses the urgency of immediate placement and is often the only resource available to quickly house individuals/families experiencing homelessness. This project uses the Housing First principle, Barriers to Housing Stability Assessments, and housing support standards to quickly stabilize clients until additional wrap around supports can be implemented.

Case management assists clients in securing more permanent housing options such as referrals to the Rapid Re-Housing Project (usually transition with 14 days), or other programs as resources are available. Because all Projects are operated by the same Program (HPP), transition between projects is quick and seamless. Moreover, case management remains intact preventing gaps in services and maximizing the clients' benefit of wrap around services in an effort to help significantly enhance their ability to live independent of private and public forms of financial assistance, and to move toward self-sufficient lifestyles.

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 HPP provides transitional support through temporary rental assistance and supportive services to homeless individuals and families in an effort to help significantly enhance their ability to live independent of private and public forms of financial assistance and move towards self-sufficient lifestyles. HPP's efforts to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless again include collaboration through community organizations, education services, financial literacy through the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Savannah's Hinesville location, and case management services. This program provides direct

services, referrals and follow-up support to help ensure the a variety of needs are met.

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.

To help assist low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially those being discharged from publicly funded institutions or systems of care, the HPP utilizes the Liberty County Coordinated Entry centralized assessment system. This system allows HPP to assess and match these individuals and families to the community resources needed. Additionally, through the communication protocol in place with the local Department of Community Supervision and other systems of care, HPP facilitates housing for those likely to become homeless after being discharged. Ideally, persons are discharged from shelter into transitional housing or rapid rehousing.

The Savannah Probation Day Reporting Center and the Liberty County Re-entry Coalition provide an array of services such as job placement, housing placement, educational opportunities, counseling, and vocational rehab for persons being discharged from correction programs and institutions.

Discussion

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

Introduction:

Though public policies are meant to address the overall needs of citizens, there are times where they may have a negative effect on affordable housing and residential investment. The City utilizes best practices as well as its membership in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) to identify and including address barriers to affordable. The City of Hinesville remains committed to actively and affirmatively furthering fair housing and related policies.

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

As part of an effort to understand, identify, and resolve impediments to affordable housing, the City is an active member of Liberty's Initiative for Community Housing which has completed all steps to be recognized as a GICH member. GICH assists communities in improving their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-based housing and revitalization strategies. This is achieved through a variety of resources including technical assistance, collaboration, training, facilitation, consensus building, networking, and mentoring.

The greatest barrier to affordable housing within the City of Hinesville is the lack of affordable homes as evidenced by the Hinesville Housing Authority's waiting list. The City will work to add affordable housing to the City's stock over the next three years.

The City will also continue to educate the public about Fair Housing in Hinesville through the long-standing billboard on Oglethorpe Highway, City website, increased annual promotion of Fair Housing Month in April, and educational campaigns via social media throughout the year.

Discussion:

N/A

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Hinesville is dedicated to improving the lives of its citizens, particularly the LMI and special needs populations. The City's CDBG programs target community revitalization as well as increasing affordable housing and quality of life.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Hinesville will continue to work closely with community agencies to target and address the specific needs of underserved groups in the City. These community agencies include the Hinesville Housing Authority, Hineshouse Development, United Way, Gateway Behavioral Services, Liberty County Re-entry Coalition, and the Liberty County Health Department. The City coordinates its partners and local nonprofits and administers the CDBG program to help deliver services and programs to its underserved citizens.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

In an effort to foster and maintain decent, safe, sanitary, energy efficient, and affordable housing, the City provides housing rehabilitation assistance for low-to-moderate income families, disabled persons, and elderly homeowners throughout Hinesville through state funded programs.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City's Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program requires that all housing units selected for rehabilitation that were constructed prior to 1978 have a visual assessment by trained staff as well as an evaluation for lead-based paint by a certified lead-based paint inspector. Additionally, the HPP also requires a lead assessment and HQS inspections for all clients who enter the Rapid Rehousing or Prevention projects. HQS inspections are completed by trained professionals of the City's Inspections Department.

The Liberty County Health Department provides lead screening to all children up to age five through the WIC program. If the lead level is elevated, one or more of the following steps occur: 1) An environmentalist may go into the home to conduct testing to determine the possible source of the lead; 2) Removal of the lead; 3) Dietary changes made to the child's diet to lower the lead level; or in extreme cases, 4) The child may be referred to a physician for medication.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to support existing HPP projects that assist LMI households and families that live in poverty become financially self-sufficient through a combination of direct support, case management,

referrals and wrap around services.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City will continue developing and strengthening the institutional structure by engaging and supporting organizations that directly impact the lives of the City's low-income and poverty-level families. These organizations include the Hinesville Housing Authority, public agencies and non-profit organizations that provide services to the homeless and special needs populations.

Furthermore, as it relates with assisting homeless individuals and families, the City will continue to support the local Continuum of Care's active role in providing coordination to homeless providers in the City.

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

As mentioned above, the City will work to expand the cooperative efforts that are now in place and will continue its active role in providing coordination and cooperation with its community partners identified in SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure.

The City will continue to support the local Continuum of Care's active role in providing coordination to homeless providers in the City.

Discussion:

N/A

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

This section is a summary of the program specific requirements of the City's CDBG program.

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.	80.00%