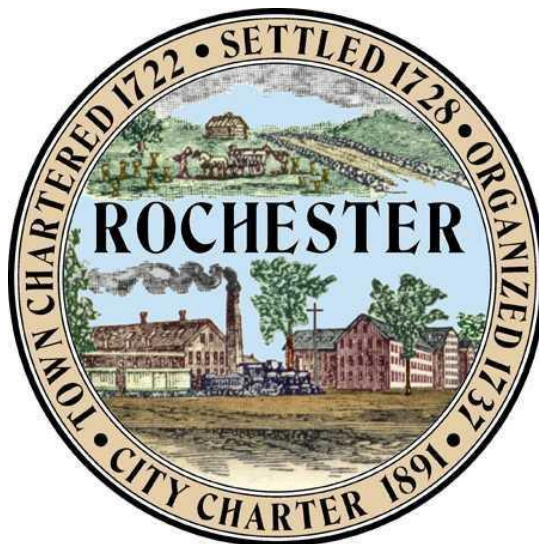




Fifth Program Year Action Plan



The City of Rochester, N.H.

DUNS # 073960874

UEI # WVFLWPMVXXB1

**Fifth Program Year Action Plan (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
Consolidated Plan (PY 2020-2025)**

Approved XXXX XX, 2024

Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

This Action Plan represents the fifth and final year (PY 2024; July 2024-June 2025) of the City of Rochester's current Five Year Consolidated Plan (PY 2020-2025) for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This plan is an extension of the identified needs as defined in the Program Year (PY) 20-25 Consolidated Action Plan.

The PY 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) amount for the City of Rochester is \$XXX with \$XXX (20%) allocated for planning and administration, \$XXX (15%) for public services, and the balance of \$XXX for projects focused on the areas of housing rehabilitation and public facilities/infrastructure. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) restricts public services funding (non-construction operating expenses) to 15% of the city's overall annual grant allocation and administrative costs to 20% of the city's overall annual grant allocation. Currently the City also has \$293,921.24 in funding from the Job Loan (Revolving Loan Fund).

The primary focus of the PY 2024 Action Plan is (1) to support the regional homeless shelters and their services to prevent homelessness through support of rental assistance and home rehabilitation programs aimed at low to moderate income Rochester residents and (2) to address the economic and social services for lower-income Rochester households. Each funded activity also addresses one of the three national objectives set forth by HUD for CDBG grant expenditures: (1) to provide decent housing; (2) to provide a suitable living environment; or (3) to expand economic opportunities.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

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

The PY 2024 Action Plan's goals and objectives are based on the extensive research and consultations that the Community Development Coordinator has conducted with local public service agencies, relevant government agencies and departments, and the residents of the City of Rochester. These programs and activities are aimed at meeting one or more of HUD's outcomes for CDBG funding: to provide decent housing, to provided a suitable living environment, and to expand economic opportunities.

The individual activities were established to meet HUD outcomes and are those seen to best meet the identified needs of the City's Low to moderate income population over the next year. Prioritization was

based on first meeting basic needs such as housing and health and then addressing less urgent needs as funding and staff capacity allows.

3. Evaluation of past performance

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

Regarding the number of non-homeless households provided with affordable housing units, the eviction moratoria enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has effected those groups most noted during the last action plan. After much discussion with the groups who have provided rental assistance programs, they have seen an increase in the need for more assistance due to the ending of the eviction moratoria. The decrease and end of many COVID funds has also caused an uptick in the need for rental assistance programs. With increase costs in rent more and more low to moderate income residents are seeking assistance, whether that be for current rent or for security deposits to help get themselves into a unit and out of homelessness.

Regarding the number of households supported through the rehabilitation of existing units, performance goals were under. The goal for PY22 was the rehabilitation of 55 low-moderate income households and the actual performance was the rehabilitation of 43 low-moderate income households. For home rehabilitation, about 28% were extremely low income and about 72% were low income, with no moderate income households being assisted. The reason the projected number wasn't hit was mainly due to rising costs and delays in materials. The effects that will most likely carry over again during PY23 due to cost increases on items and high demand.

After much discussion with the Recreation Department, Finance Department the Economic Development Department, the Pickleball Courts and Cameras for the Commons have been cancelled at this time. Due to the rising costs of materials and difficulty finding vendors and contractors willing to bid the project or provide any pricing, the project has been delayed numerous times and is much higher than initially thought. The City's goals are to find projects that can be done within the next fiscal year or possible expand projects that are currently being funded.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City of Rochester has conducted extensive public outreach: two public hearings, an online and hard copy community survey, consultations with local public service agencies, consultations with relevant government agencies and consultations with local business organization. This outreach was conducted in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan outlined in the PY 2020-2025 Consolidated Action Plan. Hard copy community development surveys were developed to help broaden public input reach, and these surveys were made in high-traffic city office locations: The Welfare Office, the City Clerk's Office,

the Recreation Department, the Ice-Arena, and the Rochester Public Library. Online surveys could be found via the city's "Get Involved" page which provides information on various types of meetings, links to public input options and surveys available to the public, Get Involved | rochesternh.

The first public hearing was held on March 19, 2024. The Community Development Committee voted on its grant application funding recommendations at the March 14, 2024 Community Development Committee meeting. Throughout the evaluation process, careful attention was paid to the priorities identified in the PY 2020-2025 Consolidated Action Plan as well as the public input on the CDBG Funding recommendations gathered during the PY 2022 Citizen participation process. The formal public comments period noticed was posted in the local newspaper "Foster's Daily Democrat" on March 3rd, 2023 to the city's Community Development webpage on March 6th, 2023. The First Public hearing was held on March 19, 2024. The Second Public Hearing was on XXXX 2024, with public comment period opening and remaining open until 5:00pm on XXXX 2024.

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.

- Hard Copy Community Surveys | Non Target/broad community | 28 Responses | Comments received reflected on housing the rising costs. Out of the 28 responses, 14 of them noted that housing was not affordable while 8 said it was slightly affordable and 6 noted it was moderately affordable. These numbers follow similar to last year's survey responses. | 1 response had brought up concerns of one of the homeless centers. The Community Development Coordinator met with the Welfare Director and City Manager to discuss.
- Online Community Survey | Non-Targeted/Broad Community | 19 Responses | Comments were more geared towards better public transportation and more sidewalks.
- City Chat with The Mayor | Non-Targeted/Broad Community | Numerous concerns were brought up including, housing, childcare, mental health. The Mayor and the City's Public Information Officer were able to direct many individuals to the proper services or groups to assist with questions or concerns.
- Public Hearing (First) | Non-Targeted/broad community | **TBD**
- Public Comment (First) Period | Non-targeted/broad community | **TBD**
- Public Hearing (Second) | Non-targed/broad community | **TBD**
- Public Comment (Second) Period | Non-Targeted/broad community | **TBD**

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

Public Comments from Public Hearing and Public Comment Period- TBD

All Survey responses were accepted. One comment from the survey responses was regarding the Homeless Center for Strafford County. This has been reviewed and information has been passed along to the proper groups.

7. Summary

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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	ROCHESTER	Finance

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The CDBG Administrator (Community Development Coordinator) For the City of Rochester is in charge of administering the city's CDBG program. the CDBG Administrator prepares the Five Year Consolidated Plan, annual action plans, and annual progress reports for the CDBG program. The CDBG Administrator also conducts environmental reviews for all CDBG-funded activities and Davis-Bacon Act labor monitoring for construction related proj

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

The City of Rochester continues to work to enhance coordination between several groups. The Economic Development Department continues communication between the Rochester Housing Authority, which is a non-profit organization providing housing related services. The Community Development Coordinator also works closely relevant City departments such as the Welfare Office, Department of Public Works, Finance and Planning Department. The City Community Development Division will continue to meet at minimum on a semiannual basis with the Rochester Housing Authority to discuss the needs of public housing residents, building maintenance concerns, CDBG and other funding opportunities and fair housing concerns. The Community Development Coordinator offers assistance and information on opportunities for this Task Force whenever requested by the mayor. The Community Development Coordinator also works with the New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care. The Community Development Division also discusses the needs of residents during the application process for Public Service Agencies and CDBG funding.

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(l))

The Community Development Coordinator is working to continue the efforts with several groups. These groups are including, but not limited to, the Rochester Housing Authority, non-profit organizations providing housing and related services as well as relevant City departments such as the Welfare Office and Planning Department. Following in the previous Community Development Coordinator's footsteps, the current Coordinator works to engage in outreach involvement in relevant community organizations. Previously the Coordinator worked with the Tri-City Homelessness Task Force and its committees, but currently this Task Force was taken over by the Mayors of each respective city who is working to combat homelessness and work together to create safe places for those struggling with homelessness. The Community Development Coordinator has made it known to the Mayor that they are available to speak and help when necessary.

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 Community Development Coordinator serves as the primary liaison between the City of Rochester and the New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care, regularly attends scheduled Continuum of Care meetings in Concord (or via video conference, after the pandemic started), and shares information received at Continuum meetings with relevant City staff and local public service agencies. This includes but is not limited to the Rochester Welfare Office, the Rochester Families in Transition coordinator

(school district homeless liaison) and Rochester School Department Title I Coordinator, and CDBG grant subrecipients.

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 City of Rochester does not receive ESG funding.

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

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Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Other government - Federal
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	his consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and HUD staff and partners. The consultation was conducted via webinar. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include consideration of specific housing and homeless concerns of persons living with HIV/AIDS and domestic violence survivors in housing projects and eviction prevention activities
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government - County Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment 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?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and Strafford Regional Planning Commission staff. The consultation was conducted via in person seminar. No areas of improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for affordable housing activities and evaluation of natural hazards impact for public facilities projects.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Planning Department, City of Rochester
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and the Planning Department Director. The consultation was conducted in person. One area of improved coordination was identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for affordable housing projects, neighborhood revitalization projects.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	Office of Building, Zoning, and Licensing Services, City of Rochester
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and the Building & Licensing Services department and the Board of Health. The Board of Health has an interest in lead-paint strategies and possible grant opportunities to assist with a stronger lead paint program for Rochester. They are looking to explore more lead remediation programs/education further

5	Agency/Group/Organization	EASTER SEALS SOCIETY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Needs of Elderly residents, residents with disabilities and veterans.
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and Easter Seals NH staff. This consultation was done during the application process with the city. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes including funding for services for elderly residents and residents with disabilities, as well as assisting veterans.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Rochester Economic Development Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Employment Other government - Local Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator, and the Economic Development Assistant Director. The consultation was conducted in person. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for affordable housing projects and continued funding for the Job Opportunity Benefit Loan Program.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	USDA Rural Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - Federal
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Broadband Connectivity
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and the USDA Rural Utilities Services. The consultation was via the USDA Rural Utilities website. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include continued monitoring of the broadband access within the City of Rochester and potential funding needs for expanding broadband access. Per the U.S. Census, as of 2022, Rochester is at 89.5% connectivity.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims Child Welfare Agency
	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?	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and CASA NH staff. The consultation was conducted via emails and during the application period for funding. No Areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for services for neglected and abused children.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Strafford County Public Health Network
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Other government - County
	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?	This consultation was between The Community Development Committee and Strafford County Public Health Network Staff. The consultation was conducted during committee meetings to discuss the accessibility around Rochester for elderly and disabled individuals. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for various supportive services for lower income populations.

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

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

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	NH Balance of State Continuum of Care	Recent Balance of State Continuum of Care planning efforts have focused on chronic and unsheltered homelessness and youth homelessness. This Annual Action Plan addresses homelessness through funding of regional homeless shelters services and facilities projects, as well as homeless prevention activities such as weatherization assistance, youth employment services, and homelessness prevention services for youth.
HUD Community Resilience Toolkit	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	This report discusses natural hazard mitigation measures, including inland flooding issues and funding sources. This Annual Action Plan addresses natural hazard mitigation needs through incorporating an analysis of potential natural hazards and mitigation measures for all CDBG-funded projects in the grant application stage.
Council on Housing Stability Strategic Plan	NH Governor Council on Housing Stability	This report discusses homelessness and affordable housing deficits in New Hampshire. This Annual Action Plan addresses these needs through funding for homeless shelter services, homeless supportive services, and affordable housing projects such as weatherization services.
NH Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Plans	NH Governor Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs	This action plan discusses substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery needs within New Hampshire. This Annual Action Plan addresses these needs through CDBG and municipal funding for mental health supportive services and SUD treatment and recovery services.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

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

The City of Rochester has conducted extensive public outreach: two public hearings, an online and hard copy community survey, consultations with local public service agencies, consultations with relevant government agencies, and consultations with local business organizations. This outreach was conducted in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan outlined in the PY 2020-2025 Consolidated Action Plan. While usually the Community Development Coordinator would also solicit public input at the neighborhood ward meetings in the autumn, these meetings were cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic and have yet to be reinstated. The Community Development Coordinator continued to attend the monthly City Chat that allows residents, local business leaders and other major groups in the community (i.e., Frisbee Memorial Hospital) to attend and discuss concerns within the community. Hard copy community development surveys were developed to help broaden public input reach, and these surveys were made in high-traffic city office locations: the Welfare Office, the City Clerk's Office, the Recreation Department, the Planning and Buildings offices, Tax Collection & Auto Registration, and the Rochester Public Library.

The First public hearing was held on March 19, 2024 with the public comments being open at this time to allow for questions, comments and concerns.

Citizen Participation Outreach

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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)
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1	Hard Copy Surveys	Non-targeted /broad community	28 Hard Copy Survey Responses	Comments were a mix of predominantly not affordable at all and slightly affordable. There was support for a broad range of social services with emphasis being put on mental health services and rental assistance.	All Comments accepted. Any concerns brought up during the survey process were referred to the appropriate groups.
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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)
				e program s. Suggested projects include sidewalks, places for teens to go to, updated parks/new parks, farmers market, cultural gathering center.		

2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted /broad community	Online: 19 Community Survey Response	26 % said housing was becoming a little less affordable, 53% said much less affordable, 11% said neither more or less. Many residents said sidewalks were something they'd like to see.	All comments accepted.	https://forms.microsoft.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=G88p0UG8W0ynl0zIYHt0dx4NQlbnlExDqxsjE9lsqxtURTFNMFJKMUIJUEFDRUtMSjNDTzdBM0ZPRS4u
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Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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Expected Resources

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

Introduction

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	0	293,921	0	293,921	0	Program income is calculated in the form of anticipated repayments to the Job Opportunity Benefit (JOB) Loan Program
Other	public - federal	Admin and Planning Housing Public Services	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Annual Action Plan
2024

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 PY 2024 CDBG grant application requested information on whether CDBG funding would be used to leverage other funding available to the public service agencies. This information was taken under consideration as a factor by the Community Development Committee during the grant application evaluation process, with the goal of maximizing CDBG funding impact through taking advantage of available leveraging opportunities

The City of Rochester also provides local general city funds to public service agencies every fiscal year: Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, The Homemakers/Easter Seals, and Cornerstone VNA. These agencies serve low-income residents, elderly residents, and residents with disabilities. The City of Rochester also uses general city funds to support Rochester Main Street, which provides economic development services to the downtown business district; the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST), which is the main public transportation agency for the region; SOS Recovery Center, which provides substance use disorder recovery services; the East Rochester Library. In previous years the city awarded CDBG funding to My Friend's Place, an emergency shelter for men, women and families experiencing homelessness. For PY23 the city decided to fund My Friend's Place with general city funding due to the consistent work and assistance they have provided the city's citizens.

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

The City of Rochester owns and maintains several recreational facilities, including the land of Hanson Pines Park, Squamanagonic Recreation Area, the Gonic Pool, the East Rochester Pool, Roger Allen Park, and the Rochester Ice Arena. The City also owns the land of Central Square, downtown Factory Court, the land of Rochester Commons, the buildings that house the Rochester Public Library and the Rochester Opera House, the building that houses the James W. Foley Memorial Rochester Community Center, and all public school buildings. Public school buildings include the eight elementary schools (Chamberlain St. School, East Rochester School, Gonic School, Maple St. Magnet School, McClelland School, School St. School, William Allen School), Rochester Middle School, Spaulding High School, and the Richard W. Creteau Regional Technology Center. Before the start of the school year in 2023 the city shut down the Nancy Loud School due to structural concerns. During the fall the city held a neighborhood meeting to discuss what they would like done with the old school and surrounding area. The city will be reviewing the information and start planning for the use of the grounds.

Discussion

During PY23 the city had \$26,005 in funds that were not allocated to any projects. All projects that had applied for funding had been approved during the PY23 application period.

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

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

Goal Name	Goal Description

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The individual activities selected for funding in PY 2024 were established to meet HUD outcomes and were those judged to maximize meeting the most vital needs of the City's low to moderate income population as identified at present and projected over the PY 2020-2025 time span. Within the context of these identified needs and objectives, other eligible activities can and may be undertaken and supported with CDBG funding as new opportunities are defined.

For public services activities, it is estimated that XXXX low-moderate income individuals, predominantly homeless families and families at risk of becoming homeless, will benefit from the planned activities. For housing rehabilitation activities, it is estimated that XXXX low-income individuals (approximately XXXX low income families) will benefit from the planned activities. For Job Opportunity Benefit Loan Program activities, it is estimated that 1 low-moderate income individual will benefit from the planned activities

Projects

#	Project Name

Table 7 - Project Information

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

These priorities are based on the PY 2020-2025 Consolidated Action Plan as well as the PY 2024 research and consultations that the Community Development Coordinator conducted with local social service agencies, relevant government agencies and departments, local business and civic organizations, and general Rochester residents. Activities and programs providing homeless services and affordable housing were prioritized based on continuing community needs for these services. Obstacles to addressing underserved needs mostly include the ability of leveraged funding to provide services and administer programs. The available non-CDBG funding of public service agencies applying for CDBG funding was assessed during the grant application process.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

Project Name	Target Area	Goals Supported	Needs Addressed	Funding	Description

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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

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Rochester Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	
Citywide	

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Discussion

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Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

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

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

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

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

Discussion

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

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

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

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

N/A. The Rochester Housing Authority is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

DRAFT

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

Introduction

Consultations with public service agencies and local government staff regarding housing issues and homelessness indicate a continuing and substantial need for homeless shelters, homeless prevention, and housing supportive services. This Annual Action Plan incorporates continued funding for the provision of services through regional homeless shelters as well as services aimed at preventing homelessness, such as weatherization to preserve affordable housing stock.

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

In PY 2024, the City of Rochester plans to continue to participate actively with the New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care. This will include attendance by the Community Development Coordinator at all relevant meetings with regional homeless services providers, the City of Rochester's welfare officer, and other key officials and stakeholders to coordinate on serving the City's homeless population.

The City of Rochester will also fund a wide range of public service agencies that provide services such as emergency housing and homelessness prevention. This includes direct CDBG funding to regional homeless shelters and services providers, including youth-specific services. The homeless shelters, as part of their protocols and their participation in Coordinated Entry, assess individual needs during the intake process and prioritize unsheltered persons for shelter and services.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Rochester will fund the region's regional homeless shelters and services providers, including youth-specific services. My Friend's Place and Cross Roads provide emergency and transitional shelter for families and single men and women. Waypoint NH provides supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

The City of Rochester also will be providing funding to the Homeless Center of Strafford County this year, which it had not provided funding in the last few years while it remained a seasonal shelter. In PY23 the shelter decided to open its doors year round, resulting in the city's decision to help fund it during PY24.

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 the region's regional homeless shelters and services providers, including

youth-specific services. My Friend's Place provides emergency and transitional shelter for families and single women. They have previously received CDBG Funding but have now been allocated municipal funding for FY24 (PY23). Cross Roads provides emergency and transitional shelters for families, and single men. Waypoint NH provides supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Post-housing case management focuses on eviction prevention for recently homeless clients. My Friend's Place also provide transitional housing services.

The City also is working with groups like Cross Roads house and the Homeless Center for Strafford County. Both who provide shelter to unhoused individuals and families as well as different services to help them find housing.

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 plans to support low-income individuals and families to avoid becoming homeless through a variety of approaches. Rochester will fund rental assistance to those who are at risk of becoming homeless as well as fund programs and activities aimed at assisting low-income individuals and families over a longer term through investments in educational and employment/vocational training, such as Dover Adult Learning Center's provision of high-school equivalency exam preparation services. The City of Rochester also will continue its work with The Sharefund that helps with rental assistance to low to low-moderate income individuals and families.

Discussion

The City of Rochester works with a number of different groups to help non-homeless special needs persons. One of the groups they work with is Haven which specializes in assisting men, women and children who are fleeing domestic violence situations. Haven has several private locations that allow victims of domestic violence the ability to be housed and supported while working to get out of the domestic violence household. Both EasterSeals NH and Cornerstone VNA are two groups the city has funded with city funds for the last several years. EasterSeals NH provides care to low-income frail seniors whose cost of service is not reimbursable through insurance or other funding streams. They provide many services such as Adult Day Health Programs and medical/non-medical in-home care. Cornerstone VNA also provides homecare and hospice services to the uninsured and under insured within the Rochester Community.

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

Introduction:

These barriers include the combination of high rental rates (median rent of \$1,613 for a two-bedroom apartment in Strafford County, which had a 27% change in median gross rent between 2018 and 2023) and continuing extremely low vacancy rates in the rental housing market (currently, well under 0.9% vacancy statewide). These data were taken from New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority's 2023 Rental Survey Report.

In PY 2024, the City of Rochester plans to continue its ongoing partnerships with regional public service agencies, such as the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County and the SHARE Fund, to address these continuing barriers to affordable housing. In addition, the City of Rochester's Community Development Division plans to continue to coordinate with the Rochester Housing Authority to identify potential funding sources for permanent supportive housing and public housing projects

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

Barriers to affordable housing in the City of Rochester largely mirror those of the Strafford County region and of New Hampshire generally. These barriers include the combination of high rental rates (median rent of \$1,613 for a two-bedroom apartment in Strafford County, with an annual increase in monthly median rent state wide of 11.4%, double what it was last year, and a 37% change in median gross rent in the last 5 years) and continuing extremely low vacancy rates in the rental housing market (currently, well under 0.6% vacancy statewide). In PY 2024, the City of Rochester plans to continue its ongoing partnerships with regional public service agencies, such as the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, to address these continuing barriers to affordable housing.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction: The Community Development Coordinator plans in PY 2024 to continue collaborations with regional public service agencies, local and state government entities, and local business organizations to maximize the impact of available CDGB funds. This will include participation in the fidelity committee continuing the work of the Tri-City Mayoral Homelessness Task Force, and partnership with agencies such as the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County and Strafford County Public Health Network to address lead-based paint hazards in housing

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs:

Underserved needs continue to be comprised mostly of continued shortage of affordable housing and the need for comprehensive, integrated services for mental health. In PY 2024, the City of Rochester's CDBG funding will go toward homeless services, rental assistance for lower income residents, and funding for mental health supportive services.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Barriers to affordable housing in the City of Rochester largely mirror those of the Strafford County region and of New Hampshire generally. These barriers include the combination of high rental rates (median rent of \$1,572 for a two-bedroom apartment in Strafford County, an annual increase of 5.7% in monthly median income) and continuing low vacancy rates in the rental housing market (currently, well under 0.3% vacancy statewide). In PY 2024, the City of Rochester plans to continue its ongoing partnerships with regional public service agencies, such as the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County and the SHARE Fund, to address these continuing barriers to affordable housing. In addition, the City of Rochester's Community Development Division plans to continue to coordinate with the Rochester Housing Authority to identify potential funding sources for permanent supportive housing and public housing projects

Community Action Partnership's weatherization assistance program reduces energy expenses and thereby lowers overall home ownership and maintenance expenses for low-income householders. Rental assistance, provided by the SHARE Fund, helps lower-income residents to obtain safe, quality housing in a rental market with continually rising rent rates. Focus is placed on rental assistance and housing stock rehabilitation because both of these activities are considerably lower cost than the creation of new housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City of Rochester's Community Development Coordinator will be researching any and all groups they can work with to assist in lead-based paint hazards, including working with the BOH and discussions of

lead hazard remediation programs within the city.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Rochester plans to support a range of anti-poverty efforts in PY 2023. High school equivalency testing, supplied by the Dover Adult Learning Center, will be funded, as the City of Rochester continues to recognize the value of investing in education for ensuring residents' long-term advancement out of poverty.

The City of Rochester also will continue to operate and promote its Job Opportunity Benefits (JOB) Loan Program, which provides loans to small businesses to encourage the hiring of low and moderate income employees. Conditions for receiving a loan require a commitment to creating or retaining a certain number of jobs that are made available to low and moderate income employees. Such jobs must include the potential for advancement.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Rochester's Community Development Division plans to work with other City departments (such as the Office of Economic Development, the Planning Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Welfare Office) to implement the programs and activities outlined in this Annual Action Plan. The Community Development Division will also continue to work with other City departments 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. This includes meeting with newly hired staff in such departments, such as the Planning Department, to plan new projects focusing on downtown and the historic district.

The Rochester Community Development Coordinator also plans in PY 2023 to continue to serve as a liaison between the City and Rochester Housing Authority and between the City's CDBG program and the New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care

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

The Community Development Division plans to build on existing relationships to coordinate activities among a broad range of non-profit agencies, for-profit housing developers, and city staff. This will include regional non-profit housing developer and housing services provider Community Action Partnership of Strafford County and the statewide New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. The Community Development Coordinator also plans to continue to actively participate in the New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care, the Home for All homeless coalition, and the Strafford County Public Health Network's addiction task force and lead poisoning task force. All of these coalitions focus on enhancing coordination between government officials, housing providers, and social service agencies.