



## **Fourth Program Year Action Plan**



**The City of Rochester, N.H.**

**DUNS # 073960874**

**UEI # WVFLWPMVXXB1**

**Fourth Program Year Action Plan (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)  
Consolidated Plan (PY 2020-2025)**

Approved June 6, 2023

# **Executive Summary**

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

### **1. Introduction**

This Action Plan represents the fourth year (PY 2023; July 2023-June 2024) 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 \$229,576, with \$45,915 (20%) allocated for planning and administration, \$34,436 (15%) for public services, and the balance of \$149,225 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.

The primary focus of the PY 2023 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 2023 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.

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Regarding the number of non-homeless households provided with affordable housing units, the eviction moratoria enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic likely affected the need for emergency rental assistance during the beginning of PY22. After much discussion with local groups assisting with rental assistance, they believe that with the changes made to the moratoria we will see an increase over the next year of those affected by homelessness or housing assistance need. Regarding the number of households supported through the rehabilitation of existing units, performance goals were slightly exceeded. The goal for PY21 was the rehabilitation of 25 low-moderate income households and the actual performance was the rehabilitation of 39 low-moderate income households. For home rehabilitation, about 64% were extremely low income and about 36% were low income, with no moderate income households being assisted.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affected some projects during PY2020, which then bled into both PY2021 and PY2022. We saw the completion of several projects during the beginning of PY2022, including the completion of the new drop in youth center for Waypoint. The Youth Drop-in center for Waypoint opened its doors in November of 2022, offering a safe space for run away and at risk teens.

### **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, consultations with local business organization and social media outreach. 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 have been cancelled due to poor public attendance and the COVID-19 pandemic. After reviewing with the local PD they have decided to cancel the Ward Meetings indefinitely until it can be discussed on if they will be brought back. 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.

The first public hearing was held on March 21, 2023. The Community Development Committee voted on its grant application funding recommendations at the March 20, 2023 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 gather 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. Public Comment Period was open from March 21, 2023 to April 20, 2023.

## **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 Survey | Non-targeted/broad community | 24 responses | Comments said housing was. | 21 responses | over 75% of responses said that Housing was "Not at all affordable" in the city of Rochester, and over 80% said that Rochester is becoming less affordable. | Not all comments accepted as some were written with inappropriate requests for projects they'd like to see in the city.
- Online Community Survey | Non-targeted/broad community | 27 responses | Comments said housing was mostly "slightly affordable"(37%), "not affordable at all" (29.6%) or "moderately affordable" (22%) with Rochester becoming "much less affordable (48%). There is support for a broad range of social services addressing homelessness and other vulnerable populations, though there are also concerns that these services serve as "band-aids" rather than true solutions. Desired bricks-and-mortar projects include repaired and expanded sidewalks, as well as activities for youth and elderly residents. | All comments were accepted.  
| <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TLZHTK>
- Rochester City Chat and Community Coffee Meetings | Non-targeted/broad community | 5 Attended by new Community Development Coordinator | Concerns about affordable housing and mental health programs was expressed at several meetings. The City's new Community Outreach Coordinator was at several meetings and answered questions about different services available for homeless or those needing assistance. | All comments were accepted
- Public Hearing (First) | Non-Targeted/broad community | No comments received
- Public Comment (First) Period | Non-targeted/broad community | No comments received
- Public Hearing (Second) | Non-targeted/broad community | No comments received
- Public Comment (Second) Period | Non-Targeted/broad community | No comments received

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

- No Public Comments received at the Public Hearings or during Public Comment period
- All but one public comment from the surveys were accepted.
- The one public comment not accepted was due to the inappropriate nature of the comment

## 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	Office of Economic & Community Development

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 projects.

### 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 Rochester continues to work to enhance coordination between several groups. With the appointment of a new Community Development Coordinator there have been some delays in meetings as they get up to speed. The new Community Development Coordinator for the city will continue to work to enhance coordination between the Rochester Housing Authority, which is a non-profit organization providing housing related services, and relevant City departments such as the Welfare Office 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 City of Rochester Community Development Coordinator also engages in significant outreach and involved in relevant community organizes. Previously they worked with the Tri-City Homelessness Task Force, however since last year the Mayors of all three cities, Dover, Somersworth and Rochester have taken over the project and made it their goal to work together and meet regularly. 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 and its Youth Homelessness Committee.

### **Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))**

The City of Rochester assigned a new Community Development Coordinator in charge of the CDBG funding and reporting. The new coordinator is working to continue the efforts made by their predecessor 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. The City's Community Development Division is working to continue to meet 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.

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**

N/A. 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**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Other government - Federal
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This 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	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	N.H. Balance of State Continuum of Care
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Other government - State



	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator, NH Department of Health and Human Services staff, and COC partner agencies. The consultation was conducted via video conference. An area of improved coordination identified was better communication and connections between homeless service providers and health care providers. Anticipated outcomes include funding for homeless services and affordable housing projects.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government - County Regional organization Planning organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Aging in communities, mental health, substance use disorder, transportation, natural hazards

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	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.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Planning Department, City of Rochester
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	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, and lead remediation programs/education to be explored further.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Easter Seals NH, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Needs of elderly residents and residents with disabilities

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and Easter Seals NH staff. The consultation was conducted via video conference. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes including funding for services for elderly residents and residents with disabilities.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Rochester Economic Development Commission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Employment Other government - Local Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	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	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and the Rochester Housing Authority. No area for improved coordination was identified. Anticipated outcomes include continued coordination between the City of Rochester and the Rochester Housing Authority to identify opportunities for CDBG funds to support RHA renovation projects and projects to develop resident self-supports.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Development, City of Dover
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and the Community Development Planner for the City of Dover. The consultation was conducted via telephone conference. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include identification and implementation of new fair housing activities.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	USDA Rural Development
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Broadband Internet Service Providers Services - Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government - Federal
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Broadband connectivity

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	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.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	National Fair Housing Alliance
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Service-Fair Housing Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Fair Housing
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and National Fair Housing Alliance staff. The consultation was conducted research on the National Fair Housing Alliance's website. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for fair housing activities and supportive services for domestic violence survivors.
11	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims Child Welfare Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	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.
12	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Domestic Violence
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and National Resource Center on Domestic Violence staff. The consultation was conducted via webinar. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for homeless services, including services for homeless youth, and for domestic violence survivors.
13	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Strafford County Public Health Network
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health Health Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Substance Use Disorders

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	<p>This consultation was between the Community Development Coordinator and Strafford County Public Health Network staff. The consultation was conducted via video conference. No areas for improved coordination were identified. Anticipated outcomes include funding for various supportive services for lower income populations.</p>
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### Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Local broadband was not consulted because Rochester is almost 100% covered. The USDA Rural Utilities Service was consulted regarding broadband which is in the plan.

### 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 and youth employment services.
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.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
NH Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan	NH Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan NH Governor Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs This	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 and the Rochester Public Library.

The First public hearing was held on March 21, 2023 with the public comments being open at this time to allow for questions, comments and concerns. No comments were made at the public hearing. The Community Development Committee Voted on its grant application funding recommendations at the March 20, 2023 Community Development Committee meeting. Through the evaluation process, careful attention was paid to the priorities identified in the PY 2020-2025 Consolidated Action Plan as well as public input on the CDBG funding recommendations gathered during the PY 2023 Citizens participation process. The formal public Comments period notice was posted in the local newspaper The Portsmouth Herald and online via Seacoastonline on March 21, 2023. Copies of the public comment notices were also posted to the City's site on March 29th, 2023. In the notice, the public was invited to review the draft Annual Action Plan and reach out to the Community Development Coordinator with any questions or comments regarding potential projects or projects they would like to see included in this year's action Plan.

A second public hearing was held on May 16, 2023 along with an additional 15 day public comment period. No comments were made or received during the Public Hearing or during public comment period. Approval from City Council for Annual Action Plan was voted on during the regular City Council Meeting, June 6, 2023 and passed unanimously.

## 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	Hard Copy Community Survey	Non-targeted/broad community	22 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 programs. Suggested project include sidewalks,	1 comment was not accepted due to the inappropriate nature of their requests for projects/businesses to be brought into Rochester. Remaining comments were accepted.	

2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Online Community Survey: 29 Responses	Comments were a mix of slightly affordable (37.93%), not affordable at all (27.59%) and moderately affordable (24.14%). The survey responses show a large support for Mental Health support groups, similar to the hard copy surveys. Sidewalks were also popular in the types of projects that residents would like to see. Information was passed to the Planning Director of	N/A. All comments were accepted.	<a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TLZHTK">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TLZHTK</a>
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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)
				Rochester to work on for the future.		
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	Rochester City Chat with the Mayor Community Coffee. 8 In attendance, including staff, police officers, mayor, local business leaders, and residents.	Comments expressed concerns about affordable housing and workforce housing as the state and country faces a housing crisis. Some additional comments discussed issues some residents had with the schools and some of their policies.	N/a. All comments were accepted.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	First CDBG Public Hearing: No attendance from residents, only city council members with no comments.	No comments were received.	N/A. No Comments Received.	
5	First Public Comments Period	Non-targeted/broad community	None	No comments were received.	N/A. No Comments Received.	
6	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Second CDBG Public Hearing	No Comments Received.	N/A. No Comments Received.	
7	Second Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/broad community	Second Public Comment Period	No Comments Received.	N/a. No comments were received.	

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

## 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	229,576	241,056	4,175	474,807	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**

**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 2023 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 Rochester Historic Society and 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. This decision allowed roughly \$13,000 in PSA funds that normally would go to My Friend's Place to be dispersed to other PSAs that work with the city, such as Haven, who provides emergency shelters to those fleeing domestic violence situations.

**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, Nancy Loud School, School St. School, William Allen School), Rochester Middle School, Spaulding High School, and the Richard W. Creteau Regional Technology Center.

**Discussion**

Prior year resources are totaling \$4,175.02 from 2021 in unused funding from the Weatherization program. This funding will be allocated back into the PY23 Weatherization Program to continue helping low-mod income residents with weatherization of their homes throughout Rochester.



## 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	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Homeless	Citywide	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons	CDBG: \$12,500	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 115 Persons Assisted
2	Affordable Housing Stock Creation/Retention	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Public Housing	Citywide	Retention and Creation of Affordable Housing Stock	CDBG: \$75,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 50 Household Housing Unit
3	Establish/Stabilize/Expand Small Businesses	2020	2025	Non-Housing Community Development Economic Development	Citywide	Establish/Expand/Stabilize Small Businesses	CDBG: \$241,056	Jobs created/retained: 1 Jobs
4	Public Services Concerned with Employment	2020	2025	Non-Housing Community Development Economic Development	Citywide	Public Services Concerned with Employment	CDBG: \$5,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 150 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services	2020	2025		Rochester Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Improving the Safety/Livability of Neighborhoods	CDBG: \$34,220	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1675 Persons Assisted
6	Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents	2020	2025	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs	Rochester Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents	CDBG: \$8,936	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 60 Households Assisted

**Table 6 – Goals Summary**

## Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons
	Goal Description	
2	Goal Name	Affordable Housing Stock Creation/Retention
	Goal Description	
3	Goal Name	Establish/Stabilize/Expand Small Businesses
	Goal Description	

4	Goal Name	Public Services Concerned with Employment
	Goal Description	
5	Goal Name	Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services
	Goal Description	
6	Goal Name	Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents
	Goal Description	

## Projects

### AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

#### Introduction

The individual activities selected for funding in PY 2023 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.

The City of Rochester will have roughly \$26,0005 under the Public Facilities and Infrastructure Project available for project(s) during FY24 (PY23). The Community Development Committee in charge of selecting projects has opened applications up for projects and will be reviewing them throughout the fiscal year 2024 (program year 2023) which runs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

For public services activities, it is estimated that **130** 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 **50** low-income individuals (approximately 25 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
1	Planning and Administration
2	Public Services
3	Housing Rehabilitation
4	Job Opportunity Benefit Loan Program
5	Public Facilities and Infrastructure

**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 2023 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**

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons Affordable Housing Stock Creation/Retention Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents Establish/Stabilize/Expand Small Businesses Public Services Concerned with Employment
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons Retention and Creation of Affordable Housing Stock Providing Services for Residents with SUD Improving the Safety/Livability of Neighborhoods Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents Establish/Expand/Stabilize Small Businesses Public Services Concerned with Employment Emergency Situations Aid to LMI Persons
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$45,915
	<b>Description</b>	Planning and administration costs for the City of Rochester CDBG program (salary, office supplies, environmental reviews, Davis-Bacon Act monitoring, etc.)
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	
	<b>Location Description</b>	Office of Economic and Community Development City of Rochester 33 Wakefield St. Rochester, NH 03867
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Planning and administration costs for the City of Rochester CDBG program (salary, office supplies, environmental reviews, Davis-Bacon Act monitoring, etc.)
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide

	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents Public Services Concerned with Employment
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Affordable Housing for Homeless/At-Risk Persons Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services Affordable and Quality Housing for All Residents Public Services Concerned with Employment
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$34,436
	<b>Description</b>	Operational expenses for non-profit agencies serving LMI communities
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	517 Low-moderate income individuals, predominantly homeless families and families at risk of being homeless.
	<b>Location Description</b>	
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	CASA OF NH:25 St. Thomas St., Dover, NH 03820  Waypoint of NH:3 Wallace St., Rochester, NH 03867 Strafford Nutrition Meals on Wheels: 25 Bartlett Ave., Suite A, Somersworth, NH 03878 Sharefund:150 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH 03867 HAVEN: 20 International Dr., Portsmouth, NH 03801 Dover Adult Learning Center:63 S. Main St., Rochester, NH 03867 Cross Roads: 600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth NH 03801 Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT): 42 Sumner Dr, Dover NH 03820
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Affordable Housing Stock Creation/Retention
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Retention and Creation of Affordable Housing Stock
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$79,175
	<b>Description</b>	



	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	50 low to low moderate income individuals/families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County: Multiple locations. All homeowners will be low-moderate income residents.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Weatherization assistance and lead remediation rehabilitation for low-income homeowners.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Job Opportunity Benefit Loan Program
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Establish/Stabilize/Expand Small Businesses
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Establish/Expand/Stabilize Small Businesses
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$241,056
	<b>Description</b>	Job loans to Rochester small businesses for the creation and/or retention of quality jobs made available to LMI residents
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	1 low-moderate income individual
	<b>Location Description</b>	Office of Economic and Community Development City of Rochester 33 Wakefield St. Rochester, NH 03867
<b>5</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	JOB Loans job creation loan program (revolving loan fund). Funds are from previously established RLF, not entitlement funds.
	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	<b>Target Area</b>	Citywide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Affordable Housing Stock Creation/Retention Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Improving the Safety/Livability of Neighborhoods Increase Access to Quality Facilities/Services

<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$74,225
<b>Description</b>	
<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2024
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	1810 low to low-moderate income individuals and families.
<b>Location Description</b>	<p>East Rochester Library: 935 Portland St Rochester NH 03868</p> <p>Triangle Club: 120 Broadway Dover, NH 03820</p> <p>Rochester Child Care Center: 95 Charles St, Rochester NH 03867</p>
<b>Planned Activities</b>	<p>East Rochester Library: Replacement of water heater and update to lighting system</p> <p>Triangle Club: Reconstruction of fire escape on back of building and weatherization of siding on one side of building</p> <p>Rochester Child Care Center: Replacement of blinds for children's classrooms and child care classrooms to follow new state guidelines</p>

## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

### **Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed**

Assistance will be directed primarily to low-income residents. This prioritization will be achieved through two methods. First, assistance will be provided through public services aimed specifically at low-income clients, such as homeless shelter and rental assistance services, and through housing and facilities projects that benefit low-income persons, such as weatherization of low-income housing. Second, public facilities projects that are not based on clientele verified income will be directed toward census tracts identified by HUD as comprised of 51% or greater low-income households.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau and from Strafford Regional Planning Commission indicate that there is one census tract of Racially or Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP) within the City of Rochester. This area overlaps, to large extent, the census block groups classified by HUD as 51% or greater low to moderate income.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Rochester Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts	94
Citywide	6

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

Combining clientele-specific targeting (such as projects aimed specifically at residents with disabilities or residents experiencing homelessness) and low-income census tract-specific targeting is calculated to serve the greatest number of low-income residents.

### **Discussion**

## Affordable Housing

### AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

#### Introduction

Focus is placed on housing stock rehabilitation, rather than housing acquisition, as housing rehabilitation have been identified as budget-maximizing approaches to increasing access to affordable housing. A large number of elderly residents live in manufactured housing that requires weatherization services, and Community Action Partnership of Strafford County's weatherization assistance program consistently reports that over half of its served Rochester clients are elderly residents and/or living in manufactured housing.

Share Fund specializes in providing rental assistance for low to low-moderate income individuals and families that have been unable to receive assistance from CAP or Welfare for various reasons. Funds are provided to residents after a thorough financial review, coaching and food pantry support. With the eviction restrictions ending in New Hampshire, and CAP halting funding to rental assistance, Share Fund expects more requests for assistance in the next year.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	115
Non-Homeless	60
Special-Needs	20
Total	195

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	60
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	50
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	110

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

#### Discussion

Homeless goals include the residents to be served by Cross Roads and Waypoint NH. Previous years CDBG funds have been used to fund My Friend's Place which services Homeless residents, however the City decided to start funding the program through the municipal funding as they have been a consistent resource to the city. This freed up funding to allow increases to several Public Services and providing funding to Cross Roads as the city had several years back. Special needs goals include the residents to be served by HAVEN. Non-homeless goals include the residents to be served by the SHARE Fund, who

specialize in rental assistance for low-moderate income families and individuals within Rochester to assist in retaining housing or bringing someone out of homelessness.

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The City of Rochester's Community Development Division plans to continue to work with the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) to identify and address public housing needs, such as the need for more transportation options for public housing residents, especially elderly residents and residents with disabilities, and technology access needs.

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

The City of Rochester's Community Development Division plans to continue to work with the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) to identify and address public housing needs, such as the need for more transportation options for public housing residents, especially elderly residents and residents with disabilities, and technology access needs. This Annual Action Plan provides for funding for transportation services for elderly residents through municipal funding of COAST public transit services, and through CDBG funding of an affiliate group Alliance for Community Transportation that helps fill gaps in transportation for elderly and disabled.

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

The Community Development Coordinator and Rochester Housing Authority plan to continue to hold meetings to engage public housing residents in the management process as well as to help identify unmet community needs and opportunities for new programs to better serve Rochester Housing Authority residents. The Rochester Housing Authority also has a residents' advisory council, comprised of public housing residents, that meets regularly with the RHA executive director.

To encourage participation in homeownership, the Rochester Community Development Coordinator makes available to the Rochester Housing Authority informational brochures on state homeownership programs aimed at lower-income potential homebuyers, as well as grant opportunities that might be able to fund homeownership or public housing programs.

In addition, the City of Rochester's CDBG program funds a number of economic services to build financial self-sufficiency of public housing residents and other low-income residents. This includes HiSET testing preparation classes and youth vocational supportive services. The Community Development Coordinator also ensures that all CDBG-funded construction project bid invitations are provided to Rochester Housing Authority residents so that residents have an opportunity to bid on such projects. This helps RHA residents to build the financial security and savings that can facilitate 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**

## **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

### **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**

In PY 2023, 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.

**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.

In addition, in PY 2023 the City of Rochester plans to fund guardian ad litem services for abused and neglected children, which includes homeless children and children at risk for homeless. This project is intended to serve unaccompanied youth as well as accompanied youth.

**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:**

County region and of New Hampshire generally. These barriers include the combination of high rental rates (median rent of \$1,394 for a two-bedroom apartment in Strafford County, with an annual increase in monthly median rent of 5.7%) and continuing extremely low vacancy rates in the rental housing market (currently, well under 0.3% vacancy statewide). These data were taken from New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority's 2022 Rental Survey Report.

In PY 2023, 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 \$1,394 for a two-bedroom apartment in Strafford County, with an annual increase in monthly median rent of 5.7%) and continuing extremely low vacancy rates in the rental housing market (currently, well under 0.3% vacancy statewide). In PY 2023, 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.

In addition, the City of Rochester's Community Development Division and Economic Development plan to continue to gather data on the number of Rochester residents currently needing federal financial assistance for housing and use that data to help identify potential funding sources for permanent supportive housing and public housing projects. They will also continue their work with Rochester Housing Authority in supporting their needs when necessary. Per New Hampshire Housing the vacancy rates from 2022 for the state of New Hampshire are at 0.3% and for Strafford County it is 1.1%. The City is looking into bringing more workforce housing over the next several years into Rochester to help with both the vacancy rates and housing costs.

### **Discussion:**

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction:**

The Community Development Coordinator plans in PY 2023 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 2023, 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 2023, 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**

In PY 2023, the City of Rochester plans to continue to fund the housing weatherization work of the Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, which includes lead-safe work practices and lead

remediation when applicable.

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.

### **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, the Tri-City

Mayoral Homeless Task Force and its fidelity committee, 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.

**Discussion:**

## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### Introduction:

The program income from the Job Opportunity Benefit (JOB) Loan Program is continually reinvested back into the JOB Loan Program.

#### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%

The anticipated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income is based on a three-year period from 2021-2024.