

**Community Development
Block Grant Program**

**Consolidated Annual Performance
and
Evaluation Report**



**City of Rochester, New Hampshire
July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012**

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Prepared by:
Community Development Department
31 Wakefield St.
Rochester, New Hampshire

Contact Person:
Elena V. Engle
Community Development Specialist
(603)335-1338

City of Rochester
Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY 2011-2012 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) summarizes the accomplishments and financial expenditures of the year as they relate to the goals set forth in the FY 2011-2015 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the FY 2011-2012 Annual Plan.

The Consolidated Plan is a living document designed to identify the needs of the community, especially those who fall with the low-income range, and formulate a plan to address those needs. The plan is the result of an eighteen-month collaborative process that includes extensive public outreach, multiple public hearings and consultation with community agencies, groups and organizations. The Annual Plan is developed each fiscal year to describe the projects that have been funded for that year as they relate to the five-year program goals.

The Community Development Block Grant gives us an important resource with a great deal of flexibility to take on projects or design programming to rectify deficiencies and correct chronic problems in Rochester.

The City of Rochester develops the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, annual Action Plan and annual CAPER to provide a strategy for the use of federal Community Development Block Grant funds and as a requirement set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which funds CDBG.

This Consolidated Plan started July 1, 2010 and will end June 30, 2015, comprising five "Action Plan" or program years. Programs and activities described in this plan are intended to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Rochester, neighborhoods with high concentrations of low- and moderate-income residents, and the city as a whole.

The underlying structure is the same for every jurisdictions plan. All plans must address the needs of the community, primarily benefiting the needs of the lower income persons (defined as those with household incomes below 80% of the area median. In Strafford County, the median income in 2011 was \$83,100. Plans must address these three national objectives set forth by HUD.

- ☛To provide decent housing
- ☛To provide a suitable living environment
- ☛To expand economic opportunities

Our Community Development Block Grant for this action plan of Consolidated Plan was \$276,362 for initial funding purposes. In a separate initiative, the city was awarded \$2.5 million dollars under the state administered NSP program in 2009. The program ended in May, 2012 when the last home was sold. A short description of those accomplishments is included in the Other Activities/Self-Evaluation section.

**a.) Assessment of Goals and Objectives by Consolidated Plan Priority
Need: FY 2011-2012**

Following is a summary of the three statutory program goals for the Consolidated Plan, what those goals include under CDBG regulations, and what activities the City of Rochester proposed to provide for them.

Program Goal (1) for Rochester: To Provide Decent Housing

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Assisting Homeless Persons to Obtain Affordable Housing and Assisting Persons at Risk of Homelessness** (Provide Decent, Affordable Housing/Availability/Accessibility)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester: In conjunction with existing homeless, mental health, veteran and advocate groups:

- Support of shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing for the homeless and other vulnerable groups
- Exploration of shelter for unaccompanied youth or other resources to respond to growing need
- Exploration of resources available for long-term supportive housing for the chronically homeless population

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Retention of Affordable Housing Stock** (Provide Decent, Affordable Housing/Affordability)

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

- Support of weatherization and other energy efficiency programs to provide long-term affordability/sustainability to low-income households
- Exploration of future housing rehabilitation programs, including coordination of regional resources for lead paint abatement assistance
- Exploration and support for the creation of workforce housing opportunities

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Increasing the Supply of Supportive Housing Which Includes Structural Features and Services to Enable Persons with Special Needs To Live In Dignity and Independence** (Create Suitable Living Environment/Availability/Accessibility)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Exploration of resources available for long term supportive housing for chronically homeless population
- Exploration of and support for permanent housing for unaccompanied youth, including youth aging out of foster care
- Continued service to disabled individuals requiring home modifications to ensure accessibility
- Improving access to services that address unique needs of special populations on an outpatient basis

Program Goal (2) for Rochester: To Provide a Suitable Living Environment

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Improving the Safety and Livability of Neighborhoods (including revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods)** (Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Ongoing coordination with the Department of Public Works for enhancements to major infrastructure improvement projects in lowest income neighborhoods.
- Continued review of neighborhood conditions and exploration of funding sources and project structures that can address deficiencies that negatively impact the health, safety and quality of life of a neighborhood.

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Increased Access to Quality Public and Private Facilities and Services** (Creating Suitable Living Environment/Availability/Accessibility)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Support of public services serving low-income populations of greatest need and offering greatest potential for long term stability
- Development and participation in coalition designed to foster greater collaboration and resource sharing
- Encourage and support of transportation groups to provide greater access to community resources for low income, elderly and disabled populations
- Exploration and execution of additional measures to ensure access to public buildings and other public service facilities and increase safety for disabled citizens
- Further renovations to the Community Center to further refine access and accessibility for clientele of numerous public services located within

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Reduction in the isolation of income groups within areas through spatial deconcentration of housing opportunities for lower income persons** (Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Encourage thoughtful exploration of appropriate locations for low-income and workforce housing placement

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Conservation of Energy Resources** (Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Exploration of measures to assist public service or other eligible partners to increase energy efficiency and long-term sustainability

Program Goal (3) for Rochester: is to Expand Economic Opportunities

which address HUD outcome performance measures as noted below:

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: Establishment, Stabilization and Expansion of Small Businesses (Including Micro-Businesses)** (Create Economic Opportunity/Availability/Accessibility)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Support for resources to maintain access to skill development within the community for small businesses
- Maintain revolving loan fund for small business financing in exchange for job creation/retention agreements
- Explore partnership and leveraging resources to achieve City goals as outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan including access and development to industrial parcels, the development of a revolving loan fund for code improvements to downtown business owners

- **HUD Outcome Performance Measure: the Provision of Public Services Concerned with Employment** (Create suitable Living Environment/Availability/accessibility)

Activities Proposed by the City of Rochester:

- Encourage partnership responses to addressing specific employment accessibility gaps in specialty populations, such as the newly unemployed, mentally ill and minors.

i. Financial Summary of the Program Reporting Year-by Activity

Agency/Project	Approved FY 11-12 Budget	FY 11-12 Investments
Avis Goodwin	\$3,000	\$3,000
Crossroads	\$6,000	\$6,000
Child and Family Services	\$1,806	\$1,806
Homeless Shelter Strafford County	\$7,000	\$7,000
My Friend's Place	\$6,000	\$6,000
SHARE Fund	\$6,000	\$6,000
AIDS Response	\$3,000	\$3,000
Dover Adult Learning Center	\$5,000	\$5,000
Project Pride	\$3,648	\$3,648
TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICE	\$41,454	\$41,454
CAP Weatherization	\$40,000	\$35,714
TOTAL HOUSING REPAIRS	\$40,000	\$35,714
Small Business Development Center	\$12,000	\$12,000
Thompson Investment- JOB Loan	\$70,000	\$70,000
TOTAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY	\$82,000	\$82,000
Crossroads Transitional Housing Rehab	\$83,000	\$83,000
Historic Society Elevator	\$5,640	\$2,488
Historic Society Fire Escape	\$3,869	\$189
Rochester Child Care	\$8,500	\$8,500
Pine St. Improvements	\$41,000	\$0
TOTAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS	\$142,009	\$93,989
Administration	\$55,272	\$53,394.37
GRANT FY 11-12/EXPENDITURES	\$426,245	\$377,619

ii. Activities/Progress Towards Goals/Objectives: FY 2011-2012 CAPER Detail

Basic Needs

Procuring safe shelter, sustenance...without these, no person is able to live, let alone realize a productive existence. These most fundamental requirements, along with immediate health and safety concerns form the definition of our Basic Needs category. For a twenty four hour period in January 2012, the homeless population in Strafford County was counted. In Strafford County, 54 individuals were sheltered (families and individuals); 9 were unsheltered; 12 were described as "temporarily doubled up", sharing housing with a friend or relative on a short term basis, typically paying a no or a nominal amount towards rent. These numbers are significantly lower than reported in the point in time survey in 2011.

Funding for Basic Needs activities was approved as follows in the category of **Public Services**:

AVIS GOODWIN - Providing access to health care for under and uninsured individuals is this program's main goal. Individuals seeking preventative and non-emergency care that are under or non-insured would still be able to access quality healthcare in downtown Rochester. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$3,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 2339 individuals *(all programs)*

SERVICE TO: 67 individuals *(with this funding subsidy)*

Performance is measured by numbers of low and very low income residents accessing healthcare, regardless of health insurance issues.

CROSSROADS HOUSE - is the emergency homeless shelter in nearby Portsmouth. Staff research showed that proportional to bed space, as many Rochester residents in need of immediate shelter utilized Crossroads as utilized the shelter in Dover. 5-10% of their bed nights go to Rochester residents. 70% of families and half of the individuals move from Crossroads directly into permanent housing. Due to less turnover in bed occupancy, Crossroads is serving fewer Rochester residents, but the ones they are assisting are being served for longer periods of time. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$6,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 40 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 15 INDIVIDUALS IN THE HOMELESS SHELTER

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES-

Funding was used to provide mental health services to extremely low or very low income Rochester residents who are either uninsured or underinsured and their insurance deductibles are too high for them to afford counseling. The agency also provides Rochester citizens a range of family support, child abuse prevention, family stabilization and teen risk prevention services.

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$1,806

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 50

SERVICE TO: 49 ROCHESTER RESIDENTS

Performance is measured by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

HOMELESS CENTER FOR STRAFFORD COUNTY - This six-month facility provides another level of care for those with no other resources. Families and single women may stay at the shelter and receive a breakfast. Referrals to the shelter through city welfare offices and are screened by My Friend's Place in Dover, in order to connect these individuals with the assistance they need to get back into permanent housing. Last year 30 Rochester residents received shelter. This regional partnership has been very successful in filling a gap in the continuum of care. Local shelters were often at capacity for months on end, and while the obligation of city welfare offices to provide shelter remained, the options were limited. Cooperation amongst local agencies and the City, guided by the local Housing Consortium (the regional continuum of care group) found a solution in this shelter model that adequately filled that gap.

This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele - 570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$7,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 40 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 40 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

MY FRIEND'S PLACE - is Strafford County's only full-time, year round shelter that provides housing for homeless individuals and families. Since it's opening in 1989, it has been providing temporary housing and a range of services to help rebuild meaningful lives. Rochester residents who are homeless seek adequate housing while staying at My Friend's Place, either in the emergency shelter or occasionally moving to their Transitional Housing Program. Transitional housing allows for a stay of up to two years in a private apartment while residents receive intensive case management and access to resources. In the FY 01-02, My Friend's Place completed an addition that made the shelter fully accessible to persons with mobility limitations and added 6 new beds to their capacity. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$6,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 40 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 60 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

HOLY ROSARY SHARE FUND - provides food, clothing and financial assistance to Rochester residents in need thereby reducing the burden on other publicly funded services like the Rochester Welfare Department. The staff is entirely volunteer. Benefactors sponsor all operational expenses. Their grant is utilized to provide security deposit assistance for families (57 individuals last year) who otherwise may become homeless. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

The city also supports the efforts of the SHARE fund's other activities, Gerry's Food Pantry and the Community Clothing Closet that provide food and clothing for needy residents through providing space in the community center and waiving the collection of rent that would otherwise be valued at over \$18,000 a year.

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$6,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 163 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 54 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by allowing people to move into permanent housing, rather than into the shelter network.

Safety Net

There are many agencies and activities we have funded in the past and still rely upon which inspired the category of "safety net." These are programs, which provide direct services to our children, elderly, and augment City services, such as our police force and welfare office. These are projects and services from agencies that provide focused situation specific solutions to a wide variety of needs Rochester Citizens have expressed. This category also includes projects that protect the health, safety and the access of public buildings for citizens. This year we selected projects in the **Public Services** and **Public Facilities** categories.

Funding for Safety Net activities was approved as follows in the category of **Public Facilities** Category:

CROSSROADS HOUSE - As part of a massive capital improvements project, Crossroads is moving on to the rehabilitation of the family transitional housing area of their Portsmouth complex. This renovation will increase number of families able to be served and provide adequate sized space for larger families and add kitchenettes for safe food storage and preparation, something currently not available. The administrators of state CDBG funds, CDFA, along with the cities of Dover and Portsmouth have also committed funds for the critically needed renovations to this part of the shelter. The project was completed after a delay in funding due to bids being higher than anticipated. The project is fully completed and providing services to families in the local area. The project was funded through a collaboration between the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) and the cities of Rochester, Dover and Portsmouth.

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$83,000

*This new family facility did not open until February at which time there weren't any Rochester residents placed in that facility. Due to the slow turnover of residents in the facility, there were no Rochester residents served from February to June in this family section of the shelter.

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

Funding for Safety Net activities was approved as follows in the category of **Public Services** Category:

AIDS RESPONSE SEACOAST - After suffering deep federal cuts to funding, ARS remains viable and able to provide case management, health care management and supportive services to HIV + individuals. In order to increase access to case

management, ARS staff is now holding office hours in the Rochester Community Center. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$3,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 17 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 18 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by improvement to case management and increased health sustainability.

ROCHESTER CHILD CARE – Is an integral piece of our economic development infrastructure in Rochester and has provided over a third of all licensed childcare for Rochester for 35 years. They have continued to keep the cost of care as low as possible in order to provide high quality, affordable care for families for whom this would present a barrier to employment. The Rochester Child Care Center is housed in a block and brick masonry building constructed in 1952. This new award was used to replace the original electrical panel in the building which will provide for the ability to update other building needs and prevent the agency from incurring debt that would impact tuition fees for families.. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$8,500

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 350 Children

SERVICE TO: 196

Performance is measured by bringing electrical system up to code without incurring debt that would impact tuition fees for families.

Funding for Safety Net activities was approved as follows in the category of **Housing**:

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM - Designed to help low- and very-low income persons in Rochester reduce the cost of utilities through energy conservation methods, this popular program has served hundreds of very low-income Rochester residents over the years. Federal ARRA funding has increased the number of households who will be able to receive. Items specifically addressed are repairing heating systems, carbon monoxide testing, moisture assessments, removal or correction of health and safety hazards in order to improve the general living conditions of the residents. These funds are matched at least 1:5 from the state Department of Energy funds and utility grants through our partnership with Strafford County Community Action. The program has been proven to achieve an average energy savings of 40% of home energy costs, with a minimum standard payback of 100% in 5 years. Referrals are generally through Strafford County Community Action program, which administers the local fuel assistance grants. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income housing -570.208 (a) (3).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$40,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 40 Housing Units

SERVICE TO: 36 Housing Units

Actual CDBG Expenditures: \$35,714

Average expenditure per home: \$992 (not including outside grants)

Performance is measured by improving the energy efficiency and safety of these units.

Investment

Without investment in our community, our City will be compelled to exercise all of its future resources in dealing with chronic problems of poverty, lack of opportunity and community stability. To support our lowest income neighborhoods, a commitment is being made to community investment, reflected in both neighborhoods and individuals. With a strong emphasis on access, public facilities improvements and economic development will likely absorb most of the overall Consolidated Plan period funding, though some activities will fall under our Safety Net Category as well.

Funding for Investment activities was approved as follows in the category of **Public Services** Category:

DOVER ADULT LEARNING CENTER - provides adult basic education in four different areas including basic skill and literacy, high school or GED completion, vocational education and community enrichment. Classes are offered in many accessible locations in Rochester and can include childcare in order to reduce another barrier. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$5,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 450 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 294 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by the completion of adult basic skills and GED courses by Rochester residents.

PROJECT PRIDE - assists students (17-21) who have left traditional school, with vocational and educational skills with the goal of completion of the GED, acquiring pre-employment skills, work maturity skills such as filling out applications, interviewing, punctuality and demonstrating positive attitudes. This program has a high completion rate due in part to the fact that the students applying for a spot are there by choice, rather than being court ordered or mandated by the school district. This program is offered in four cycles each year. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$3,648

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 25 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 30 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by GED completion and job placement of participants in the program.

Funding for Investment activities was approved as follows in the category of **Economic Development**:

JOB REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM –The Job Opportunity Benefit (JOB) Loan program provides a source of funding for businesses to expand, modernize or relocate within Rochester. These funds are almost always used as “gap” financing for businesses to add additional debt to their conventional financing. Currently, typical loans range between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Eligible applicants include Rochester business’ that commit to hiring two to six full-time (or full-time equivalent) workers who qualify as

low/moderate income prior to employment. The City's economic development capacity is enhanced by the infusion of CDBG funds since over \$3,800 a month is currently being repaid to the City and becomes available to fund future loans. This income, along with a current balance of \$112,793 and an anticipated loan payoff of \$22,000 (due to the recent death of a business owner) is available for FY 11-12 loans. This type of activity is eligible for CDBG funding because of the benefit to low and moderate income limited jobs- 570.208 (a) (4). The City's goal is to continue this unique program, but right now program income is accumulating faster than current demand for this type of financial assistance. Therefore, a special committee has been created to examine current unmet and emerging economic development needs and determine if any of them are good candidates for support through CDBG and JOB Loan program resources.

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$46,416 projected program income from current portfolio; \$72,793 in current revolving loan fund balance; \$22,000 anticipated payoff. Total available: \$141,209 as of September, 2012 (\$181,209 minus Loan not included that closed in July, 2012 after the fiscal year).

The portfolio of JOB loans stands as follows as of June, 30 2012:

	Original Loan	Final Payment	FTE Jobs to be created
Custom Banner	\$50,000	Apr 2014	2
Distinctive Forest Creations	\$35,000	Oct 2013	4
Carney Medical	\$30,000	Aug 2014	3
Thompson Tool	\$70,000	Apr 2015	12
Blue Oasis	\$50,000	Jun 2015	3
	\$235,000.00	Total Jobs:	24

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER – is a Micro-enterprise assistance program that promoted job creation through a process of education and counseling for local small business owners and those looking to start new enterprises. Counseling and workshops are offered throughout the year. Staff also called upon occasionally to work with recipients of the JOB Loan program. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2). After a monitoring visit in 2006, the agency was urged to alter the reporting of client usage and keep reporting to unduplicated clients attending programming each quarter. Returning individuals are no longer counted each additional time they access programming.

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$12,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 90 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 16 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by participation in programming by small and start-up business owners.

Funding for Investment activities was approved as follows in the category of **Public Facilities Improvements and Infrastructure** Category:

HISTORIC SOCIETY ELEVATOR AND FIRE ESCAPE - The Rochester Historic Society is located in the heart of downtown Rochester and serves the community through

its stewardship of local treasures of historic significance and presents regular presentations to the public. Their collection is housed in a city owned building leased to the society, but to date has not been made fully handicap accessible. This project dedicated funds to provide the building with an appropriate lift to remove this impediment for elderly and disabled access to the second floor and a fire escape that meets code and egress. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod area -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$68,869

SERVICE: CITY WIDE; severely disabled and Elderly

PINE STREET IMPROVEMENTS – During the development of the FY 10-11 Action Plan, the ad-hoc downtown redevelopment team was awaiting the release of the feasibility study for the much anticipated Main St. Marketplace project. It was expected (at that time) that the study would outline a prospective course of action for the development of this incubator space and the city council authorized \$41,141 towards architectural plans and initial engineering, in preparation for a larger allocation and other grant funds for construction in FY 11-12. Unfortunately, the feasibility study results were not as pragmatic or as readily attainable as was hoped for and the project was halted. The Community Development Committee had discussed a contingency plan for this particular allocation in case this happened. In March, the Community Development committee approved the submission of a reallocation of CDBG funds from the Main St. Marketplace feasibility study to utilize as part of the Pine St. improvements authorized by the Public Works committee and the council. These funds paid for the installation of sidewalks, the resetting of granite curbing and the purchase of additional curbing as needed. Construction on the sidewalk has begun and the project is due to be completed in December, 2012.

This project directly addresses the following CDBG Consolidated Plan goal:

Improving the Safety and Livability of Neighborhoods (including revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods)

Outcome measurement: Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability

-Ongoing coordination with the Department of Public Works for enhancements to major infrastructure improvement projects in lowest income neighborhoods.

-Continued review of neighborhood conditions and exploration of funding sources and project structures that can address deficiencies that negatively impact the health, safety and quality of life of a neighborhood.

Construction for this new project was appended to the existing Washington St. Improvement project (adjacent) and was approved by DOT in June 2011. These street improvements are within and border the Neighborhood Stabilization Program area. The conditions on Pine St. had also been brought up numerous times during the neighborhood listening sessions of 2010 and 2011. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod area -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 11-12 FUNDING: \$41,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: LM Area Benefit

Program addresses the following HUD objective/outcome categories: Create suitable living environments/availability.

b.) Actions to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

i. Description of Actions Taken to Effect an analysis of Impediments:

Impediments to fair housing choice appear to be low; however more investigation into this area is warranted. Below are some identified impediments and some actions that will be taken by the Community Development Department as an ongoing project to address and identify more community specific impediments that may not be as apparent from the current data and information available.

ii. Summary of Impediments:

- Limited Data- Collection and Detection
 - Reduced funding at the NH Legal Assistance office has impacted the number of reports received due to lower intake and investigation numbers.
 - According to Rochester Housing, they rarely receive notification of fair housing complaints in their office, making it difficult to identify what additional impediments may exist specifically in the Rochester community as opposed to New Hampshire as a whole.

iii. Description of Actions Taken to Overcome Identified Impediments:

- Consultation with key agency representatives from a sampling of local housing-related agencies and other agencies working with projected groups including the Rochester Housing Authority, NH Legal Assistance, Rochester Police Department, Welfare Office, NH Commission for Human Rights.
- A review of the 2010 Analysis of Impediments completed by New Hampshire Legal Assistance
 - Utilize this information as a basis for identification and narrowing of impediments specific to Rochester.
- Further analysis of 2010 census data
 - Obtain a better understanding of the community population and housing demographics based on more recent data.
- Review of existing zoning ordinances with an eye to maintaining reasonable opportunities for multi-family and quality affordable housing.
- Anti-Housing Discrimination posters are posted in English and Spanish in City Hall from the NH Commission for Human Rights.

c.) Affordable Housing

Rochester's housing market reflects a wide variety of housing choice, to the benefit of many different types of households. As of the 2010 Census Data, 13,372 housing units existed within the City, an increase of over 1,500 from the 2000 Census Data. Housing has been easier to obtain (rental and purchase), however the access to mortgages has tightened significantly in the last few years. Rochester has remained a 'haven' for regional affordable housing, as compared to nearby markets, but with our higher concentration of lower income households, even our "affordable" units, can be out of reach for citizens, particularly as unemployment rises.

- City regulations encourage infill, multi-housing type developments and higher density development. Encouraging housing type diversity is thought to be one way to encourage the development of affordable housing.

- The city zoning ordinance allows for in-law units to be created in all single family homes.
- Rochester has adopted the International Building Code. The basis of the code is provide a safeguard to the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- The city's building inspection division enforces all federal and state ADA requirements for housing and commercial development.

Foreclosures: Foreclosures continue to be an issue in Rochester and throughout Strafford County. Referrals to the services that New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and New Hampshire Legal Assistance continue to be our most valuable tools for homeowners at risk of losing their homes. Since 2005, Rochester has accounted for 31%-41% of the total foreclosures in Strafford County and currently account for 35% of the total (See Appendix F) %).

d.) Continuum of Care

The City of Rochester has worked closely with the Strafford County Continuum in developing and updating the County's Continuum of Care. Representatives from over 17 different organizations participate in monthly forums which include a variety of public service providers who present to the group and continue to educate members on areas of interest outside of their normal spheres of influence. Discussions are held on funding issues both on the Federal and State level, as well as new regulations and rules. Most recently, the Consortium comprises an inventory of affordable housing units in the seacoast region.

e.) Other Actions

i. Special Needs of Persons who are not Homeless but Require Supportive Housing:

The Homeless Center for Strafford County continues to house families for a 12-18 month period while they receive case management services in order to stabilize their situations.

ii. Obstacles to addressing underserved needs:

Funding is the largest obstacle to meeting Rochester's underserved needs. As the entire community qualifies as meeting HUD's requirement of 51% low-moderate income, the projects needed to serve and support Rochester's lowest income residents are not able to be fully supported due to the limited funding as well as decreased federal funding the city has received. Rochester has gone from a high entitlement of \$394,000 down to a current budget of \$218,000 and over that same timeframe, more of the residents have fallen into poverty and low income status.

iii. Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing:

Neighborhood Stabilization Program: The award to the City of \$2.4 million dollars for the purpose of purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed properties to prevent further neighborhood deterioration in areas where foreclosures have been significant.

Rehabilitation plans included full abatement of all lead, asbestos and structural deficiencies. The renovated units were converted to highly energy efficient, architecturally sensitive and affordable to moderate income homeowners. The last two properties sold in May, 2012.

iv. Mitigate Barriers to Affordable Housing:

Due to the large distribution of housing types in Rochester, many barriers to affordable housing have been eliminated. However, with the lack of local and state funding needed to offset high

local costs of development, making it difficult to anticipate significant increases in affordable housing units to those with lower incomes, the city continues to commit to continuing work with non-profit and housing authority related low-income housing tax credit projects that are proposed. The Housing Partnership, Community Partners, My Friend's Place, Meadowview Manor, Roberge Manor, Laurel Terrace, and Strafford County Community Action are specific organizations the city continues to collaborate with.

The City of Rochester funded Community Action to complete weatherization and other improvements in Rochester's owner occupied, low-income homes and mobile homes. Over the last year with CDBG funds Community Action made improvements to 36 Rochester housing units. This program reduces energy costs to the owner, making the cost more affordable to the owner.

Rochester Housing Authority- Waiting List Information for Section 8 and Public Housing (See Appendix G)

v. Institutional Structures:

Rochester Community Development staff serves as a member of the Strafford County Continuum of Care (The Housing Consortium), the balance of state continuum of care group for the region. This office is responsible for the administration of program and activities undertaken with the Community Development Block Grant Funds, as described in this Consolidated Plan and its subsequent Action Plans.

The City is a public entity whose purpose relative to housing and economic development involves such areas as planning and financing of economic development projects, code enforcement, planning and zoning review, financial relief assistance and community development. The City's financial resources for housing, community development and economic development assistance are the Community Development Block Grant programs. The programs are planned and administered through the Community Development office of the Planning and Development Department with support, as necessary, from other City departments. The City anticipates being able to implement the programs and projects proposed in the plan and does not foresee any problems associated with carrying out the plan unless these federal funds become unavailable, reduced, or delayed for a substantial period of time. From the City's viewpoint, the major weakness in the Consolidated Plan is the obvious lack of sufficient funding available to adequately address all the priorities simultaneously.

The Rochester Housing Authority is a public entity whose purpose is to provide housing and support services to low-income people. The Rochester City Manager appoints members to the board of commissioners, including at least one member who is a resident of a housing authority property. There is no provision for additional city review of housing authority procurement, hiring, capital improvements or engagement of other services, other than that which would be required by planning or zoning review of any property development.

vi. Public Housing and resident initiatives:

In 2011, the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) saw significant turnover in all of our programs with 40 HCV vouchers issued and 40 new move-ins for public housing units.

The Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) manages 182 HCV of which 21 are project based; 232 public housing units of which 172 are designated for elderly and younger disabled and 60 are family units. They manage two properties for the City and 70 units of tax credit housing which have set rents, not based on income. The RHA is currently developing another 12 units of

elderly tax credit housing and also offer (1) two-unit apartment house for families in need of temporary emergency housing who have an exit plan.

Rochester Housing Authority is not designated as a troubled agency by HUD.

vii. Lead Based Paint Hazards:

Due to the inability of funding through CDBG to cover the cost of resources necessary to identify lead based paint hazards in Rochester's housing units, we continued to rely on the "Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs through the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. They run regular "Lead Safe Renovation" workshops in the region and across the state to educate participants in practical, low-cost methods to safely control, contain, and clean up the lead paint that might be disturbed in a home while work is being done. In addition, they conduct statewide surveillance; provides medical case management and home inspections for lead-poisoned children; and provides information and referral for reduction and abatement of lead hazards. Their program staff also provide free lead poisoning prevention information kits.

viii. Compliance and Monitoring:

Performance of every applicant and program were compared annually with projected goals as well as their ability to comply with federal and local regulations. All sub-grantees have a contract or letter of agreement on file with the City. Every sub-grantee of the program will be monitored regularly.

Monitoring is in the form of annual visits to the site office where reporting statistics are kept, as well as the site where activities take place, if different. Staff has also visited many agencies when they are open to the public or during special events, to keep current with activities the agency is engaged in and to get a first hand look at how the agency presents itself to the general public.

Construction projects were monitored through regular conferences with sub-grantees and impacted parties and included on-site monitoring.

ix. Reduce the number of families in Poverty:

The City over the past year has supported Economic Development and job creation in the City. Additionally, we have continued to support the Rochester Child Care Center which supplies subsidized daycare, thereby allowing the parents to work and provide family income.

f.) Leveraging Resources

No matching funds were required for any of the CDBG activities.

Activities that leveraged funds for the CDBG Program included:

- Strafford County Community Action's weatherization program leveraged \$170,848 in HOME funds, PSHN funds and DOE funds for owner occupied housing.
- Economic Development (JOB LOAN) leveraged \$210,000 in private funds, and \$1.69 million in other local development funds for a total of \$1.9 million in leveraged funds.
- Pine Street Sidewalk Project leveraged \$1.15 million in ARRA federal funds.

g.) Citizens Comments

The City received no Citizen's comments on the Annual Performance Report. All comments received during the public comment period will be forwarded to HUD for inclusion in Rochester's CAPER.

h.) Administration, Self Evaluation other areas of activity

This plan represents the second year of the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan. Our grant for FY 11-12 was \$225,961, a significant decrease from prior years funding. \$53,394 was the maximum available for program Planning and Administration of the Community Development Block Grant. Funding in this category pays for staff salaries to plan, execute and report on the activities described above, as well as mandatory public notices, supplies, legal services, proportional share city audit costs, etc. Planning and administrative expenses are authorized under CDBG regulation 570.206.

Staff coordinates the projects selected in this plan and provides technical assistance to agencies and the public on how best to invest in their neighborhoods in compliance with the federal guidelines governing the Community Development Block Grant.

Staff time is often used to assist other activities in Rochester, including the implementation of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; accordingly staff costs were allocated between the two programs again this year. Staying connected to community in other capacities brings fresh information about the status of the low-income community and provides inspiration for future programming or changes needed to prevent additional instances of homelessness or neighborhood degradation, for example.

The Community Development Staff also continue to participate in the larger web of social service agencies, United Way Solutions Forums, and strive to find ways to improve the living conditions for lower income people through non-traditional and often non-financial means. As funding sources get tighter, it takes the collective creativity of the community leaders to continue to find solutions.

Funding was handled in a similar way this year as it was the previous year with a competitive process for public service agency awards for operating funds or special projects. Just as in FY 10-11, this year there were several activities funded through the city that may have been previously funded through the CDBG grant. This was thought to reduce reporting burdens and administrative requirements. Activities supported through the City Manager's special fund are as follows: Your VNA (elder home care services); the Homemakers (elder home care services); Strafford County Community Action (poverty outreach programs).

The mission of Community Development is to work with the community, nonprofit and private sector partners to improve neighborhoods and assist lower income people to improve the quality of their lives. The Rochester Community Development Block Grant funded activities are limited in scope, but still have a significant and visible impact on the growth and well being of the community, contributing to its overall health and stability. We know CDBG cannot fill every gap and meet every need, but we believe the policies and guidance provided by our Consolidated Plan will give us a fair and consistent way to make the highest value investment and measure benefit to the community. We strive to utilize the collaborative climate to spur change and meet emerging needs regardless of our grant funding levels.

i. Geographic Distribution of funds this year was distributed evenly throughout the city. All of the census tract and block groups are eligible for CDBG activities for meeting the 51% low-mod threshold established by HUD. Our community of racial or ethnic minorities does not have particular area of concentration geographically. 2010 census data shows a non-white racial population that is less than 5%. Likewise, overcrowding is not a significant problem within the city. Less than 2% of units have more than one person per room reported.