



City of Providence
DRAFT 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan

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City of Providence

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The 2023-2024 Action Plan represents the fourth year of investment under the City of Providence's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The Action Plan is the City of Providence's application for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement grants and identifies the proposed programs and projects to be funded during Federal Program Year 2023 (local FY2024). Four HUD entitlement grants are covered in this Action Plan:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): the primary goal of the CDBG program is the development of viable urban communities through improved living environments, expansion of economic opportunity, and provision and preservation of decent, affordable housing. Funds are intended to serve low- and moderate-income residents and neighborhoods.
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME): the HOME program is dedicated to increasing the availability, as well as the access to, affordable housing for low-income households.
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): The purpose of the ESG program is to assist individuals and families to gain housing (temporary and permanent) after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness.
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA): HOPWA funds may be used for a wide range of housing and social services to benefit individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify the City's housing, community, neighborhood, and economic development priority needs, and develop goals and strategies regarding how funding will be allocated to eligible housing and community development activities and priorities as described in the ConPlan. It is important to note that the City's ConPlan sets goals and strategies to be achieved over the 2020-2024 period and identifies a list of funding priorities. The ConPlan goals represent high priority needs for the City of Providence and serve as the basis for the PY 2023 programs and activities identified in this Action Plan.

The Con Plan goals are listed below in no particular order:

- Enhance the City's economic stability and prosperity by increasing opportunities for job readiness and investing in economic development programs.
- Strengthen neighborhoods by investing in the City's public infrastructure needs and community amenities.
- Improve housing opportunities by creating and preserving affordable rental and homeowner housing.

- Assist individuals and families to stabilize in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness by providing client-appropriate housing and supportive service solutions.
- Invest in community services and non-profits facilities that maximize impact by providing new or increased access to programs that serve highly vulnerable populations such as youths, seniors and food for insecure households.
- Meet the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families through the provision of housing, health and supportive services.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan:

The City of Providence’s housing and community needs were identified through a series of community meetings and outreach (including direct outreach to neighborhood and community centers, local CDCs, and other local service agencies) during its most recent Consolidated Planning process and this Year 4 Action Plan process. Data obtained from partner organizations, the US Census, HMIS, and other sources was also evaluated.

Additional outreach through public hearings was conducted as part of this Year 4 Action Plan Process. The needs identified below informed the development of goals and intended outcomes throughout the ConPlan Process; these identified needs inform the goals of Year 4.

Housing Needs

Housing Affordability: Public outreach and data analyses strongly indicate that housing affordability and housing cost burden are a significant issue in Providence. Many residents fall within the low- and moderate-income brackets, and many homeowners continue to struggle to recover from the ongoing pandemic.

Sub-standard Housing Stock: Deferred maintenance of a large portion of the City’s housing stock (compounded by its age, a high number of absentee landlords, and a lack of resources for property owners to maintain their properties), affects the quality of housing within the City. Hundreds of properties within the City have been identified as vacant, abandoned, and blighted.

Public Housing: Providence Housing Authority is the sole agency in the City that provides public housing. Its portfolio consists of 2,601 units that serve over 5,000 residents. It also provides housing assistance to over 6,000 individuals as the contract administrator of Section 8 housing. Waiting lists for housing assistance or PHA units can currently run 2-5 years.

Homeless Needs

Homelessness: To address identified issues surrounding the need for re-housing and supportive services, the City is focused on quickly responding to homelessness through rapid re-housing for those that fall into

homelessness and the Housing First model of providing homeless individuals with permanent housing and the appropriate "wrap-around services" needed for them to regain stability and maintain their housing.

Non-Homeless Special Needs

There are households throughout the City that have special needs unrelated to homelessness. Some of these population groups include the elderly and frail elderly; those living with some type of physical or cognitive disability; those living with HIV/AIDS and their families; persons with substance use disorders; persons exiting institutional settings, persons with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI); and victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These groups may face greater challenges than the general population due to their specific circumstances and the City's housing stock, particularly the large pools of homes in the City built before 1940, may not be suitable for households with special needs. In this Year 4 Action Plan, the City identifies that these groups require specialized social services and housing.

Non Housing Community Development Needs

Schools, Libraries, Parks, and Community Centers: Due to aging facilities and finite tax resources, the City struggles to finance all of its public facility capital improvement needs. A consistent point highlighted throughout community meetings is the condition of the City's school, library, and community facilities, as well as its parks.

These much-needed capital repairs were identified for financial assistance with 2023-24 CDBG funds.

3. Evaluation of past performance:

With the assistance of regional HUD staff, the City has been making consistent improvements to its performance, both in terms of impact as well as meeting all Federal documentation, reporting, and compliance requirements. At the same time, the Housing & Community Development staff has been working to bring greater rigor to the evaluation of requests for funding to ensure selection of high capacity subrecipients who can deliver effective programs on the City's behalf. The Division of Housing & Community Development, with active support of the Mayor's Office and the City Council, has sought to change the nature of CDBG investments away from a large number of small dollar grants of marginal and diminishing value, to a smaller number of larger grants to allow for more transformational place-based projects that improve quality of life in underserved areas. The City is also more strategically layering federal, state, and local funds to amplify impact. The activities funded in this Year 4 Action Plan follow this investment strategy.

The City of Providence has a strong record of making a significant impact with CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds. A commitment of City resources is often the catalyst used by community-based organizations as the basis for their fundraising efforts and leverage private dollars for even greater impact. With the endorsement and financial commitment of the City, organizations are greatly strengthened in

their ability to obtain donations from the community, foundations, the private sector, and to obtain gap financing.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process:

The citizen participation process for the Consolidated Plan consisted of a robust public outreach strategy to solicit input on community development and housing.

This process consisted of broad public meetings, neighborhood meetings, focus groups, resident surveys, listening sessions, and consultations with stakeholders from summer 2019 through fall 2020. Outreach regarding events and funding opportunity was conducted via social media, newspaper advertisement, list-serv emails to neighborhood groups and organizations, and more. The City conducted an additional public hearing via Zoom (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and solicited a final public comment period prior to ConPlan submission.

In preparation of this Year 4, PY23 Action Plan, a number of additional public hearings (conducted by staff and the City Council's Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning) were held in February, April and May, during which staff presented on the community development programs, presentations were heard from organizations, and the public was offered the opportunity to comment. The City of Providence will hold a final public meeting on June 21, 2023 to afford the public, community organizations, and other interested parties ample time to review and comment on this Action Plan before submission to HUD.

Promotion for these community meetings was done through email, public postings, newspaper advertisements, Open Meetings portal, and online social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube). Generally speaking, the City's citizen participation process was, and is, robust and inclusive.

5. Summary of public comments:

Some of the most important issues of concern and priority needs found during the ConPlan and Action Plan process included the cost of housing and the desire for more affordable housing; improvements to the City's education system; homelessness, good-paying jobs/economic development; better park maintenance; increased sports and recreation activities; rehabilitating low-quality, unsafe, and unhealthy housing; public safety; poverty; and social services for adults, seniors, and children. Residents also expressed concern over absentee landlords, insufficient housing code enforcement, need for down-payment assistance to foster homeownership, desire for improved collaboration between the City and local CDCs, better pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, improving the condition of sidewalks and roads, urban farms, funding for senior activities, importance of youth development and afterschool and summer programs for youth, job training, facility improvements and improvements to condition of school facilities, adult education programs. These priority needs inform this Year 4 Action Plan. Additionally, during the 2023 program budget allocation process, verbal testimony heard during the URRP Committee meetings

reinforced the information gleaned during the ConPlan process. *Any comments received to be recorded here.*

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

Public comments received to be recorded here.

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PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	PROVIDENCE	Planning and Development / Community Development
HOPWA Administrator	PROVIDENCE	Planning and Development / Community Development
HOME Administrator	PROVIDENCE	Planning and Development / Community Development
ESG Administrator	PROVIDENCE	Planning and Development / Community Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

The City of Providence, Department of Planning and Department (DPD) is the lead agency and through its Division of Housing & Community Development (DCD) administers the annual allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grants. Further, the DCD also administers the City's Lead Safe Providence Program, which is funded by a competitive grant from the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. The Providence Business Loan Fund (PBLF) is responsible for small business lending and the Providence Housing Authority (PHA) oversees the portfolio of public housing in the City. The City is a member of the Rhode Island Continuum of Care as well as the State's Consolidated Homeless Fund.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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

1. Introduction

In development of its Consolidated and Annual Action Plan(s), the City conducts public meetings, neighborhood meetings, focus groups, periodic surveys, listening sessions, and consultations with stakeholders to solicit input on community development and housing. Outreach regarding events and funding opportunity was and is conducted via social media, newspaper advertisement, list-serv emails to neighborhood groups and organizations, and more. The City will conduct an additional public hearing and solicit a final public comment period prior to Plan submission.

In preparation of this Year 4, PY23 Action Plan, a number of additional public hearings (City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning) were held in April and May, during which staff presented on the community development programs, presentations were heard from various organizations, and the public was offered the opportunity to comment. The City of Providence will hold a final public hearing on June 21, 2023 to afford the public, community organizations, and other interested parties ample time to review and comment on this Action Plan before submission of the final document to HUD.

Promotion for community meetings is done through email, public postings, newspaper advertisements, and City online social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube). Generally speaking, the City's citizen participation and consultation processes are robust and inclusive.

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)):

Providence is rich in the number and type of agencies and organizations that provide social services to populations in need. This network of agencies and organizations provide a broad variety of housing, economic, and social service programs that serve many community residents. These include community development corporations (CDCs), other non-profit housing developers, non-profit service providers, human services and shelter providers, organizations working with special needs populations, and other community-based organizations. Most of these organizations are funded through a combination of public and private sources, and were willing and able to offer expert guidance on gaps, challenges, and opportunities that may exist in the delivery of service to Providence's low- and moderate- income.

Additionally, the City maintains regular contact with community residents, business owners, nonprofit organizations such as CDCs, the Providence Housing Authority, community-based service providers, as well as the beneficiaries of the programs administered by the Division of Housing & Community Development. This direct contact with the public and providers and agencies also results in regular input

regarding the needs of the community, allows for alignment with the City's goals, and assists in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

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

The City of Providence currently serves on the Board of the Continuum of Care (CoC), a collaborative body which guides the state's homelessness programs and policies, as well as oversees CoC grant funds. The City is also a full member of the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF), a coordinated funding partnership between the State of Rhode Island, RI DHHS, and the RI ESG entitlement cities. Both the RCoC and the CHF are designed to deliver a continuum of programs and assistance that works to reduce the number of homeless individuals and families throughout Rhode Island.

The RI CoC Board and Membership are comprised of a broad range of service and housing providers, state agencies, community partners, and individuals all working together to build a statewide system to prevent and end homelessness.

The work of the Continuum is largely conducted through standing committees. Three standing committees focus on the targeted populations listed above: the Families and Youth Committee; Veterans Committee, and Chronically Homeless/High Need Individuals Committee. These committees conference regularly on cases, and utilize Coordinated Entry to align assessed clients with the appropriate housing program.

Additionally, these Committees provide informed recommendations to the larger CoC Board and membership on potential policy barriers to successful placement and recommend policy or process changes to ameliorate barriers or improve systems. Subcommittees and working groups are also periodically established (such as the CES Evaluation Work Group, Regionalization Working Group or the Racial Equity Work Group) to support the CoC.

The CoC adheres to and deploys the Housing First model to place clients into appropriate housing. Client placement is based on HMIS data. Ongoing, wraparound service provision is a requirement of funding.

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.

Funding for homeless programs has been streamlined and coordinated to flow through two primary bodies: the RI CoC and the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF). As noted above, the City serves an active role with both bodies. The goals of this coordination are as follows:

- To reduce administrative burden on grantees, allowing more resources and time to be allocated to client services
- To develop consistent policies and procedures across state and municipal boundaries to allow for more effective, consistent, and efficient programs and services
- To increase efficiency and reduce the duplication of administrative efforts across municipal and state units of government
- To universalize the evaluation of applications and systematize the deployment of funds to decrease homelessness through strategic coordination and alignment.

The Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF) combines all ESG funds (state and entitlement cities), state funding for homelessness, and Title XX Block Grant funds into a single pool, governed by universal Policies & Procedures. A committee representing the State Office of Housing and Community Development, State DHHS, ESG entitlement communities, a representative of the State's Housing Resources Commission, RIHousing and other relevant policy makers in homelessness set parameters for the CHF program's funding and make awards.

In an effort to further coordination, this CHF Committee was recently merged with the CoC Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (REAC), to create a singular Committee to oversee the development of performance standards and outcome evaluation for both CoC- and ESG-funded projects. This committee relies on information provided by the RI CoC including: point-in-time statistics, HMIS performance reports, and subrecipient capacity reports. The CoC's System Performance Committee also informs the development of performance standards and outcome measurement for the CHF and CoC.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities:

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	AIDS Care Ocean State
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Routine consultations to discuss specific services and housing needs for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and better coordination with homeless service providers to identify and rapidly house HIV-infected persons. Collaboration has led to better coordination between ACOS and homeless providers or other agencies that are providing public services to HIV-positive persons.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Amos House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Routine consultations about programs and services offered by Amos House, the broader needs of the community, and anti-poverty strategies to assist very low-income individuals, particularly the formerly incarcerated, to obtain the skills necessary to be employable. Ongoing coordination will yield continued collaboration through CDBG on an innovative day labor program and strategic investment through the CHF in expanded shelter capacity, landlord incentives and rapid rehousing.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Capital City Community Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs, particularly those pertaining to early childcare and senior services. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	DaVinci Center for Community Progress
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City and appropriate investment in neighborhood-based services.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Federal Hill House
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City and appropriate investment in neighborhood-based services.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	CHILDHOOD LEAD ACTION PROJECT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Quarterly coordination meetings to discuss lead abatement strategies. Consultation has led, and will continue to lead, to better integration of lead abatement strategies into healthy housing programs and identified opportunities to improve coordination between CLAP, City code enforcement, RI Department of Health, and the Lead Safe Providence Program.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Community Action Partnership of Providence
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Periodic group discussions and regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. As Providence's Community Action Agency, CAPP provides a range of services to low/moderate income households, including food, heating assistance, rental assistance, and weatherization. Routine consultations have led to greater coordination between the City's Lead Safe Providence Program and CAPP's weatherization program (boosting the impact of healthy housing investments) and to better coordination among public service agencies throughout the City generally. Referral partnerships are ongoing and continually improving.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	RI Coastal Resources Management Council
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency - Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency - Management of Public Land or Water Resources Agency - Emergency Management
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Resiliency
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	RI CRMC manages Rhode Island's Coastal Management Program and is consulted regularly on issues pertaining to NEPA programmatic and site-specific environmental reviews and permitting for investments contemplated within the CRMC jurisdiction. Consultation has led, and will continue to lead, to improved coordination in environmental review process for projects, and greater consistency in investments and investment-planning with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	The Housing Network of Rhode Island/Community Housing Land Trust of Rhode Island
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular consultation to discuss housing needs, housing finance, programs to support new homeowners, and the market for new owner and rental units. As the Housing Network is a coalition of all the CDCs in the state, consultation leads to better coordination of programs and projects among the various CDCs operating in the City. In PY23, the City and HNRI will carry over and continue to coordinate in the delivery of a downpayment/closing cost assistance program for first-time homebuyers. HNRI is also providing stakeholder feedback to inform the City's investments through forthcoming HOME ARP funds.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	Housing Works @ RWU
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing Planning organization University
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular consultation to discuss housing needs, housing finance, and the market for owner and rental units. Consultation yields important information regarding the housing markets in the various neighborhoods throughout the City and state housing policy landscape. HousingWorks also houses the RI Alliance for Healthy Homes initiative, and HWRI Exec. Director serves on the City's Housing Crisis Task Force.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	Local Initiatives Support Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Providence is a member of the LISC Neighborhood Development Fund and through this consults regularly regarding the market for new and/or rehab units, efforts to boost capacity of the non-profit development community, and strategies for aligning funding for larger scale transformative development projects in the City. The City and LISC will continue to also coordinate on small business recovery programming and childcare facility investments.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	Olneyville Housing Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Focus group discussions and regular interaction conducted with Olneyville Housing (dba ONE Neighborhood Builders) throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of problem properties appropriate for redevelopment, and programs that would be of value for affordable housing development. Agency has piloted a community WI-FI project to Olneyville to reduce the digital divide that can potentially be scaled, and is working to better integrate project-based vouchers into its development projects to enable housing of homeless clients. The CDC participates in the Continuum of Care, and has provided stakeholder feedback on potential uses of HOME-ARP to support housing development for the extremely low-income and those experiencing homelessness.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Omni Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of potential properties or projects for affordable housing development.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	SMITH HILL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of potential properties or projects for affordable housing development.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	STOP WASTING ABANDONED PROPERTY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss housing and community needs. Consultation leads to better coordination with CDCs throughout the City, identification of potential properties or projects for affordable housing development.
16	Agency/Group/Organization	PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing PHA Services - Housing Services-Education Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular consultations related to coordination between City and PHA Plans for public housing, the needs of public housing residents, the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers and PHA units, housing market trends, and the service needs of public housing residents. City participates in PHA Project Based Voucher RFP review to serve to coordinate City development pipeline with project-basing of PHA vouchers (to foster deep affordability in neighborhoods of opportunity).
17	Agency/Group/Organization	Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Lead-based Paint Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular coalition meetings to discuss healthy housing strategies. RIAHH participants include representatives from the RI Attorney General's Office, RI Department of Health, RI Office of Housing & Community Development, Prospect Health, Integra, GHHI, HousingWorks, and more. Consultation led, and will lead, to better coordination and integration of lead abatement strategies into healthy housing programs, identification of a wider network of agencies and organizations with the mission of healthy housing, and the identification and alignment of resources.
18	Agency/Group/Organization	Rhode Island Black Business Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	As a subrecipient, regular interaction throughout the program year(s) regarding the needs of small businesses in the City and state, particularly access to capacity building programs to improve operations and access to bidding opportunities. Consultation has led to investment in a technical assistance program providing critical one-on-one consulting services (accounting and bookkeeping, etc.) to build capacity of MBE/WBE businesses and foster their growth.
19	Agency/Group/Organization	Center for Women and Enterprise
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year(s) regarding the needs of small businesses in the City and state, particularly access to bilingual technical assistance and capacity building and low-barrier capital. Consultation led to investment in a technical assistance program providing business planning services in English and Spanish, and greater referral coordination between City businesses needing capacity building, unemployed participants of the public workforce system seeking to launch their own businesses, and the agency.
20	Agency/Group/Organization	DesignxRI
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year(s) regarding the needs of small businesses in the City and state, particularly access to low-barrier capital paired with mentorship and technical assistance. Consultation led to investment in a technical assistance program providing business catalyst services and grant funding for design-focused businesses.
21	Agency/Group/Organization	Rhode Island Center for Justice
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy

	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Consultation(s) to discuss the legal service needs of low-income residents, particularly related to fair housing and evictions. Consultation led to a deeper understanding regarding evictions and retaliation, leading to the development of an eviction defense pilot to be funded with federal and local resources. Greater coordination has also been fostered with Crossroads RI, United Way, Direct Action for Rights and Equality, RI Legal Services and other partners to leverage available pandemic rental assistance programs to prevent eviction.</p>
22	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>RI Coalition for the Homeless</p>
	<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing</p>
	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis</p>
	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>Consultations to discuss homeless data, HMIS and SAGE reporting, system performance metrics, the availability of services and housing for the homeless, prior research on homelessness and programs, and the transformation of the homelessness system towards more permanent supportive housing. Consultation underscores the need for more deeply-affordable housing, greater investment in "barrier busting" and SOAR programs to more quickly enable clients to apply for and receive SSI/SSDI benefits, and the need for innovative and specific resources for youth, the aging homeless population, and those "hardest to house".</p>

23	Agency/Group/Organization	RI Continuum of Care
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	In regular Board & membership meetings to evaluate ESG and COC applications and assign funding, the homelessness system in the State is discussed as well as better coordination between the CoC and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the transformation of the system to meet the goals to end homelessness. The City participates in the CoC (on the Board and funding committees) to better coordinate investments and policy-making around homelessness. Policies and procedures are developed or updated as needed through these meetings to best operate and administer HMIS, address discharge planning and system needs or gaps, and to monitor and improve performance.
24	Agency/Group/Organization	Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless

	<p>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</p>	<p>Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy</p>
	<p>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</p>	<p>The City and Rhode Island Housing have an ongoing relationship and are partner organizations on a myriad of different programs and projects. Through these regular interactions, consultation on the following occur regularly: housing market, affordable housing need for new and rehab units, lead abatement and property rehabilitation, and the housing and service needs of the homeless. Through establishment of standing monthly calls, there is a strong emphasis to coordinate and work collaboratively.</p>
25	<p>Agency/Group/Organization</p>	<p>Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development</p>
	<p>Agency/Group/Organization Type</p>	<p>Other government - State</p>

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City and the State Office of Housing and Community Development are in regular communication regarding the City housing market, affordable housing need for new and rehab units, lead abatement and property rehabilitation, and the housing and service needs of the homeless. Consultation highlights the occasional fragmentation of services among various homeless providers, City and State policy related to affordable housing, and the need for better alignment of strategy between state resources and City efforts. Coordination includes the sustained commitment and participation in the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF), a partnership of the State OHCD, DHHS, and City ESG entitlements. In further efforts to improve coordination, monthly standing calls regarding joint investments in housing have been established.
26	Agency/Group/Organization	Silver Lake Community Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City and appropriate investment in neighborhood-based services.
27	Agency/Group/Organization	Washington Park Citizens Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City and appropriate investment in neighborhood-based services.
28	Agency/Group/Organization	West End Community Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular interaction throughout the program year to identify and discuss community needs and programs and resources necessary to address those needs. Consultations will lead to better coordination among community centers and public service agencies throughout the City and appropriate investment in neighborhood-based services.

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

Appropriate agency types were consulted in accordance with 24 CFR Part 91.110 and the City's Citizen Participation Plan: <https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/citizen-participation-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	Rhode Island Continuum of Care	The City and COC are aligned in the goals to reach a functional end to homelessness in the State (in accordance with Opening Doors RI Plan) through better coordination between the CoC and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the transformation of the system to meet the goals to end homelessness through better coordination of investments and policy-making around homelessness. Policies and procedures are developed or updated as needed through these planning meetings to best operate and administer HMIS, address discharge planning and system needs or gaps, and to monitor and improve performance.
The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	State of Rhode Island	The State of Rhode Island and RI entitlement cities undertook a regional analysis in 2020. The City must certify that it affirmatively furthers fair housing choice by identifying any specific impediments fair housing and taking actions to address these impediments. As part of the development of the statewide Analysis, the City had the opportunity to consult with, offer comment, and supplement additional information relevant to the City. The AI identifies areas to better foster fair housing (ex. improvements to zoning codes) and guides investment strategy for funding through the ConPlan and associated Action Plans to ensure housing constructed with federal funds is in areas well-served by services, transit, and employment opportunity.
City of Providence Neighborhood Plans	City of Providence	Each of the City's Neighborhood Plans highlight neighborhood issues that were used as a baseline understanding for the Consolidated Plan and a multi-phase plan that details the short-, medium- and long-term goals of the neighborhoods and identifies specific actions needed to achieve the vision.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Anti-Displacement & Comprehensive Housing Strategy	City of Providence	An actionable ten-year housing plan with clear strategies and housing production goals to ensure housing that is affordable, safe, and equitable to residents. The Strategy establishes a clear plan to create and preserve dedicated affordable housing units to meet identified gaps in the market (such as units for those earning at or below 30% AMI), promote affordability by increasing the overall housing supply by lowering barriers and costs, assist renters and homeowners to maintain housing stability, help renters and homebuyers afford and sustain the cost of housing, and reduce displacement of existing residents at all income levels.
Providence Tomorrow: The Comprehensive Plan	City of Providence	The City's Comprehensive Plan addresses community concerns such as housing, parks, transportation, community services, and many others. Providence Tomorrow contains all of the required elements and a few others such as sustainability, the City's built environment, and the arts. You will also find discussions about growth and change and where and how the City plans for future development. The goals detailed in the Strategic Plan support the goals and concepts of the Comprehensive Plan.
Great Streets Master Plan	City of Providence	Great Streets establishes a framework for public space improvements to ensure that every Providence street is safe, equitable, and sustainable. Informed by insights generated from thorough analysis of crash data, traffic calming requests, and housing and transportation figures, the plan outlines a vision for the future of Providence streets. This vision will be implemented through strategic investments of local and federal funds to make streetscapes safer and more equitable for all users.
All In - Our Learning Spaces	City of Providence	Robust school facilities planning initiative guiding investments in Providence school facilities, an overlapping goal with the Consolidated Plan and priority need identified during community engagement.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Redevelopment Plan for Vacant & Abandoned Properties	Providence Redevelopment Agency	Ordinance articulates PRA's approach towards addressing vacant and abandoned residential properties within the City. This Plan informs the EveryHome initiative and is an approach to address a need identified many times during Strategic Plan and Action Plan development (eliminate blight, bring properties back into productive reuse as housing or amenities).
Climate Justice Plan	City of Providence Office of Sustainability/ Racial Environmental Justice Committee	Plan to reduce the City's carbon footprint while considering the needs of low-income communities and communities of color. This Plan also identifies frontline communities, which are those areas of the city most impacted by the effects of climate change and sets aside resources to target programs and investments in those areas, aligning with the goals of the ConPlan and this Action Plan (to improve quality of life for low/mod residents, mitigate hazards, and foster climate resiliency).
HOMES RI	HOMES RI	This initiative is a cross-sector, collaborative plan and infrastructure, seeking to organize, mobilize, and cultivate a strategically aligned coalition to affect systems change to increase and preserve affordable housing for low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders over the next decade. Goals and priorities will serve to inform the City's affordable housing strategy over the coming years.
Healthy Homes Strategy	RI Alliance for Healthy Homes (RIAHH)	Commissioned plan identifies opportunities for the City to work within its own organizational structure and with key partners to foster healthy housing through new construction, rehab, financial tools, code enforcement and housing court, and resident education. This plan will help the City to strategically align its work to improve the quality, safety, and health of existing and new housing.
Providence Housing Authority 5-Year Plan	Providence Housing Authority	The Providence Housing Authority recently completed its 5 Year Plan which details anticipated operations and programs, and a Strategic Plan to identify organizational goals. The plans encourage the City and PHA to continue to seek to foster alignment wherever possible to maximize impact (such as through capital investment at their properties, or through project-based voucher commitments to City HOME or CDBG-funded developments).

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Governor's Workforce Board RI Biennial Employment	Governor's Workforce Board	The Biennial Employment and Training Plan is an important tool for the workforce system in the state to identify the key steps that will build the state's talent pipeline. Based on the network of Industry Partners that represent large and/or high-growth sectors of the State's economy, the Plan offers a good roadmap for the City's workforce development investments to increase impact and better assist low- and moderate-income City residents.
Overdose Prevention Plan	City of Providence Healthy Communities Office	Framework for citywide overdose prevention strategy. Strategies pertaining to recovery services, behavioral health supports, and healthcare access aligned with Strategic Plan goals for basic needs services for the City's most vulnerable.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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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:

In addition to the robust and extensive engagement in the development of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, the City also engaged in the following Action Plan process:

- The City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, & Planning conducted additional public hearings in April and May of 2023 during which staff presented on the community development programs, presentations were heard from various organizations, and the public was offered opportunity to comment. These meetings were also live-streamed via YouTube.
- A CDBG/HOME/HOPWA Workshop & Public Hearing was held on February 10, 2023, which included an information session and tutorial on the City's entitlement grant programs, anticipated funding levels, range of eligible activities, how to apply, and reporting requirements associated with becoming a subrecipient, for agencies or other members of the public interested in the grant application process. Opportunity for Q&A and public comment was provided.
- In preparation of this Year 4, P23 Action Plan, the City of Providence will also hold a virtual public hearing on June 21, 2023 to afford the public, community organizations, and other interested parties sufficient time to review and comment on the Action Plan before submission to HUD. An associated 30-day public comment period also accompanies this public hearing.

Promotion for these hearings and of funding opportunities was conducted through email, web, Open Meetings and Clerk's Office postings, newspaper advertisements and posts, and online social media (Twitter, YouTube, Facebook). Generally speaking, the City's citizen participation process was robust and inclusive.

Public comments from all forms of outreach were used to identify priorities and Five Year and Annual goals.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	A workshop and public hearing session occurred to enable potential applicants to learn more about the funding sources, process to apply, to ask technical questions on eligibility and to provide any other public comment. A total of XX participants registered for the City's Application Workshop and Informational Session. The PowerPoint and recording of the session was also posted online for those who could not attend.	Comments and questions pertained to application process and eligibility.	Not applicable.	https://www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/City-of-Providence_Application-Workshop_2.10.23.pdf

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>On April 17, 2023, the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning convened to review the Mayor's draft 2023-2024 HUD funding budget. A presentation was made by the City's Community Development Director. A total of 12 officials and individuals attended the in-person meeting. The meeting was also live-streamed on YouTube.</p>	<p>Discussion pertained to the proposed budget, budget process, timeline and anticipated funding levels.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>https://providenceri.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=15&ID=10865&Inline=True</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>On April 19, 2023, the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning convened to review the Mayor's draft 2023-2024 HUD funding budget. A presentation was made by the City's Community Development Director. A total of 16 officials and individuals attended the in-person meeting. The meeting was also live-streamed on YouTube.</p>	<p>Four organizations presented on behalf of their organizations' requests, and Council members asked questions. Comments reflected favorably on their proposals.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>https://providenceri.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=15&ID=10868&Inline=True</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>On April 24, 2023, the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning convened to review the Mayor's draft 2023-2024 HUD funding budget. A presentation was made by the City's Community Development Director. A total of 15 officials and individuals attended the in-person meeting. The meeting was also live-streamed on YouTube.</p>	<p>One organizations presented on behalf of their organizations' request, and Council members asked questions. Comments reflected favorably on the proposal.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>https://providenceri.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=12&ID=10882&Inline=True</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	<p>On May 2, 2023, the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning convened to review the Mayor's draft 2023-2024 HUD funding budget. A presentation was made by the City's Community Development Director. A total of 17 officials and individuals attended the in-person meeting. The meeting was also live-streamed on YouTube.</p>	<p>Discussion pertained to the proposed budget, budget process, timeline and anticipated funding levels. The staff presentation focused on the City's Home Repair Program outcomes; questions and comments reflected favorably on the intentions to renew that line item.</p>	Not applicable.	https://providenceri.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=15&ID=10895&Inline=True

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)
6	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	On May 8, 2023, the City Council Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal, and Planning convened to review the Mayor's draft 2023-2024 HUD funding budget. A presentation was made by the City's Community Development Director. A total of 8 officials and individuals attended the in-person meeting. The meeting was also live-streamed on YouTube.	City staff provided an overview of remaining budget approval process, reviewed the "Sidewalks" line item proposed, and the Committee approved the final budget in ordinance format.	Not applicable.	https://providenceri.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=15&ID=10904&Inline=True
7	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	On May 18, 2023, the Providence City Council voted to approve the 1st passage of the 2023-2024 CDBG, HOME, ESG & HOPWA budget.	Unanimous vote (one abstention).	Not applicable.	https://providenceri.ig2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=14037

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)
8	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	On June 1, 2023, the Providence City Council voted to approve the 2nd passage of the 2023-2024 CDBG, HOME, ESG & HOPWA budget.	Unanimous vote (one abstention).	Not applicable.	https://providenceri.ig2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=14038
9	Public Hearing	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Non-targeted/broad community	On June 21, 2023, the City will conduct a final public hearing on its 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan.	To be reported here.	To be reported here.	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

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

The City of Providence is an entitlement jurisdiction that receives federal funds from U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development to invest in its neighborhoods. The funds are provided under the CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA entitlement programs. All funds must primarily assist low- to moderate-income individuals, families, and households. The primary objectives of the programs listed below are to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities; and to reduce homelessness and support the housing and related supportive service needs for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The City will receive the following entitlement allocations for the 2023 Program Year (Federal Fiscal Year 7/1/2023-6/30/2024):

CDBG: The City will receive \$5,210,622 in PY23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds. The City also reprogrammed and reallocated \$544,745 in "prior year CDBG resources", a \$500,000 carryover Revolving Loan fund balance, as well as \$700,000 in anticipated "program income" generated from repayment of Providence Business Loan fund (PBLF) CDBG-capitalized loans for a total of \$6,955,367 in anticipated CDBG funds for programming in PY23.

HOME: The City will receive a final allocation of \$1,718,260 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to support the creation of affordable housing. The City also receipted \$386,022 in program income in the latter part of PY22, bringing the City's total funding to: \$2,104,282.

HOPWA: The City will receive \$1,477,595 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds.

ESG: The City will receive \$456,649 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds for programs and services for the homeless in PY23.

The City's competitive \$5.7 million, 42-month grant through HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes will also be available.

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	5,210,622	700,000	1,044,745	6,955,367	6,100,000	The City will undertake activities and projects using CDBG funds including housing development and rehabilitation, facilities improvements, public infrastructure improvements, economic development, public services, planning and administration.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	1,718,260	0	386,022	2,104,282	1,300,000	The City will undertake activities and projects using HOME funds including new housing development, rehabilitation of existing and vacant units, and homebuyer assistance programs.

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: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	1,477,595	0	0	1,477,595	1,395,000	The City will undertake activities and projects using HOPWA funds including acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; short-term payments to prevent homelessness; and case management services for those living with HIV/AIDS.
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	456,649	0	0	456,649	450,000	The City will undertake activities and projects using ESG funds including rapid rehousing assistance and supportive services for the homeless.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City's HOME program requires recipient organizations to contribute at least 25 percent of the value of the HOME award as a contribution match as a condition of the award to satisfy HUD regulations without financial impact to the City. The State provides additional affordable housing funds through the Building Homes Rhode Island program, a \$65M state bond for affordable housing and community revitalization approved in 2020 and set to be released to projects in 2023. Providence developers will continue to leverage these "BHRI", funds with City HOME and CDBG dollars. Additionally, the Providence Redevelopment Agency bonded for \$24M for the Providence Housing Trust, which is providing local capital for construction lending for affordable housing projects, including many Low-Income Housing Tax Credit projects. This Trust has been further capitalized through American Rescue Plan (Treasury) funds of \$19M, with \$2M set aside for permanent supportive housing projects specifically. Finally, the City participates in Providence Housing Authority Project Based Voucher RFP review to serve to coordinate the City development pipeline with project-basing of PHA vouchers (to foster deep affordability in neighborhoods of opportunity).

The City is a partner in the Consolidated Homeless Funds CHF Partnership which oversees a variety of homeless service funding grants including:

- City of Pawtucket ESG
- City of Providence ESG
- City of Woonsocket ESG
- State of Rhode Island ESG
- State of Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission Homeless Funds
- Social Service Block Grant Funds (from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services).

Due to this unique collaboration, the CHF Partnership is able to provide 100% matching funds without transferring the match responsibility to ESG subrecipients. The CHF Partnership uses the rules, regulations, and policies in the ESG regulations as the basis of the program design for all CHF programs (even those that are not directly funded under ESG).

All activities that are funded under the ESG match allocations will be in accordance with the Interim Rule's new requirements and regulations (and will be monitored by the CHF Partnership as such). Only activities in compliance with the ESG Interim Rule will receive match resources.

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 has developed a Land Bank program and Real Property Working Group which seeks to transition vacant and abandoned property and/or City-owned surplus property back to productive reuse (including for community needs such as affordable housing or public space). A myriad of strategies has been developed to facilitate program goals based on the particular circumstances of the property or lot and the available stakeholder partners. The use of CDBG funds for eligible rehabilitation, demolition, or reconstruction subsidy when appropriate will continue to be one of the tools used for this endeavor.

The City, through its Redevelopment Agency arm, can periodically take possession of problem properties or public properties with the goal of conveyance for guided redevelopment. Through its tools and powers, the PRA can be critical in the facilitation of land assembly for affordable housing development or development of community amenities.

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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	Increase Availability of Affordable Housing	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$550,000 HOME: \$1,932,456	Rental units constructed: 44 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 1 Household Housing Unit
2	Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units	2020	2024	Affordable Housing	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Improved Housing Quality & Habitability	CDBG: \$575,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 209 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 17 Household Housing Unit
3	Reduce Homelessness	2020	2024	Homeless	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Reduce Homelessness	ESG: \$422,401	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 25 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 41 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA	Housing & Support Services for PLWHA	HOPWA: \$1,433,268	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 32 Households Assisted HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 50 Household Housing Unit Other: 150 Other
5	Improve Condition of Public Facilities	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Public Facilities Improvements	CDBG: \$620,350	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4983 Persons Assisted
6	Improve Streetscapes & Public Infrastructure	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$739,446	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 14195 Persons Assisted
7	Improve Parks and Recreational Areas	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Improved Parks & Recreational Opportunities	CDBG: \$764,447	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 32684 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Public Services	CDBG: \$1,089,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 58093 Persons Assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20 Households Assisted
9	Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	Facilitate Small Business Development & Growth	CDBG: \$1,575,000	Jobs created/retained: 20 Jobs Businesses assisted: 158 Businesses Assisted
10	Effectively Administer Programs	2020	2024	Program Administration	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA	Effective Planning & Administration	CDBG: \$1,042,124 HOPWA: \$44,327 HOME: \$171,826 ESG: \$34,248	Other: 0 Other

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase Availability of Affordable Housing
	Goal Description	Through new construction, conversion, and/or rehabilitation of existing units, the City will use HOME funds to increase the supply of affordable homeownership and rental housing units for City residents and households earning up to 80% of area median income, including units with supportive services for extremely low-income and/or special needs populations.
2	Goal Name	Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units
	Goal Description	The lack of maintenance of the City's housing stock means many housing units need repair and rehabilitation. The City will use federal funds to offer grants and/or loans to qualifying homeowners to rehabilitate property. Taking a blended "whole house" approach, these funds will be aligned with the City's Lead & Healthy Homes grants and other programs available in the City to holistically address hazards, health and safety, code, energy efficiency, historic preservation, and quality of life issues in the property. Also includes associated delivery costs. Improvements to public housing authority properties will also be conducted with CDBG funds, as well as rehabilitation of non-profit owned units to preserve or create affordability.
3	Goal Name	Reduce Homelessness
	Goal Description	In collaboration with the Consolidated Homeless Fund and the RI Continuum of Care, the City will use federal funds to support the elimination of homelessness through street outreach, essential service provision, and rapid re-housing assistance.
4	Goal Name	Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA
	Goal Description	The City will use HOPWA funds to ensure that low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) obtain and maintain stable housing through support for acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; short-term payments to prevent homelessness; and the delivery of support services including (but not limited to) assessment and case management, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, nutritional services, job training and placement assistance, and assistance with daily living.

5	Goal Name	Improve Condition of Public Facilities
	Goal Description	The physical condition of many of the structures which community organizations, social service agencies, and the City itself uses are in significant disrepair and have substantial capital improvement needs in terms of cost and scope. The City will use CDBG funds to improve these facilities so that the City's low- and moderate-income populations can continue to receive services.
6	Goal Name	Improve Streetscapes & Public Infrastructure
	Goal Description	The infrastructure of the City in many neighborhoods is in significant disrepair, decayed, and unsafe for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Sidewalks are often trip hazards and road conditions damage vehicles. CDBG funds will be used to improve the physical condition of the City's streets, roads, and sidewalks, and create more options for non-automobile transportation options for convenient access to community destinations and public places, whether walking, bicycling, skateboarding, or taking public transportation. Public infrastructure improvements will include accessibility enhancements to ensure that those with physical disabilities are able to navigate the City safely. Additionally, the City may conduct eligible public infrastructure projects including sewer and water upgrades as needed.
7	Goal Name	Improve Parks and Recreational Areas
	Goal Description	Neighborhood parks can promote healthy lifestyles, community engagement and revitalization, economic development, and environmental and social health. The City will support the creation and improvement of parks, play spaces, open space, and sports fields. CDBG funds will also be used to increase the number of urban trees throughout the City and increase the proportion of the City that has canopy shading in order to reduce air pollution, conserve water and reduce soil erosion, provide shaded areas for cooling, and reduce noise pollution.
8	Goal Name	Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons
	Goal Description	Through ongoing support of the City's network of community-based organizations, federal funds will be used to provide for the basic, unmet needs of low-income residents including food assistance, job training, case management services, and more.

9	Goal Name	Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth
	Goal Description	To promote economic growth and local resources for low to moderate income individuals, especially minorities and women. The funding will also support the establishment of new businesses, retention and growth of existing businesses, and increase the number of low-income adults who obtain the skills necessary to meet industry's needs for qualified workers; and advance policies, practices, and partnerships that lead to sustainable economic growth with shared businesses.
10	Goal Name	Effectively Administer Programs
	Goal Description	An allowable portion of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to finance the costs of administration and delivery of these respective programs; i.e. to rapidly award projects and commit funds for programs; to monitor all projects, activities, and organizations annually, to conduct planning activities or studies to inform investments, conduct proper evaluations of all programs; and to meet all timeliness standards.

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Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Providence is an "entitlement jurisdiction" that receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to invest in its neighborhoods. The funds are provided under CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA entitlement programs. All funds must primarily assist low- to moderate-income individuals, families, and households. The primary objectives of the projects listed below are to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities; reduce homelessness and support the housing and related supportive service needs for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	ESG23 Providence
3	HOME Administration
4	Public Services
5	Providence Business Loan Fund
6	Economic Development Programs
7	CDBG Occupied Housing
8	Public Facility Improvements
9	Parks, Open Space, Sports and Recreation Improvements
10	Streets, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure Improvements
11	HOME Affordable Housing
12	CDBG Affordable Housing
13	City of Providence (Administration) - RIH23001
14	AIDS Care Ocean State - RIH23001
15	Family Service of Rhode Island - RIH23001
16	Stanley Street Treatment & Resources - RIH23001
17	Justice Resource Institute - RIH23001

Table 7 - Project Information

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

Allocation priorities were based on level of funding, information gleaned from community engagement and the citizen participation process, level of need for public services, research and analysis of public data sources, strength of organizations and institutional delivery system, and opportunities to leverage

additional non-Federal funds for programmatic goals.

The primary obstacle to addressing needs is funding availability. The City releases a Notice of Funding Availability for its federal funds annually, and the level of request from community-based organizations providing critical services is staggering (exceeding the amount available to distribute by millions of dollars). The regulatory cap on public service funding makes competition for public service funding particularly challenging, resulting in unmet or underserved needs.

Additionally, as a Hardest Hit community, the City is still recovering from the effects of the Great Recession, which resulted in property abandonment, eventual blight, and costly rehabilitation. While the City has addressed the majority of vacant and abandoned properties in the City, over 100 properties remain to be addressed during this ConPlan period. Federal funds are a critical source of subsidy to enable redevelopment.

Further, the level of need in the City for private housing rehabilitation is much larger than the resources available. The City will work rapidly through its allocation of funds for housing rehabilitation and maintains a rolling waitlist as a result.

The limited number of parcels for new construction will present a challenge for new affordable rental or homeownership housing construction. Further, the limited availability of parcels suitable for infill development are generally located in low-income neighborhoods throughout the City, exacerbating the challenge of promoting fair housing choice.

Finally, the pandemic and current economic conditions and inflation have exacerbated poverty, unemployment, and caused a precipitous (300%+) increase in unsheltered homelessness in the City, creating an unprecedented demand for services to address basic needs.

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

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1	Project Name	CDBG Administration
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Effectively Administer Programs
	Needs Addressed	Effective Planning & Administration
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,042,124
	Description	Funds will be used for operating costs associated with the effective and compliant implementation and management of the City of Providence CDBG Program. Costs include rent, salaries, fringe benefits, training costs, and other office costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	444 Westminster Street, Suite 3A, Providence, RI 02903
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used for operating costs associated with the effective and compliant implementation and management of the City of Providence CDBG Program. Costs include rent, salaries, fringe benefits, training costs, and other office costs. Costs are capped at 20% of the overall allocation.
2	Project Name	ESG23 Providence
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Reduce Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$456,649
	Description	The City of Providence will use HESG funds to provide direct grants to homeless service providers and for allowable administrative costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 66 homeless or imminently homeless persons will receive case management and supportive services, rapid rehousing rental assistance, and shelter.
	Location Description	Rapid rehousing, street outreach, and essential services will be delivered throughout the jurisdiction of Providence.
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used to support rapid rehousing rental assistance, shelter as well as other essential services for persons experiencing homelessness in Providence.

3	Project Name	HOME Administration
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Effectively Administer Programs
	Needs Addressed	Effective Planning & Administration
	Funding	HOME: \$171,826
	Description	10% of HOME funds shall be used for operating costs associated with implementing and managing the City's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Operating costs include rent, salaries, fringe, and office costs.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	444 Westminster Street, Suite 3A, Providence, RI 02903
Planned Activities	10% of HOME funds shall be used for operating costs associated with implementing and managing the City's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Operating costs include rent, salaries, fringe, and office costs. Costs are capped at 10% of the overall allocation.	
4	Project Name	Public Services
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Provide for Basic Needs of LMI Persons
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,089,000
	Description	CDBG funds will support the operations of, and service delivery by, Providence's non-profit community-based organizations who provide for the basic needs of low/moderate income individuals and families.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 58,113 families and individuals will benefit from direct social services provided through the City's network of community centers, food pantries and other community-based nonprofit service organizations.

Location Description	<p>Capital City Community Center, 25 Danforth Street, 02908</p> <p>Community Action Partnership of Providence, 518 Hartford Ave, 02909</p> <p>DaVinci Center for Community Progress Gail, 470 Charles Street 02907</p> <p>Federal Hill House, 9 Courtland Street, 02909/35 Swiss St 02909/261 Manton Ave 02909</p> <p>Providence Housing Authority Thomas J. Anton, 50 Laurel Hill Ave 02909</p> <p>Silver Lake Community Center, 529 Plainfield Street 02909</p> <p>Washington Park Citizens Association, 42 Jillson Street 02905</p> <p>West End Community Center, 109 Bucklin Street 02907</p> <p>YWCA Rhode Island, 133 Delaine Street 02909</p> <p>Amos House, 415 Friendship Street, 02907</p> <p>Better Lives RI (PICA), 15 Hayes Street 02908</p> <p>Building Futures, 1 Acorn St 02903</p> <p>Clinica Esperanza/ Hope Clinic, 60 Valley St 02909 Suite 104</p> <p>Clothes to Kids, 77 Reservoir Ave #5, 02907</p> <p>Community MusicWorks, 1392 Westminster St 02903</p> <p>College Visions, 131 Washington St 02903</p> <p>DownCity Design, 425 West Fountain St, 02903</p> <p>Educational Center for the Arts & Science, 57 Parkis St 02907</p> <p>Family Service of RI- Police Go Team, PO Box 6688 02940 / City Wide</p> <p>Higher Ground International - Sweetie Care, 9 Ninigret Ave 02907</p> <p>Higher Ground International – Food, 9 Ninigret Ave 02907</p> <p>Meals on Wheels RI, 70 Bath Street, 02908</p> <p>New Bridges 4 Haitian Success, PO Box 27552/246 Prairie Ave. #3, 02905</p> <p>New Urban Arts, 705 Westminster St 02903</p> <p>Open Doors, 485 Plainfield St 02909, 700 Plainfield St 02909</p> <p>Project Weber/RENEW, 640 Broad St 02907</p> <p>Rhode Island Free Clinic, 655 Broad St 02907</p> <p>Sojourner House-Drop In Center, 386 Smith St 02908</p> <p>Sojourner House-Emergency Housing, 386 Smith St 02908</p> <p>The Manton Avenue Project, 40 Sonoma Ct 02905, 55 Putman St, 60 Kossuth St 02909, 475 Valley St 02909</p> <p>The Steelyard, 27 Sims Ave 02909</p> <p>Young Voices, 204 Westminster Street Suite 2A 02903</p>
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<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>Capital City Community Center, \$58,000.00 for childcare & senior services.</p> <p>Community Action Partnership of Providence, \$50,000.00 for food pantry operations.</p> <p>DaVinci Center for Community Progress, \$60,000.00 for consolidated social services.</p> <p>Federal Hill House, \$75,000.00 for operations of the Swiss Street & Olneyville food pantries and childcare programs.</p> <p>Providence Housing Authority Thomas J. Anton, \$45,000.00 for resident self-sufficiency, adult ed., & health services.</p> <p>Silver Lake Community Center, \$58,000.00 for daycare program.</p> <p>Washington Park Citizens Association, \$58,000.00 for daycare, before/afterschool care & basic needs services for LMI.</p> <p>West End Community Center, \$60,000.00 for daycare & basic needs services for LMI.</p> <p>YWCA Rhode Island, \$25,000.00 for APPLE afterschool & summer enrichment programs.</p> <p>Amos House, \$65,000.00 for A Hand Up program, providing employment & case management to those experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Better Lives RI (PICA), \$20,000.00 for the food pantry.</p> <p>Building Futures, \$15,000.00 for construction pre-apprenticeship program.</p> <p>Clinica Esperanza/ Hope Clinic, \$40,000.00 for delivery of healthcare services to the uninsured/underinsured.</p> <p>Clothes to Kids, \$10,000.00 for provision of a school wardrobe to LMI school-aged youth.</p> <p>Community MusicWorks, \$25,000.00 for delivery of an intensive afterschool music program for LMI youth.</p> <p>College Visions, \$30,000.00 for free college prep services for LMI youth.</p> <p>DownCity Design, \$15,000.00</p> <p>Educational Center for the Arts & Science, \$20,000.00 for bilingual afterschool & summer theater camps for youth.</p> <p>Family Service of RI- Police Go Team, \$25,000.00 for the Family Service Police Go Team, which provides 24/7 on-call crisis intervention.</p> <p>Higher Ground International - Sweetie Care, \$25,000.00 for the Sweetie Care senior program for refugee elders.</p> <p>Higher Ground International – Food, \$20,000.00 for the culturally-appropriate food program.</p> <p>Meals on Wheels RI, \$25,000.00 for meal distribution for homebound elders.</p>
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		<p>New Bridges 4 Haitian Success, \$25,000.00 for culturally-sensitive food pantry serving refugee, immigrant & other LMI populations.</p> <p>New Urban Arts , \$20,000.00 for afterschool arts programming and mentorship for LMI teens.</p> <p>Open Doors, \$25,000.00 for the One-Stop Resource Center, providing case management & other services for justice-involved individuals.</p> <p>Project Weber/RENEW, \$30,000.00 for the Drop-In Center, providing harm reduction, recovery supports, & peer mentorship to high-risk.</p> <p>Rhode Island Free Clinic, \$60,000.00 for the delivery of healthcare services to the uninsured/ underinsured.</p> <p>Sojourner House-Drop In Center, \$25,000.00 for Sojourner Drop-In Center, which provides critical resources and services to victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Sojourner House-Emergency Housing, \$30,000.00 for direct, short-term (<3 months) assistance to low-income victims of domestic violence to enable safe rehousing.</p> <p>The Manton Avenue Project, \$15,000.00 for theater programming for youth.</p> <p>The Steelyard, \$20,000.00 for workforce programming in welding and fabrication.</p> <p>Young Voices, \$15,000.00 for leadership training, mentorship, and college prep services for high-school aged.</p>
5	Project Name	Providence Business Loan Fund
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth
	Needs Addressed	Facilitate Small Business Development & Growth
	Funding	CDBG: \$1,200,000
	Description	Funds will support low-interest lending to support small business development and growth.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 12 small businesses will receive loans for job creation/retention, and 8 microenterprises will be assisted.
	Location Description	444 Westminster Street, Suite 3A, Providence, RI 02903

	Planned Activities	The PBLF will provide loans to twelve (12) small businesses in the aggregate amount of \$680,000 and thus creating/retaining 20 jobs within the City of which at least 51% are held by low to moderate income individuals; and provide loans to 8 microenterprises in the aggregate amount of \$150,000 within the City whose owners qualify as belonging to a low to moderate income household. Activity also includes administrative and loan servicing costs (delivery costs).
6	Project Name	Economic Development Programs
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth
	Needs Addressed	Facilitate Small Business Development & Growth
	Funding	CDBG: \$375,000
	Description	Economic development programs geared towards supporting and fostering microenterprises and entrepreneurship.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 150 low/moderate income microenterprises and entrepreneurs will be assisted through technical assistance, small business planning, direct grants, and other supports.
	Location Description	DesignxRI, 819 Westminster St, 02903 Genesis Center Culinary Enterprise Program, 150 Empire St, 02903 Innovation Studio, 222 Manton Ave, 02909 Rhode Island Black Business Association, 3 Regency Plaza, 02903
Planned Activities	DesignxRI: \$200,000 for the Design Catalyst & Pre-Catalyst programs, which provide design-based microenterprises with grant capital, mentorship, and intensive TA. Genesis Center Culinary Enterprise Program: \$55,000 for technical assistance to culinary microenterprises. Innovation Studio: \$60,000 for technical assistance to microenterprises and entrepreneurs looking to grow or launch their small business. Rhode Island Black Business Association: \$60,000 for technical assistance for microenterprises.	
7	Project Name	CDBG Occupied Housing
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units
	Needs Addressed	Improved Housing Quality & Habitability
	Funding	CDBG: \$575,000

	Description	Funds will be used to assist with rehabilitation of both privately-owned and public housing occupied by low/moderate income households.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 226 low/moderate income households will benefit from rehabilitation of existing housing units. An estimated 17 families are expected to benefit from loans issued through the City's Home Repair Program. An estimated 209 very low-income residents will also benefit from the rehab and preservation of Lockwood Plaza apartments.
	Location Description	Home Repair Program: income-eligible, owner-occupied units throughout jurisdiction of Providence. Lockwood Plaza Preservation,
	Planned Activities	Home Repair Program & Delivery: \$325,000 for direct lending (and delivery costs) to low/moderate income homeowners for critical repairs. Lockwood Plaza Preservation: \$250,000 for the rehabilitation of Lockwood Plaza apartments, 209 units of affordable rental housing with an expiring period of affordability.
8	Project Name	Public Facility Improvements
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Improve Condition of Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$620,350
	Description	Funds will be used for improvements to public facilities (such as community centers, non-profit service agencies, and neighborhood recreation centers serving a predominately low/moderate income).
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 4,983 low/moderate income residents will benefit from improvements to public facilities.

	Location Description	<p>AIDS Care Ocean State, 557 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907</p> <p>Boys & Girls Club – Southside, 1 Louisa St, Providence, RI 02905</p> <p>Children's Friend - Friendship Facility, 350 Point Street< Providence, RI 02903</p> <p>Community Action Partnership of Providence, 518 Hartford Avenue Providence RI 02909</p> <p>Crossroads RI, 160 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02903</p> <p>Refocus, 45 Greeley Street Providence RI 02904</p> <p>Southside Community Land Trust - Potters Ave Garden, 146 Potters Avenue, Providence, RI 02907</p> <p>Vincent Brown Recreation Center, 438 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906</p>
	Planned Activities	<p>AIDS Care Ocean State - BroadMed Fire System, \$70,000.00</p> <p>Boys & Girls Club - Southside Boiler, \$81,500.00</p> <p>Children's Friend - Friendship Facility Roof, \$200,000.00</p> <p>Community Action Partnership of Providence – ADA Entry Improvements, \$18,850.00</p> <p>Crossroads RI - Domestic Hot Water System, \$30,000.00</p> <p>Refocus – Greeley Facility Outdoor Amenities, \$25,000.00</p> <p>Southside Community Land Trust - Potters Ave Garden, \$45,000.00</p> <p>Ward 3 - Vincent Brown Rec Improvements, \$50,000.00</p> <p>Reserved - Project Contingency, \$100,000.00</p>
9	Project Name	Parks, Open Space, Sports and Recreation Improvements
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Improve Parks and Recreational Areas
	Needs Addressed	Improved Parks & Recreational Opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$764,447
	Description	Funds will be used to improve or expand public parks, recreation spaces, and open spaces that benefit predominately low/moderate income neighborhoods.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 32,684 Providence residents will benefit from improvements to public parks in predominately low/moderate income neighborhoods.

	Location Description	<p>Providence Housing Authority - Manton Heights Playground, 31 Salmon Street, Providence, RI 02909</p> <p>Ward 5 - Obediah Field Improvements, 50 Obediah Brown Road, Providence, RI 02909</p> <p>Ward 8 - Mansion Soccer Field Improvements, 225 Waverly Street, Providence, RI 02907</p> <p>Ward 9 - Tim O'Neil Field Improvements, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907</p> <p>Ward 11 - Pearl Street Park Improvements, 161 Pearl Street, Providence, RI</p> <p>Ward 12 - Regent Street Park Improvements, 140 Regent Avenue, Providence, RI 02908</p> <p>Ward 14 - Corliss Park, 30 Corina Street, Providence, RI</p> <p>Ward 14 – Iola French Park, 221 Veazie Street, Providence, RI</p> <p>Ward 14 – General Street Park, 1 Recreation Way, Providence, Rhode Island 02908</p>
	Planned Activities	<p>Providence Housing Authority - \$125,000 for a new playground at Manton Heights.</p> <p>Ward 5 - Obediah Field Improvements - \$50,000 for improvements at Obediah recreational field.</p> <p>Ward 8 - \$50,000 for Mansion Soccer Field Improvements</p> <p>Ward 9 - \$50,000 for Tim O'Neil Field Improvements</p> <p>Ward 11 - \$50,000 for Pearl Street Park Improvements</p> <p>Ward 12 - \$50,000 for Regent Street Park Improvements</p> <p>Ward 14 - \$50,000 for lighting at Corliss, Iola French, and General Street Parks.</p> <p>Ward 14 – General Street Park, \$339,447 for improvements.</p>
10	Project Name	Streets, Sidewalks, and Infrastructure Improvements
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Improve Streetscapes & Public Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$739,446
	Description	Funds will support streetscape improvements, including reconstruction of failed sidewalks and installation of crosswalks, bollards, speed lumps, and other improvements to foster pedestrian safety and ADA accessibility in predominately low/moderate income neighborhoods.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated XXX households will benefit from streetscape improvements in predominately low/moderate income City neighborhoods.
	Location Description	Improvements to occur in low/moderate income Census Block Groups within Wards 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 15. Final addresses to be determined upon needs assessment. To qualify, infrastructure to be rehabilitated must be located within a Census Block with greater than 51% low/moderate income residents. City of Providence - Sidewalk Improvements, Safe Streets for All areas Ward 1 - Streetscape Improvements - to be identified Ward 2 - Streetscape Improvements - to be identified Ward 4 - Streetscape Improvements - to be identified Ward 6 - Pedestrian/Traffic Safety Infrastructure - to be identified Ward 7 - Sidewalks & Traffic Calming - to be identified Ward 10 - Streetscape Improvements - to be identified Ward 13 - Dexter Training Area Improvements - 65 Dexter Street area, 02909 Ward 15- Streetscape Improvements - to be identified
	Planned Activities	City of Providence - Sidewalk Improvements - \$339,446 to supplement the City's Safe Streets for All initiative, improving sidewalk condition along with pedestrian, vehicle and bike safety in high-accident areas. Ward 1 - Streetscape Improvements - \$50,000 Ward 2 - Streetscape Improvements - \$50,000 Ward 4 - Streetscape Improvements - \$50,000 Ward 6 - Pedestrian/Traffic Safety Infrastructure - \$50,000 Ward 7 - Sidewalks & Traffic Calming - \$50,000 Ward 10 - Streetscape Improvements - \$50,000 Ward 13 - Dexter Training Area Improvements - \$50,000 Ward 15- Streetscape Improvements - \$50,000
11	Project Name	HOME Affordable Housing
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Increase Availability of Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	HOME: \$1,932,456
	Description	HOME funds will be used to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing units.

	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 48 low/moderate income households will benefit from affordable housing constructed and rehabilitated using HOME funding.
	Location Description	Amos House - 206 Webster Ave, 02907 Habitat for Humanity - 26 Hannah Street, 02909 Lincoln Avenue Capital - 322 Washington St, 02903 Pennrose LLC - Parcel 9 Phase II, 55 George M. Cohan Boulevard, 02903
	Planned Activities	Amos House – substantial rehabilitation of 206 Webster Ave into rental housing serving at or below 60% of area median income (AMI) tenants. Habitat for Humanity – new construction of a single-family home at 26 Hannah Street for sale to an 80% or below AMI buyer. Lincoln Avenue Capital – new construction of 40 affordable rental housing units at 322 Washington Street serving at or below 60% of area median income (AMI) tenants. Pennrose LLC - Parcel 9 Phase II, new construction of 4 affordable rental housing units (within a 61-unit development) at 55 George M. Cohan Boulevard serving at or below 60% of area median income (AMI) tenants.
12	Project Name	CDBG Affordable Housing
	Target Area	Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area
	Goals Supported	Increase Availability of Affordable Housing
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$550,000
	Description	Moderate or substantial rehabilitation of vacant properties into affordable rental housing.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 7 households fleeing domestic violence will benefit from renovated units made available for rent.
	Location Description	Addresses confidential.
Planned Activities	Sojourner House will renovate two multi-family properties into long-term affordable housing for their clients. Units will be rented to households earning at or below 80% area median income.	
13	Project Name	City of Providence (Administration) - RIH23001
	Target Area	Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA

	Goals Supported	Effectively Administer Programs
	Needs Addressed	Effective Planning & Administration
	Funding	HOPWA: \$44,327
	Description	Administration of the City's HOPWA Program.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	444 Westminster Street, Suite 3A, Providence, RI 02903. HOPWA program benefits Providence-Fall-River-New Bedford EMSA.
	Planned Activities	Funding to implement, monitor, and administer the City's HOPWA program.
14	Project Name	AIDS Care Ocean State - RIH23001
	Target Area	Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA
	Goals Supported	Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA
	Needs Addressed	Housing & Support Services for PLWHA
	Funding	HOPWA: \$907,840
	Description	HIV/AIDS Housing Operations (Facility Based Housing Assistance -Leasing)
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 50 tenant households will benefit from facility-based leasing.
	Location Description	Facility locations confidential.
	Planned Activities	HIV/AIDS Housing Operations (Facility Based Housing Assistance -Leasing) through AIDS Care Ocean State.
15	Project Name	Family Service of Rhode Island - RIH23001
	Target Area	Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA
	Goals Supported	Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA
	Needs Addressed	Housing & Support Services for PLWHA
	Funding	HOPWA: \$65,000
	Description	Housing information services for persons living with HIV/AIDS.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 50 HOPWA-eligible households will benefit from housing information services.
	Location Description	134 Thurbers Avenue, Providence, 02907 (office location)
	Planned Activities	Funds will be used for costs associated with housing information services to help persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families to identify, locate and acquire housing. This is may also include fair housing counseling or eligible persons who may encounter discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, nation origin, familial status, or handicap/disability and for administrative cost associated with costs for general management, oversight, coordination and evaluation on HOPWA eligible activities.
16	Project Name	Stanley Street Treatment & Resources - RIH23001
	Target Area	Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA
	Goals Supported	Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA
	Needs Addressed	Housing & Support Services for PLWHA
	Funding	HOPWA: \$105,628
	Description	Supportive service provision to HOPWA clients.
	Target Date	6/30/2024
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 100 HOPWA-eligible households will benefit from supportive services to be provided through Stanley Street Treatment & Resources.
	Location Description	386 Stanley Street, Fall River, MA 02720 (office location)
	Planned Activities	Stanley Street Treatment & Resources will provide intensive supportive services to HOPWA clients located in Bristol & Providence counties.
17	Project Name	Justice Resource Institute - RIH23001
	Target Area	Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA
	Goals Supported	Increase Housing Stability among PLWHA
	Needs Addressed	Housing & Support Services for PLWHA
	Funding	HOPWA: \$354,800
	Description	Tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services and Administrative cost for HOPWA clients.
	Target Date	6/30/2024

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	An estimated 32 HOPWA-eligible households will benefit from tenant-based rental assistance administered through JRI.
	Location Description	555 Armory Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-2672 (office location)
	Planned Activities	Justice Resource Institute (JRI) will provide tenant-based rental assistance to HOPWA-eligible households.

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

Nearly every neighborhood in the City of Providence has areas designated as low- and moderate-income Census Blocks, with the exception of the Blackstone, Wayland, and Hope neighborhoods. The City’s focus through these entitlement grants is on the improvement of the quality of life for the City’s low- and moderate- income residents through strategic investment in services, quality housing, and critical infrastructure. The investments proposed in this Action Plan will serve to both stabilize low-income areas and provide enhanced opportunities for a pathway out of poverty (whether through free job training, small business development technical assistance, GED courses, childcare, or afterschool programming).

The City of Providence is the HOPWA formula grant recipient for the Providence-Fall River-New Bedford Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA). As such, Providence is charged with ensuring HOPWA investments are appropriately targeted to HOPWA populations (persons living with AIDS) throughout the EMSA geography. As such, HOPWA providers servicing Bristol County, MA are eligible to apply for City HOPWA, and awards are made based on need and program efficacy.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Community Wide - Entire City Geographic Area	87%
Providence - Fall River - New Bedford EMSA	13%

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

With limited exception, most neighborhoods throughout the City of Providence have areas with high concentration of low- to moderate-income residents. The City of Providence does not currently have a designated or HUD-approved geographic target area. Over 62% of the population of Providence is low- to moderate-income. These individuals and households are spread throughout the City's neighborhoods.

Discussion

As discussed above, the geographic allocation of resources will be fairly dispersed throughout the City, albeit targeting the most economically distressed areas of the City’s neighborhoods and the most economically marginalized persons living in those neighborhoods by strategic program design.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Documented in this Action Plan, the City is expecting to allocate funds to support affordable housing projects for homeless, non-homeless, and special needs households in the 2023 Program Year.

CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,125,000 will support the following:

- Preservation of 209 rental housing units with expiring affordability at Lockwood Plaza (\$250,000).
- Improve the quality of occupied housing and support independent living for the elderly and disabled by supporting the rehabilitation of 17 private homes (\$275,000 in deferred payment Home Repair loans & \$50,000 in delivery costs);
- \$550,000 for the rehabilitation of two multi-family properties (7 units) by Sojourner House for occupancy by clients fleeing domestic violence.

HOME funds in the amount of \$1,932,456 will tentatively support the development of the following 48 new affordable housing units:

- Amos House, 206 Webster Ave project: rehab of 3 units into affordable permanent supportive housing units serving < 60% AMI households experiencing homelessness.
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Providence, 1 unit of homeownership housing at 26 Hannah for < 80% AMI homebuyer.
- Lincoln Avenue Partners, 322 Washington project, 40 units for rental housing serving <60% AMI.
- Pennrose, Parcel 9 Phase II, 4 units of affordable rental housing (within a 61-unit project) serving < 60% AMI.

Note: all tentative, project-specific HOME commitments proposed above are subject to further underwriting and HUD approval under Part 92 of the federal regulations prior to final award and contract.

HOPWA funds in the amount of \$1,262,640 will support the following:

- Tenant Based Rental Assistance = 32 households
- Facility Based Rental Assistance= 50 households
- Total: 82 Special Needs Households Provided Housing Assistance.

2023 ESG funds in the amount of \$422,401 will support the following:

- Rapid rehousing, shelter and essential services for those experiencing homelessness within the

jurisdiction of Providence. An estimated 25 households will receive rapid rehousing rental assistance in the program year. 41 shelter beds will be extended.

In total, the PY23 funds invested in housing outlined above will produce 55 new units, which will serve 10 homeless households (i.e. units are targeted to HUD "Category 1" or "Category 4") and 45 units are not targeted but may serve special needs population through layered vouchers or other financing (ex. HUD 811 or Project Based Vouchers).

It should be noted that affordable housing development projects often have a longer timeline from initiation to completion, and those accomplishments will be realized in future program years and reflected in future program year performance reports.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	19
Special-Needs	0
Total	19

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

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	13
Rehab of Existing Units	6
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	19

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

Discussion

The tables above indicate the number of affordable housing units that will *achieve occupancy* in the program year by program type, including rental assistance, production of new units, rehabilitation of existing units, or acquisition of existing units. For the purpose of this section, the term “affordable housing” is narrowly defined in the HOME regulations at 24 CFR 92.252 for rental housing and 24 CFR 92.254 for homeownership.

In PY23, the City expects that 2 homeownership units will achieve occupancy and 17 HOME-assisted rental units to complete rehab and occupancy. *These developments (78 Burnside, 94 Potters, Jordan*

Caffey Townhomes, 47 Goddard & 889 River) were funded through prior year Action Plans.

Activities identified within this Action Plan will typically achieve occupancy in 12-18 months.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The City of Providence supports the ongoing operation of the Thomas J. Anton Community Center at Hartford Park. Through the City's annual support of public service activities, the Department of Resident Services is able to provide adult education classes, family self-sufficiency program, financial opportunity center and financial coaching programs, income support, and employment counseling.

There are many restoration and revitalization needs in the portfolio of public housing throughout the City. While the PHA will expend over \$6M through its FFY23 Capital Fund, needs far outweigh available resources, and capital funds are largely dedicated to repairs or replacements. As such, the PHA often seeks out CDBG resources for projects that will boost safety and amenities for its residents.

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

The City will address some of the extensive needs discussed above by extending its commitment to fund service operations at the Thomas J. Anton Community Center at Hartford Park, as well as providing \$125,000 in CDBG to construct a new playground serving the Manton Heights development and surrounding neighborhood.

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

The Providence Housing Authority continues to cultivate Resident Advisory Board and Resident Association relations and communication to maintain transparency, and to provide a forum for valuable resident participation in planning activities guided by PHA goals and objectives. The PHA has a Resident Association (RA) and Resident Planning Committee (RPC) at every development. The president of each Resident Association, as well as a representative from each Planning Committee, serves as a delegate to a larger "Resident Advisory Board", which meets monthly to provide feedback and guide PHA policies and policy-making.

Aside from the provision of safe and affordable housing, the PHA's core mission also includes provision of services to address economic and social service needs of PHA residents.

The PHA's Resident Services Department (RSD) furthers the agency's mission to address the self-sufficiency needs of residents by providing a comprehensive continuum of programs including:

- Resident Service Coordinator (RSC) Program (coordination of general social services; case management including limited counseling and crisis intervention)
- Adult Education Program (ESL; ABE/GED; Digital Literacy)
- Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program (supports for financial independence through

- employment/increased earned income; an escrow savings plan is available as an incentive)
- Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) Program (financial coaching; income (benefits) supports; work readiness training; job search/placement; employment supports)
 - Jobs Plus Providence (JPP) Program (workforce development through job training and employment supports; an Earned Income Disregard (EID) is available as an incentive)
 - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program (free tax preparation for eligible individuals/families); and
 - After-School Youth Program (on-site activities for youth age 6-12 provided through a formal partnership with the Providence Boys and Girls Club) that supports working parents.

The Providence Housing Authority is also a HUD-certified Housing Counseling Center, and provides qualified guidance to clients exploring homeownership, as well as pre- and post-purchase counseling.

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

Not applicable, Providence Housing Authority is not designated as a troubled PHA.

Discussion

The PHA has completed its five-year plan and its capital improvement plan. The City continues to engage the PHA to discuss funding priorities, any potential repositioning, and the urgent rehabilitation needs in relation to other competing needs throughout the City.

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

Introduction

The City's partnership and funding alignment with both the Consolidated Homeless Fund and the Rhode Island Continuum of Care offers a unique opportunity for better coordination among several different programs and funding streams to address homelessness in a strategic, targeted, and systematic way. The network of providers of services and housing for the homeless in the City and State is strong and robust; however, it has not been as coordinated and integrated as it could be. Collaboratively, major strides have been taken to improve collaboration, including development and adoption of a universal coordinated entry policy, as well as system standards for funding evaluation, performance, assessments and HMIS, and standards for case management.

The State's strategic plan to end chronic homelessness, *Opening Doors*, is the road map the State's providers have used to move much more diligently into a Housing First model of quickly engaging the homeless, providing them with stable housing, and delivering the appropriate and relevant wraparound services. Crossroads Rhode Island, the State's largest provider of shelter services, as well as many other providers, have fully embraced Housing First and are refocusing efforts to better provide permanent housing while still maintaining the necessary shelter capacity for those that lack housing. Providers have also been moving away from transitional or first-step housing towards a permanent, supportive-housing model of operation.

It is important to note that the City blends funding strategically with other sources of funds and consolidates its funds into a small number of projects rather than fund a large number of projects with smaller ESG grants. The City's ESG funds are aggregated with ESG funds from Pawtucket, Woonsocket, and the State, as well as Title XX Shelter/Homeless Service Funds and the Housing Resource Commission Shelter/Homeless Service Funds. As such, the City looks at the Consolidated Homeless Fund's entire allocation and assigns funding to minimize the level of resources required to monitor compliance and reduce administrative burden to funders and agencies alike.

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:

There are several agencies that conduct outreach efforts in the City of Providence. In collaboration with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care and the Consolidated Homeless Fund, the City and State uses its Federal Emergency Solutions Grants and other funds to support outreach efforts and case management services to connect the unsheltered homeless population with emergency shelters, permanent housing, and the supportive services necessary to maintain their housing. To better coordinate outreach efforts, the City has insisted that any agency that engages in outreach efforts coordinate those efforts with other

agencies to avoid duplication and inefficiency.

As part of the broader efforts to eliminate chronic homelessness, the City supports agencies that engage hard-to-reach homeless persons living on the street, individuals existing the criminal justice system or aging out of the foster care system, homeless veterans, and individuals with substance abuse or mental health issues. Through the Downtown Safety Outreach Collaboration, chronic homeless individuals are identified in order to provide this information to agencies so that services can be brought to bear to address their individual needs. ARPA funds are currently allocated in the fiscal year to Crossroads for diversion and mobile outreach to reduce unsheltered homelessness in the City's urban core.

For the 2023 Program Year, the CHF will be funding essential services, including street outreach, through which providers will seek out and engage homeless persons living on the streets or in encampments. This street outreach and case management will include assessments of the needs of homeless individuals. Street outreach and essential services will also include staff costs associated with case management, intake, HMIS reporting, as well as services pertaining to employment, mental health care, education, and substance abuse counseling. Services will be accessible on a drop-in basis, as well as for those individuals seeking more intensive services through a mobile outreach unit.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons:

The Crossroads Family Shelter is the only emergency shelter for homeless families in the City of Providence. The goal is to keep shelter stays at 30 days but no longer than 45 days. The Family Center was purposely designed to accommodate the multiple needs of families. First, the main floor of the center is handicapped accessible, ensuring that all persons, regardless of physical limitations, have equal access to decent safe shelter. With fifteen bedrooms, up to fifteen families can be housed at one time in the Center. The bedrooms vary in size and were uniquely designed as 'suite style" so that we can accommodate larger families without having to separate them. Case management, shelter activities and interactions with families are focused on housing solutions and solving the problems that contributed to their homelessness or present barriers to stable housing. Families with the most complex needs are assigned to housing first case managers who focus on placement in permanent supportive housing. Families with mid-range acuity are assigned to a rapid-rehousing case manager for supportive services including financial assistance to place in a market rate or subsidized apartment.

Recognizing an intense demand for services for the chronically homeless in the downtown area in recent years, the City and House of Hope CDC deployed a mobile outreach trailer, which meets homeless individuals "where they are" and offers case management, medical services, showers, laundry, and sundries. The sanitation and healthcare services deployed by this mobile unit remain critical. Additionally, the City has made available American Rescue Plan Treasury funds to Crossroads to provide a mobile diversion program, aimed at helping the unsheltered problem-solve and locate

alternative living arrangements, and providing additional mobile outreach and housing navigation.

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:

Rapid rehousing rental assistance will be provided to homeless households throughout the City, as well as essential services to homeless individuals and families, particularly those who are newly and chronically homeless, persons in recovery and/or suffering from addictions, the formerly incarcerated, and/or persons with physical and mental illnesses. Locating and maintaining stable housing will continue to be an emphasis.

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.

All HUD-funded programs include financial eligibility criteria and are targeted to low-income households. Local providers such as Crossroads Rhode Island and Better Lives RI offer essential services to prevent homelessness and work closely with other service providers like Open Doors to assist formerly incarcerated young adult males who are at risk of homelessness and to connect them with other programs as in subsidized transitional housing, addiction treatment programs, mental health facilities who will otherwise be homeless or living in highly unstable housing after release into stable, sustainable housing.

Homeless prevention initiatives are centered on short- and long-term initiatives. The long-term strategy, on the other hand, is to facilitate employment and increase support networks as a means to preventing homelessness or return to homelessness. By preventing homelessness and supporting homeless services and outreach efforts, the City aims to identify and target those individuals and families who would otherwise become homeless without timely assistance. Supportive services and housing assistance for the special needs population are particularly important because of their vulnerability to homelessness.

In PY23, the City is providing funding for Sojourner House and Amos House to develop additional permanent rental housing units for unhoused clients with supportive service needs.

AP-70 HOPWA Goals– 91.220 (I)(3)

One-year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	0
Tenant-based rental assistance	32
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	50
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	82

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

Introduction:

The City of Providence was a partner in the recent development of a Statewide Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (Regional AI) in consultation with the RI HUD entitlements: State Dept. of Housing, Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, and Woonsocket. Rhode Island conducted a comprehensive Regional AI at the statewide level for a number of reasons, including:

- The most intractable fair housing issues can only be resolved on a regional basis. Given Rhode Island’s compact size, the region and State are synonymous. The State has a single labor market that comprises all of its 39 cities and towns.
- Rhode Island already has a long history of fair housing policy. It has a comprehensive statewide planning program and a legislated “fair share” low- and moderate-income housing goal. Municipalities are required to identify in their local comprehensive plans how they will meet the housing needs of a diverse population across age, income and household type. Rhode Island has long provided for the siting of group homes for residents with disabilities in any residential district. In allocating housing subsidies and low-income housing tax credits, the State has followed a “both and” policy of creating more affordable housing in low-poverty areas (typically suburban) where few opportunities currently exist, while also continuing to redevelop those neighborhoods (typically urban) most heavily affected by poverty and lack of opportunity.
- The State Dept. of Housing, the entity managing the fair housing planning, is also the entity that administers the federally funded housing and community development programs for the state and staffs the State’s Housing Resources Commission. As such, it already has an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. DOH coordinates closely with Rhode Island Housing, the state’s housing finance agency, on housing policies, programs and funding decisions, and Rhode Island Housing implements many of the state’s housing and planning initiatives on behalf of DOH.

The City of Providence has consulted with the Dept. of Housing to update its previously identified impediments. Providence supported this regional approach as many impediments are beyond the authority or financial capability of the City of Providence to address alone, such as economic conditions, limited transportation options, insufficient state or federal resources for the development of affordable housing, fair housing enforcement, cost and availability of property insurance, and more. Addressing these impediments requires the collaboration of the municipalities, state and federal funding agencies, fair housing service providers, lenders, real estate professionals, and other state agencies.

The updated regional AI, which includes robust analysis and deeper discussion on barriers to housing, can be viewed: <http://www.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RI-AI-Final-2020.pdf>.

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:

1) The City will extend its partnership with the Housing Network of Rhode Island to provide a bilingual down-payment and closing cost assistance program to alleviate the significant upfront cost burden creating a barrier for low-income homebuyers when purchasing a new home.

2) The City utilizes a Language Access Plan and Toolkit, and continues to conduct translation of key documents, creating language banks for City communications, and expanding its on-call translation services to ensure access to City services.

3) The City partners with RI Center for Justice and RI Legal Services to assist low-income renters that have been unfairly treated in the access or retention of housing in the City. The City passed local legislation to expand protected classes in the City (to prevent discrimination on the basis of source of income), and has funded expanded legal representation for low-income tenants in the City's Housing Court system. This legal aid will work in parallel to the City's enhanced code enforcement efforts aimed at ensuring the safety and welfare of City residents with limited housing choice. This work has been expanded further in PY23 through a \$600,000 investment of Treasury ARPA in eviction defense.

4) The City will continue its Home Repair Program. This CDBG program will provide deferred payment, 0% interest loans to owner-occupants who are unable to finance critical repairs to their homes. Rising construction costs continue to exacerbate deferral of maintenance and substandard housing for households with fixed or stagnant incomes. This program will enable another est. 17 households to afford critical repairs who would otherwise be unable to do so (due to inability to obtain conventional home equity lending due to their limited or fixed incomes).

5) The City has provided incentives to developers to create affordable housing at the City level through policy and zoning changes. These incentives include:

- Enabling legislation to permit the Providence Redevelopment Agency to acquire properties certified to be vacant, abandoned, and tax delinquent. This initiative allows the City to convey clear title to potential developers at lower cost (than if developers purchased at auction), and bring hundreds of abandoned properties back into productive reuse as market and affordable housing. The RFP process by which the PRA disposes of these properties includes criteria that favor affordable housing proposals, as well as proposals that will utilize MBE & WBEs.
- The Providence Redevelopment Agency permits land-banking by developers, and does not charge a holding fee. PRA also takes or holds key properties to RFP for future redevelopment.
- The City Zoning Ordinance was updated to establish "T.O.D. Districts", or transit-oriented development districts that allow for housing construction in proximity to public transit, and to allow for increases in residential density.
- Commercial historic districts were expanded to properties, increasing the number of properties

potentially eligible for historic tax incentives for preservation and redevelopment as housing.

- Height bonuses were also included to allow waivers on height limits for developments offering affordable housing.
- Codified a long-term funding stream (earmarked a percentage of Tax Stabilization Agreement revenue to the Providence Affordable Housing Trust) to be administered by the Providence Redevelopment Agency. This estimated \$1M+ per year enables the PRA to provide low-interest development loans and subsidy for the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

Discussion:

The City of Providence’s relationship with the State's Department of Housing, RI Attorney General, US Attorney, and RI Commission for Human Rights allows for periodic communication regarding fair housing strategies. Further, the City will continue to be a strong partner in the HomesRI Initiative, a cross-sector coalition seeking to transform the state’s under-resourced affordable housing system and create a common agenda to increase the supply of safe, healthy and affordable housing throughout Rhode Island, equitably reducing the housing cost burden for low- and moderate-income residents over the next decade. Partners are concentrating work efforts in four key areas: increasing community engagement in affordable housing issues, reducing high development costs, increasing investment and building capacity in the affordable housing “system”, and making existing homes safer, healthier, and more affordable to maintain.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

The City of Providence continually seeks to increase the beneficial impact to low- and moderate-income individuals of all programs and activities that are funded with CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds. In addition to the specific activities detailed below, the Division of Housing & Community Development strive to pro-actively respond to any and all programmatic challenges experienced by subrecipients as they may arise throughout the program year in order to ensure that any problems that may diminish the intended benefit of grants is corrected or reduced as soon as possible. Further, the Division of Housing & Community Development periodically updates its Policies and Procedures manual(s), in consultation with HUD and program stakeholders, to clarify program requirements for all funding sources and ensure continued compliance with federal regulations and standards.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City hosts and participates in regular focus groups and working sessions with agencies, organizations, and providers to better coordinate programming and align resources to create a holistic and targeted offering of services that account for the myriad needs found in particular neighborhoods. By working in partnership with locally-based providers and community development organizations, the City can actively promote the coordination of services to best amplify investments and ensure critical needs are met.

PY2023 will be a unique year, due to the availability of one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Treasury funding. The City will work to align its resources (ARPA, CDBG, HOME, etc.) to maximize impact - such as using ARPA funds to boost food storage capacity at CDBG-funded food pantries and community centers, to expand childcare facilities, to add WiFi at neighborhood facilities, to expedite development of new affordable housing units by layering subsidy sources and gap-financing, and by adding shelter and transitional housing capacity. Utilizing and leveraging these one-time resources wisely will enable the City to address some of the obstacles (capacity constraints) to meeting the City's underserved needs.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing:

The City will continue its effort to rehabilitate, preserve, and create new affordable housing in the City, with an emphasis on identifying new areas of the City that would allow for mixed-use and mixed-income developments in higher opportunity neighborhoods and Census tracts. The primary funds for these initiatives will be CDBG and HOME funding and the City's Providence Housing Trust fund. The City will use CDBG and HOME funds to leverage other financing (state, federal, and local) to enable the construction and preservation of affordable units. In PY23, City HOME and CDBG will leverage the Providence Housing Trust (capitalized with American Rescue Plan and general obligation bond dollars), financing through RI Housing (such as LIHTC, HTF, and HUD 811), and wherever possible, Providence Housing Authority project-based vouchers to enable deep affordability. Units constructed or assisted by the City will have their

affordability preserved via long-term deed restriction.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards:

The City of Providence, through its Division of Community Development (DCD), has developed a comprehensive and cohesive Lead Safe Providence Program (LSPP) to coordinate lead hazard reduction with existing housing programs to integrate HUD-funded lead poisoning prevention and “Healthy Homes” interventions. The DCD has experience in successfully operating its current HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant, as well as 8 total prior HUD Lead Hazard Control Grants (Since 1999: RILHB0490-14, RILHB0490-10, RILHD0190-08, RILHB0402-08, RILHD0033-04, RILHB0227-02, RILHR0123-98, RILHH0071-99). The \$5.7M award from HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes will operate for 42 months, and enable the City to make over 200 units of housing lead-safe, energy-efficient, and code-compliant.

Using the experience gained from successfully managing its previous and existing HUD Lead Grant Programs, the Lead Safe Providence Program utilizes a dynamic program to:

- Perform lead hazard reduction (interim controls) interventions;
- Provide free lead inspections/risk assessments for owners to identify lead hazards;
- Complete Healthy Homes interventions in Program units;
- Complete leverage funded Weatherization interventions in Program units;
- Conduct over outreach and education events that support the goal of reaching thousands of residents, health care providers, community organizations, FBOs, property owners, realtors and contractors;
- Provide job training and increased contractor capacity by providing Free Lead Worker trainings and certifications as well as Green & Healthy Homes jobs training;
- Operate a LSPP HEPA-Vacuum Loan Program;
- Support an existing Lead Safe Housing Registry of available healthy/lead certified rental properties to distribute regularly to community residents who are seeking safer housing;
- Utilize the HUD Healthy Homes Rating System (HHRS) and tablet computer for efficient field assessments and Scope of Work development for Healthy Homes interventions;
- Expand the integrated Green & Healthy Housing Initiative Providence model to produce comprehensive interventions and create more sustainable units.

The City also actively participates in quarterly Lead Coordination Meetings, which are a convening of stakeholders (Lead Safe Providence Program, City Code Enforcement, ProvWater Lead Line Replacement Program, Childhood Lead Action Project, the Department of Health, and the Community Action Partnership of Providence) with the collective goal of increasing compliance with state and federal lead safety laws, and spreading awareness of the hazards posed by lead-based paint. Through this ongoing collaboration, parties are able to identify target neighborhoods and landlords with a "carrot and stick"

approach of enforcement and low-barrier financial assistance to encourage compliance.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The following are the activities that the City will take during the 2023 program year to lift people out of poverty:

- **Job Training and Skill Development:** Working with Amos House, Building Futures, and the Steelyard, and in coordination with the public workforce system, the City will bolster workforce development efforts to build employable, living wage job skills among low-income Providence residents.
- **Youth Training and Summer Youth Employment:** Every summer, the City of Providence offers summer employment to help teenagers and young adults develop job skills, learn positive work habits, and stay engaged in the community. These Providence youth work as seasonal employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or are employed by one of the many employer partners including AS220, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence, Federal Hill House, Young Voices, or Youth in Action. The City also supports afterschool youth programs to help youth succeed in their education and move on to college or the trades.
- **Increase Access to Work Supports:** The City will help promote Providence residents signing up for work support programs, such as child care subsidies, Rite Care health insurance, SNAP benefits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and RI Works through partnerships with community centers and public service organizations. Increased work supports help low-wage families meet their basic needs and move toward financial security.
- **Support for New and Existing Businesses:** Working with Innovation Studio and RI Black Business Association, the City will provide funds for technical assistance to get low-income, Spanish-speaking, and minority businesses and entrepreneurs "credit ready" and primed for growth. The City also continues to support businesses through low-interest Providence Business Loan Fund (PBLF) loans, which provide flexible lending with the goals of fostering local business growth and increased job creation/retention for low/mod employees. The City will also support new businesses and entrepreneurs through the provision of small grants or loans for new or existing business owners who are income eligible through the DesignxRI program.
- **Expand Procurement and Growth Opportunities for Businesses Owned by Persons of Color and Women:** In order to support to the fullest extent possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities or women, the City has a mandate that all requests for procurement shall be inclusive of M/WBEs, and that the City shall strive to achieve at least 10% procurement from MBEs and 10% procurement from WBEs. By increasing the availability of City contracts to these businesses, greater revenues will flow to local businesses owners, facilitating greater local economic growth and more local employment. Additionally, the City will also fund RIBBA and Innovation Studio to offer programs providing technical assistance and incubator programs to

minority and women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

Providence is rich in the number and type of agencies and organizations that provide social services to populations in need. This network of agencies and organizations provide a broad variety of housing, economic, and social service programs that serve many community residents. These include community development corporations (CDCs), other non-profit housing developers, non-profit service providers, human services and shelter providers, organizations working with special needs populations, and other community-based organizations. Most of these organizations are funded through a combination of public and private sources.

While there is no shortage of community organizations in the City, the unfortunate reality is that many of these service agencies struggle with resource constraints, compete for the same limited funding opportunities, and often offer duplicative services. There is a general lack of communication among the various groups in the City which impedes the efficient delivery of services in a coordinated fashion. Providers in the City need to consider more pro-active collaboration or consolidation to eliminate the duplication of services and to align resources and effort to have greater impact in the communities they serve. In an effort to facilitate collaboration, the Division of Community Development will be building a centralized, searchable database of service providers in the City, the services offered, and the clients served.

Additionally, with a greater emphasis on requiring full compliance with all local, state, and federal rules, and an increased demand for grant recipients to demonstrate outcomes, as opposed to strictly outputs, the City believes that funds invested in program will not only have an impact, but that these efforts will also raise the capacity and effectiveness of organizations that adapt to these new demands.

Through ongoing dialogue with subrecipients, proactive outreach of other community organizations, technical assistance and capacity building workshops, and through regular focus groups and interviews, the City will assist in expanding and enhancing the existing institutional delivery system. As Federal funding continues to decrease, the City will become ever more focused on measuring outcomes and analyzing the return on its investment of Federal dollars.

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

The City hosts and participates in regular focus groups and working sessions with agencies, organizations, and providers to better coordinate programming and align resources to create a holistic and targeted offering of services that account for the myriad needs found in particular neighborhoods. By working in partnership with locally-based providers and community development organizations, the City can actively promote the coordination of services. With the ongoing reduction in resources from the Federal

government, the City needs to highlight efficiency and maximum value creation to deliver long-term impact in a strategic way.

Discussion:

The Division of Housing & Community Development, with active support of the Mayor’s Office and the City Council, has sought to change the nature of CDBG investments away from a large number of small dollar grants of marginal and diminishing value to a smaller number of larger grants to allow for more transformational place-based projects and strategic programs. As the resources allocated to the City remain insufficient to meet local needs, maintaining a commitment to progress in this area continues to grow in importance.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The total level of expected resources available to the City for community development activities located in this Action Plan can be found in Section AP-15. With the exception of administrative costs, all CDBG funds will directly benefit low- and moderate-income Providence residents in the 2023-2024 Program Year.

A description of program specific requirements for the HOME, HOPWA, and ESG programs, and the City's applicable policies to meet these requirements, also follows.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	80.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

Not applicable. The City's HOME Program and associated activities are not utilizing any forms of investment not covered by Section 92.205. All investments are identified under the 92.205 section of the regulation.

The City's HOME program requires recipient organizations to contribute at least 25 percent of the value of the HOME award as a contribution match as a condition of the award in order to satisfy HUD regulations without financial impact to the City.

RI voters approved a \$65M bond for affordable housing and blight elimination; Providence developers will continue to leverage these funds with City HOME dollars. The Providence Redevelopment Agency has also bonded for \$25M to capitalize the Providence Housing Trust, to be further supplemented with \$19M in American Rescue Plan dollars in 2022 with projects to commence in 2023. In addition, it is anticipated that Providence developers will pair Low Income Housing Tax Credits, RI Housing HOME, HTF, and HUD 811 with City HOME on some proposed projects within this Plan. Local construction financing from banks and RI Housing will also be utilized.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

See Grantee Unique Appendices for City Resale/Recapture Provisions.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

All property acquired with HOME funds is subject to a period of affordability and principal residency requirements, safeguarded by the appropriate legal instrument (whether it be a deed restriction, land covenant, or lien) and resale or recapture provision.

The City employs Recapture Provisions when direct subsidy is provided to a homebuyer. Resale is employed in the event an assisted property is acquired without direct subsidy to the buyer.

See Grantee Unique Appendices for City Resale/Recapture Provisions.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

The City of Providence does not allow for the use of HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.220(I)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

All providers funded under ESG will utilize a standardized assessment form when determining eligibility for all individuals and families presenting for CHF services and/or shelter.

The City of Providence follows the written standard policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) contained within the recently updated and HUD-vetted [Consolidated Homeless Fund Partnership Policies & Procedures Manual](#).

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Under the requirements of the HEARTH Act, the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RI CoC) and CHF implemented a centralized and coordinated assessment system. State-wide coordinated assessment is a powerful tool designed to ensure that homeless persons are matched, as quickly as possible, with the intervention that will most efficiently and effectively end their homelessness. A vendor selected to serve as the Coordinating Entity is responsible for day-to-day administration, including: ensuring that information about how to access services is easily accessible to the public; training all key stakeholders; ensuring the HMIS collects needed data; reviewing assessments and issuing eligibility and referral decisions; managing case conferences, eligibility determination appeals, a centralized waitlist, and manual processes to enable participation in the by providers not participating in HMIS; and designing and executing ongoing quality control strategies.

Additional information can be found: [Consolidated Homeless Fund Partnership Policies & Procedures Manual](#).

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

Funds will be made available to the City of Providence by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program of which up to 7.5% may be set aside for program administration.

Applications are rated by City of Providence and CHF on the following criteria:

1. Number of clients served
2. Population served (e.g. domestic violence victims, veterans, disabled persons, etc.)
3. Services provided and/or mainstream resources accessed
4. Location of shelter (considering other public resources allocated/available to the program)
5. Consideration will be given to program effectiveness in meeting adopted performance measures, as outlined in the application packet
6. Extra consideration will be given to those agencies which have been effective in their discharge of clients (discharged to positive outcomes).
7. Housing needs.

Private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding. There is no restriction on the maximum amount an applicant may request, though declining resources and competing needs will limit amount of assistance that can be provided.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The Consolidated Homeless Fund and Continuum of Care are actively working to merge functions and policies wherever appropriate to ensure a consistent policies and performance standards for all ESG recipients. Consistent policies have been developed by both bodies to ensure participation by those with lived experience in the governance and decision-making processes at both the allocation and subrecipient levels.

The Rhode Island Continuum of Care actively recruits membership and Board members with lived experience and encourages their participation on the various standing committees. Recently, the CoC Recipient Approval and Reallocation Committee was merged with the CHF Review Committee. This committee that develops funding recommendations for CoC and CHF funds includes active representatives with lived experience.

Additionally, the Consolidated Homeless Fund and RI Continuum of Care's Policies & Procedures require that all subrecipients ensure that their Board of Directors or other equivalent policy-making

body include not less than one homeless or formerly homeless individual to ensure active participation and representation in ESG-funded programs.

All recipient and sub-recipient organizations receiving HUD funding through the CoC or ESG programs must provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policy making entity of the recipient or subrecipient. This is a condition for receiving grant funds from the CoC or ESG programs; failure to meet the homeless participation requirement would be grounds for non-renewal or denial of funding.

Additionally, all recipient and subrecipient organizations are expected to involve homeless people through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise in program operations or services.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The City of Providence in coordination with the Consolidated Homeless Fund Partnership issues a request for proposals (RFP) that will include a set of evaluation criteria. Criteria include the following factors: project description, organizational experience; coordination and collaboration; outcomes; data collection; and a program budget that will demonstrate how they will meet the matching requirements. The RFP is made available to private nonprofit organizations through the Continuum of Care, direct emailing, and is publicized on the State's website.

The City's ESG funds, as part of the Consolidated Homeless Fund, are designed to help prevent and reduce homelessness through supportive services, emergency assistance, and housing. In order to assess progress towards these goals, agencies who are awarded funds under this grant will be held to strict performance standards and outcomes, including specific program targets grantees will be expected to meet. The Consolidated Homeless Fund reviews applicants based upon a number of performance/evaluation criteria including:

1. Persons Served and Average Length of Stay
2. Discharge/Exits to Permanent Housing – effective
3. Exits to Emergency Shelter – possibly ineffective-churning (though exits to more appropriate shelter might be acceptable)
4. Income “Average Income at Entry” compared to “Average Income at Exit”
5. Capacity
6. HMIS Participation/Data Quality
7. Financial Capacity - Audited Financial Records
8. Facility Conditions - Capital Needs Assessment

Selection of HOME Recipients

As the Participating Jurisdiction (PJ), the City issues an annual competitive application process for its HOME entitlement funds. The Notice of Funding Availability is published in the regional newspaper, posted on the City's website, and emailed to the City's list-serv of local and regional CDCs, developers, and community-based organizations.

The City's RFP is open to for- and non-profit developers seeking to build, rehab, or preserve affordable housing under the HOME regulations, as well as to non-profit subrecipients seeking to deliver a HOME-eligible program (such as downpayment assistance or housing rehabilitation) on the City's behalf. Investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide.

Funding proposals are evaluated based on published evaluation criteria, which includes: applicant capacity, experience, and past performance; priority for equity and access; readiness to proceed; compliance with applicable regulations; and cost-reasonableness.

Tenants for HOME-funded projects must be selected in accordance with eligibility requirements and Tenant Selection Plans that meet the requirements of 24 CFR 92.253(d) and 92.350. Selection plans or preferences may not be unduly restrictive or violate non-discrimination requirements, and should meet the City's goals of equity, inclusion, and affirmatively furthering fair housing. Project Tenant Selection Plans shall be reviewed as part of project scoring and selection.

Selection of HOPWA Recipients

In addition to assessing HIV/AIDS housing needs, all HOPWA grantees must set priorities, determine resources, and set programmatic goals.

To address its programmatic goals of providing housing and supportive services to those living with HIV/AIDS, the City of Providence issues an annual request for proposals (RFP) via its online grants management system that includes defined evaluation criteria. This annual Notice of Funding Opportunity and RFP is advertised in the regional newspaper, on the City's website, and through the City's email list-serv which includes hundreds of local and regional non-profit community-based organizations.

Criteria include the following factors: project description, organizational experience, record of past performance and capacity; readiness to proceed, coordination and collaboration; outcomes; data collection; priority for equity and access; and a program budget that will demonstrate how they will meet the matching requirements.

RFP respondents are evaluated on the criteria above, and funding recommendations developed.

Attachments

Grantee Unique Appendices

ATTACHMENT A: ACTION PLAN FOR THE PBLF (FISCAL 2023 – 2024)

Introduction

The Providence Business Loan Fund Inc. (PBLF) exists to promote the economic revitalization of the City of Providence.

PBLF engages in several activities and strategies to further economic development in the City of Providence including but not limited to loans, technical assistance and liaison with City Departments.

Eligible Activities & Scope of Work

CDBG funds may be used to undertake certain activities, per the regulations of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. These activities include:

- Assisting non-profit organizations with investing in real estate in which to conduct their non-profit activities.
- Assisting private for-profit businesses in carrying out their daily business activities and expansion goals.
- Assisting private for-profit microenterprises in carrying out their daily business activities and expansion goals, and
- Providing economic development services in connection with otherwise eligible CDBG economic development activities including providing emergency loans for businesses as they attempt to stabilize and recover from the effects of COVID -19 on their day-to-day operations.

Projected Funding, Budget, & Schedule

PBLF activities are funded through the use of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The major category of funding is income realized on an annual basis from the Revolving Loan Program

For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024) it is estimated that PBLF will collect approximately \$700,000 in program income from the Revolving Loan Fund of which \$140,000 is committed to administrative costs. Additionally, \$210,000 will be directly related to program expenses. A new RLF will be capitalized from existing PBLF funds for the microenterprise loan program in the amount of \$180,000, of which \$30,000 will be committed to administrative costs.

PBLF staff will monitor repayment activity and will adjust projected spending in accordance with actual receipts.

As of June 30, 2023, PBLF will have approximately \$500,000 available for lending. With these sources of funds, PBLF has an estimated \$830,000 available for lending in the 2023-2024 Program Year. Of that amount, the PBLF Small Business Loan program will have \$680,000 for lending in the 2023-2024 Program Year. The PBLF Microenterprise Loan program will have \$150,000 available to lend in the 2023-2024 Program Year.

Overall Strategy

PBLF's goal for the 2023-2024 Program Year is to aid small to medium commercial businesses while increasing economic development within the City and retaining / creating jobs for low to moderate income individuals. In addition, the microenterprise lending program will increase economic development in the city by aiding low to moderate income business owners to sustain and grow their operations.

Description of Planned Economic Development Activities for 2023-2024 Program Year

CDBG eligible activities will be provided appropriate loan support. PBLF staff will review applications and perform underwriting review of applicants and of proposed projects prior to recommending any commitment of loan funds.

The goal of this PBLF activity will be to provide critically needed “gap” funding and emergency loans to minimize the effect of COVID-19 to businesses that are credit worthy but unable to find traditional funding due to the nature and/or size of their business. PBLF will take applications from all business that fit this description in order to continue to fuel the economic growth to the City and encourage businesses to find their home within the confines of the City.

Projected Allocation of Funds for Program Year

PBLF’s goal is to provide loans to twelve (12) small businesses in the aggregate amount of \$680,000 and thus creating/retaining 20 jobs within the City of which at least 51% are held by low to moderate income individuals; and provide loans to 8 microenterprises in the aggregate amount of \$150,000 within the City whose owners qualify as belonging to a low to moderate income household.

Attachment B: City of Providence Resale and Recapture Provisions

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

When Provisions Apply:

Recapture Provision

Direct subsidy to the homebuyer: For HOME assistance provided as a direct subsidy to the homebuyer (rather than the development) such as downpayment/closing cost assistance or subordinate mortgage assistance, the City of Providence will use a recapture provision to recover HOME funds from projects that are transferred or sold during the HOME period of affordability.

Development subsidy and direct subsidy to the homebuyer: In the event where both development subsidy and homebuyer subsidy are ultimately provided to a project, a recapture provision shall be imposed. The HOME period of affordability will be based on the total amount of HOME assistance.

Resale Provision

Development subsidy only: A development subsidy is the difference between the cost to develop housing and the market price. For example, the City might provide a \$50,000 construction grant to a developer to enable the development of the home. When HOME funds are provided through a development subsidy, the City will use a Resale provision to ensure that the housing is retained for occupancy for low-income households throughout the HOME period of affordability.

Period of Affordability Chart:

HOME-assisted homeownership projects are subject to the minimum period of affordability requirements listed below. Throughout the period of affordability, income eligible households must occupy the assisted units. Restrictions are disclosed to the homebuyer through the execution of legal documents, including a deed restriction, a HOME written agreement between the City and the homebuyer and a Homebuyer Disclosure form.

Total HOME investment per unit (resale) or direct subsidy (recapture) per unit	Affordability Period
Less than \$15,000	5 years
\$15,000-\$40,000	10 years
More than \$40,000	15 years

In some cases, the City or developer may opt for a longer period of affordability (typically 30 or more years) in order to benefit from State regulations pertaining to long-term affordable housing. This is permissible; however, it is important to note that compliance will be required throughout the entire designated period of affordability unless the City's HOME Land Use Restrictive Covenant with Extended Use Provision is executed to legally differentiate the local versus federal periods of compliance.

Recapture Provision:

The HOME recapture provision permits the original homebuyer to sell the property to any willing buyer during the period of affordability, while the City can recapture all, or a portion of the HOME-assistance provided to the original homebuyer. The recaptured funds allow the City to assist other eligible homebuyers.

If the HOME assisted property is sold, conveyed, assigned, or otherwise transferred or if a senior lender forecloses on any senior mortgage prior to the end of the minimum federally-required affordability period as shown in the table above, the HOME assistance shall be returned to the City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development, Division of Housing and Community Development on a shared net proceeds basis according to the following formula:

- Net Sales Proceeds = Sales price minus municipal liens, minus principal owed to senior lenders, minus selling costs
- Homeowner Investment = Down-payment plus any verifiable Capital Improvement investment made from the date of purchase
- City's Investment = Direct HOME Program assistance. Amount subject to recapture.
- Total Investment = Homeowner Investment plus City's investment
- Amount of Net Proceeds to be returned to City upon sale prior to the end of the minimum federally required affordability period =
 $(\text{City's Investment} / \text{Total Investment}) * \text{Net Sales Proceeds}$.

Under no circumstances can the City seek to recapture more than is available from the net proceeds of a sale.

Examples of recapture formula:

Recapture Provision (Net Sales Proceeds):

\$140,000 original sales price

\$170,000 new sales price

Mortgage payoffs:

1st position balance: \$72,000

2nd position balance: \$35,000

Closing costs: \$7,500

Homeowner investment: \$3,500

Direct HOME subsidy: \$25,000

Net Sales Proceeds: $\$170,000 - \$72,000 - \$35,000 - \$7,500 = \$55,500$

Homeowner Investment = \$3,500 in capital improvements

City Investment = \$25,000 HOME downpayment assistance

Total Investment = \$28,500

Amount of Shared Net Proceeds to be returned to City upon sale: $(\$25,000/\$28,500) * \$55,500 = \$48,684.21$

Amount of Shared Proceeds to Homeowner: \$6,815.79

Recapture Provision (Insufficient Proceeds):

\$140,000 original sales price

\$130,000 new sales price

Mortgage payoffs:

1st position balance: \$72,000

2nd position balance: \$35,000

Closing costs: \$7,500

Homeowner investment: \$3,500

Direct HOME subsidy: \$25,000

Net Sales Proceeds: $\$130,000 - \$72,000 - \$35,000 - \$7,500 = \$15,500$

Homeowner Investment = \$3,500 in capital improvements

City Investment = \$25,000 HOME downpayment assistance

Total Investment = \$28,500

Amount of Shared Net Proceeds to be returned to City upon sale: $(\$25,000/\$28,500) * \$15,500 = \$13,596.50$

Amount of Shared Proceeds to Homeowner: \$1,903.50

Resale Provision:

The HOME resale provision requires that if the owner of a HOME-assisted property sells, conveys, or transfers his/her ownership interest in the property prior to the end of the HOME period of affordability, the sale, conveyance, or transfer shall only be to an eligible, low-income-qualified purchaser who will use the property as their principal residence. It is also required that the price at resale provides a fair return on investment to the original owner (as defined below) and that the property be sold at a price that is affordable to a reasonable range of low-income buyers.

The City will calculate the resale price based on the fair return on investment plus the original purchase price to ensure that the property will be affordable to a reasonable range of households earning between 70-80% of AMI. If the resale price that ensures fair return is not affordable to the next buyer, then the City may provide HOME assistance to the subsequent buyer to make it affordable.

Definitions:

Homebuyer Investment: The homebuyer's investment consists of the portion of initial downpayment paid by the homebuyer.

Principal Paydowns: The homebuyer's payment on the mortgage or mortgages.

Capital Improvements: investments made that may add to the value of the unit, are of function and quality consistent with comparable affordable housing units and are owned solely by the owner (not part of any common areas). Routine maintenance to keep the unit in standard condition and to code is not considered a capital improvement. Improvements that are funded by federal,

state, or local assistance programs are not included as part of the investment calculation. Some examples of capital improvements include the upgrade or conversion of heating or hot water systems, installation of energy-efficient windows, adding insulation to the home, additions such as a bedroom, bathroom or garage, remodeling to upgrade permanently-installed fixtures (ex. countertop, vanity, or lighting upgrades), accessibility improvements such as bathroom modifications or wheelchair ramps, and outdoor improvements such as a paved driveway, retaining wall or fence. The value of the capital improvement for the fair return on investment formula will be the actual costs of the improvements as documented by the homeowner's receipts, and determination of appropriateness for inclusion in the fair return on investment formula will be at the discretion of the City. Where applicable, all improvements must have been installed and inspected in compliance with building code standards and permitting requirements. All improvements and costs must be documented to the satisfaction of the City and may be subject to onsite inspection.

Fair Return on Investment: the total of any homeowner's own downpayment to purchase the property, the homeowner's principal paydowns as part of the homeowner's investment, plus the actual documented expenditures for approved capital improvements to the property. In depressed or declining markets, a loss on investment can constitute a fair return.

Appreciation Standard: The City shall apply an appreciation standard as part of its calculation of fair return. This appreciation standard shall be calculated as the market appreciation using the percentage change in the [U. S. housing price index](#). The downpayment relevant base month will be the month of original purchase, while base month for capital improvements shall be the month in which the improvements were documented to be incurred.

Resale Formula:

Step 1: (Homebuyer's original investment + principal paydowns + value of capital improvements) x appreciation standard = *Fair Return on Investment*

Step 2: Homebuyer's original investment + principal paydowns + value of capital improvements + Fair Return on Investment = *Total Return to Original Homebuyer at Sale*

Example of Resale Formula:

Single-family home was purchased for \$140,000 in 2010. Since the purchase, the homeowner invested \$3,500 in capital improvements in Jan. 2012 (HPI = 174.64). No downpayment was provided from owner funds. Most recent HPI = 354.03.

Mortgage payoffs:

1st position balance: \$72,000

2nd position balance: \$35,000

Homeowner's original investment: \$0

Principal paydowns: \$140,000 – 107,000 mortgage balance = \$33,000

Capital improvements: \$3,500

Step 1: $\$0 + \$33,000 + \$3,500 \times 102\% = \$3,723$

Step 2: $\$0 + \$33,000 + \$3,500 + \$3,723 = \$40,223$

Total Return to the Homebuyer - \$40,223.

Noncompliance and Repayment Requirements:

Noncompliance is triggered when the HOME-assisted property is no longer the principal residence (i.e., rented or vacant) of the homeowner or for failure to enforce the resale or recapture provisions. Noncompliance requires repayment of the entire HOME investment. The HOME Land Use Restrictive Covenant and written agreement define conditions that will constitute a default by the homeowner and trigger repayment in full.